

CPCCL

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF
CREATIVE PRACTICES
IN CITIES AND LANDSCAPES

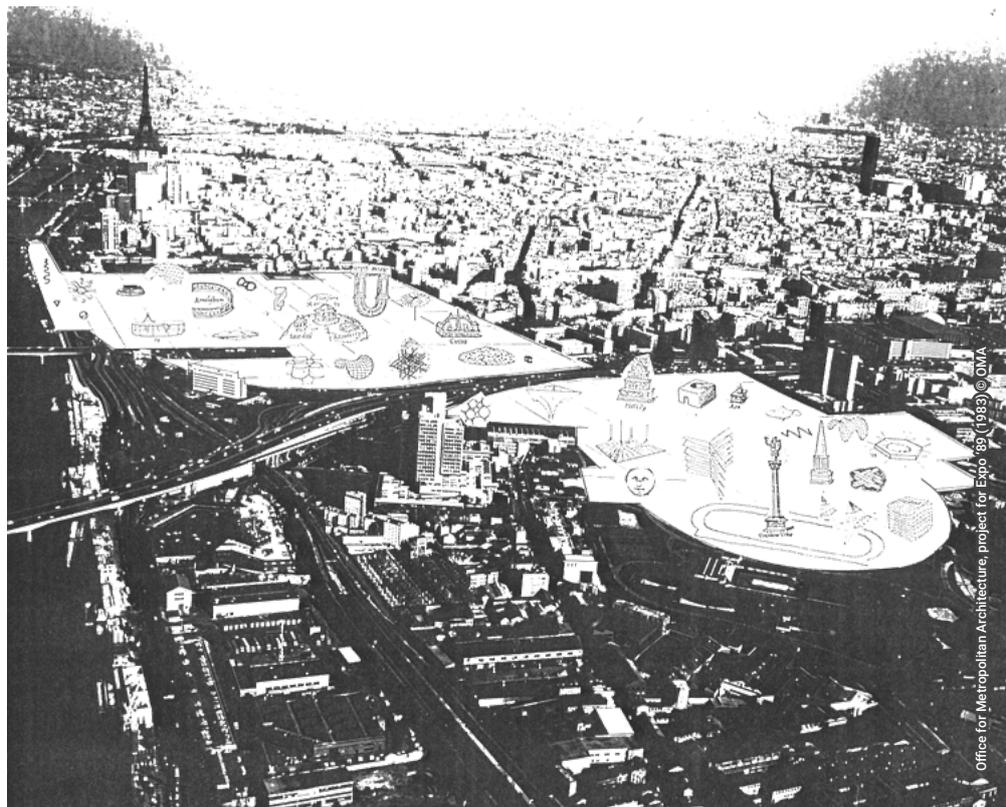
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Curating the city: artistic practices and urban transformations

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CALL FOR PAPERS





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**Curating the city:
artistic practices and
urban transformations**

Since the end of the 1970s, exhibitions, museums and artistic events have gained a central role in shaping the transformation of the city. Art, culture and knowledge have become the instruments through which cities have faced the crisis of industrial economy and the rise of new paradigms and values of urban development. Art has a demonstrated impact in urban regeneration processes. While the presence of artists has been linked to the rise of the financial attractiveness of neighbourhoods, private and public museum institutions are leading actors in urban development, reclaiming former industrial sites and boosting land value in low-income neighbourhoods. At the same time, Biennials, Triennials, summer festivals, concerts and cultural events are seen by city administrators and planners as opportunities to promote investments in the city, attract capitals and visitors, and improving the image of the city. Cultural events and initiatives are not only instruments in the hands of urban planners, but they are changing the way in which the city is planned and designed. Curatorial practices seem to have become the new paradigm for all the other disciplines traditionally involved in the transformation, design and construction of the city. Architecture and urban planning are more and more becoming curatorial activities, borrowing their methods from artistic and museum practices.

Urban planning is no longer made by systematic decisions and long-term strategies that take in consideration the entire city and its territory, but through occasional interventions in specific areas. Design is more and more the act of selecting, organizing and integrating existing elements, resources and ideas in temporary assemblages, avoiding the definition of a clear political programme for the future. At the same time, the communication of urban transformations becomes often more important than the transformation itself. Moreover, art and culture are powerful tools to mobilise local inhabitant's consensus over complex and controversial projects of urban transformation, capturing existing local values and relations. This condition opens up various possibilities in the hand of artists, curators, city administrators and inhabitants. On the one hand, curation becomes the instrument through which planning and architecture can make themselves flexible services for urban financial capitals in the midst of global economic, social and environmental uncertainty. On the other hand, curation can become an open instrument for cities to decide upon their future, according to the original meaning of the word, a way to care for the city and its inhabitants. Most of the times, however, the two aspects go hand-in-hand: artistic practices seem to be able to keep together desires for social justice with economic exploitation, democratic autonomy with financial determinism.



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This issue of the European Journal of Creative Practices in Cities and Landscapes explores the role of artistic and curatorial practices in the contemporary forms of city making, as well as the drive towards curation of architecture and city planning. Contributions are welcome on (but not limited to) the following topics

Histories of urban events.

An archaeology of Biennales, Triennales and international exhibitions, and the way they shaped the development of cities and territories.

Curating in a changing world.

How are curatorial practices changing to adapt to current environmental, social and economic challenges? Are planning and architectural design becoming curatorial practices? Conversely, how can the art of curating learn from architecture and urban design?

Artists and the city.

How are artists called to operate in urban transformations? What is the status of site-specific art? How are artists involved in community building? How does the "the artistic mode of production" drive urban change?

The economy of the event and its discontents.

Accounts and chronicles from urban events and artistic initiatives. What kind of economy do they generate? What is their impact on the city? Are there forms of resistance and counter-practices?

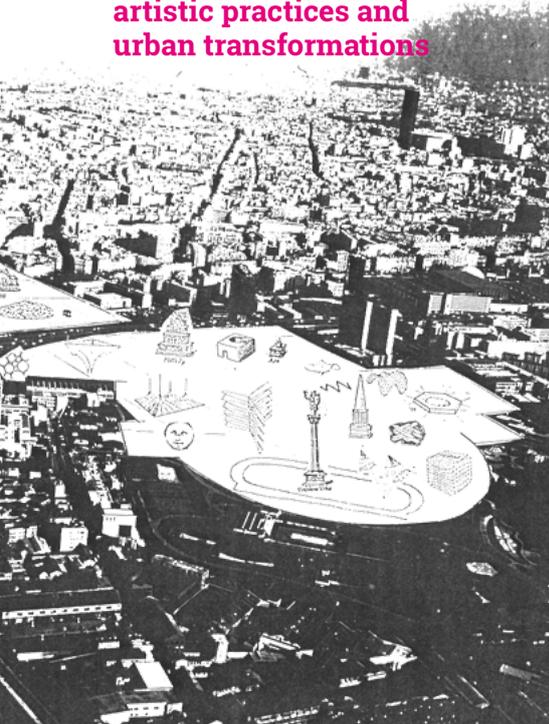
Curating as caring.

How can curating become an open, democratic practice? Curating as a politics of care.

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For more information check our Focus and Scope.
For inquiries and suggestions: cpcl@unibo.it

CPCL Vol. 3, no. 1 timeline

Jun 2019	Launch of CFP
12 Dec	<i>Curating the city</i> symposium in Bologna
15 Dec	Deadline for paper submission
Jan	Notification of acceptance
Jan-Mar	Peer-review process
Apr-May	Copy editing and proofreading
Jun 2020	Publication