

## MEDIA RELEASE UK BOOK LAUNCH

Official London Architecture Biennial and Architecture Week event

### **DETOURS** Curating the local

*Some approaches to practice and critique*

Edited and Translated by Gabriela Vaz-Pinheiro

Published by ArtInSite, Transforma AC Portugal

*“But is it truly possible to curate the local? How have artistic practices and critical thought reacted to the rise of the local in contemporary life? Are these streams of thought and practice talking about the concept of site-specificity or can they create a new sense for the understanding of difference based on the permeable character of contemporary culture? Do cultural ecosystems exist and how do artists and thinkers reflect upon them?”*

**DATE** 21st June 2006

**PLACE** 77 Cowcross street, London, EC1

**TIME** 630pm til 830pm

Numbers Limited. To reserve your tickets contact [info@transforma.mail.pt](mailto:info@transforma.mail.pt)

**Speakers to include:** Scott Burnham (Urbis), Michael Pinsky (Artist)

The development of a new notion of Urbanism is a hot topic at the moment. It has grown into a neutral territory where creatives practitioners of all disciplines and policy makers from various departments can collaborate. As a result ‘Creatively joined up government’ it seems remains on message.

This collection of essays and presentations are the legacy of Detours an annual international ‘reflection pool’ on current trends on the boundaries between public art and urbanism and beyond. It is edited and translated by artist Gabriela Vaz-Pinheiro. Detours took place in the summer of 2005 in a small town to the north west of Lisbon called Torres Vedras and featured cutting edge contributions from amongst others Patricia Brown (CEO Central London Partnership), Anne Cauquelin (Philosopher), Anne Engel (Former director of London Youth Arts Network), Jeremy Hunt (Publisher of Art and Architecture Journal), Alan Read (Academic/Writer) and the event chair Gabriela Vaz-Pinheiro.

The UK launch of Detours will feature presentations by leading contemporary artists and policy makers involved in the public art sector.

For more information, images or a review copy of the book please contact [michael.dacosta@sapo.pt](mailto:michael.dacosta@sapo.pt)

**Specialist Media Partner** Art and Architecture Journal

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**Transforma AC is a Portuguese not for profit organisation. Its partners are:**

**Principal** Ministério da Cultura Português, Instituto das Artes, Câmara Municipal de Torres Vedras

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**In kind** 100 Decibel, Isolamentos

## SYNOPSIS

### **DESVIOS / DETOURS** Curating the local

#### *Some approaches to practice and critique*

Attention to the local has been commonly put against the advent of the global. It has a definite contemporary resonance and has both justified funding for many artistic practices and furthered the production of innumerable written pages around the world.

But is it truly possible to curate the local?

How have artistic practices and critical thought reacted to the rise of the local in contemporary life?

Are these streams of thought and practice talking about the concept of site-specificity or can they create a new sense for the understanding of difference based on the permeable character of contemporary culture? Do cultural ecosystems exist and how do artists and thinkers reflect upon them?

Detours was a two day platform of reflection during which 8 diverse approaches were presented around the concept of site-specificity - its meaning, evolution and current developments, both at the level of artistic creation, the production of critical thought and at the level of programming for contemporary artistic practices, in a dialogue with issues concerning the definition of place and territory.

DETOURS consisted of the intervention of a national and international panel constituted by eight experts in the field (thinkers / creative practitioners / programmers) who shared their most recent ideas and experiences on these matters. The platform was intended to be a “reflection pool” more than a traditional conference, and enabled the presentation, to a small dedicated audience, of a brief communication piece which was later discussed and/or worked on by participants and audience, in an attempt to propel a dialogue which enabled a participative reflection on the subject.”

*Gabriela Vaz-Pinheiro*