

VISIONARY CROSSWALKS

Graham Coreil-Allen
A public art project in Bushwick

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Presented by Pocket Utopia

ARTIST STATEMENT

The primary investigations I am exploring are urban analysis and history, pedestrian agency, and the negotiable nature of public space. My process for producing art is born out of my experiences in architecture studies, urban planning and anarchist-influenced activism. The themes that I emphasize are inspired by artists and thinkers associated with play, social critique, public space, and intervention. My current art practice falls into three main categories: map-making, parade centered public performance, and intervention in public space. I utilize whatever media and materials that best support my ideas, goals and aesthetics. Using a combination of digital collage, physical drawing, and adhesive tape installation, I create maps – a process which allows me to conduct physical and social analyze of my environs while projecting more utopian, pedestrian friendly cities. With parades I am able to create fun, interactive and spectacular events that both invite community participation and reach a more diverse audience. For my public interventionist projects I re-arrange existing materials on site or set up installations using construction supplies such as paint, stakes, gravel, and tape. With these interventions I ultimately hope to cultivate fresh insights, engaged adventure, and democratic discourse by inviting participants to experience their everyday public realm in new and creative ways.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Visionary Crosswalks is a series of interactive crosswalk installations throughout Bushwick. The five temporary "crosswalks" demonstrate some of the casual paths that pedestrians take when navigating various intersections in the northwest section of Bushwick. Interactive posters are also hung around the crosswalk sites and other locations. The posters consist of a neighborhood map with a detail of the particular intersection in situ, and posit the questions: "How did you get here?" and "How did you cross the street?". Each map also includes a marking pen so that passers-by may answer the questions. Coreil-Allen will periodically collect these maps and use the participants responses as plans for installing additional crosswalks.

PROJECT STATEMENT

I live in the northwest section of Bushwick where residential and art studio loft conversions are dramatically taking over what used to be a mostly industrial area. Consequently, local pedestrians are now increasingly vying with industrial traffic for street space. In addition, the rapidly changing area is still lacking pedestrian amenities, such as trees and crosswalks. Such conditions affect how both motorists and pedestrians navigate the surrounding streets. My motivation for creating *Visionary Crosswalks* was born out of a fascination with this ongoing evolution of traffic patterns, as well as an interest in how local pedestrians experience and engage their environs.

My goals with this project are fourfold: to examine and highlight some of the subtleties of local pedestrian drift, to physically engage my urban environment through moments of artistic agency, to invite discourse among the public regarding their pedestrian experience in the neighborhood, and to raise awareness about the lack of pedestrian infrastructure in respect to increasing residential traffic in the neighborhood.