

# Preview\_

*Preview* is a mobile platform formed by three different practices that discuss the same topic: a consideration on non-attended urban spaces, in this specific case about suburban modernist areas in Stockholm.

*Preview* counts the exposition of mixed photo-shoots taken by Andrzej Markiewicz, and of the book *Där jag kommer från*, written by Per Wirtén.

The process that starts here inside the singular Centrifug space will end in a collective walk on the traces of the path led by Per in his book, along with the writer himself, that will evidence the aspects he found mostly peculiar during that day, made of encounters, trades, explorations, while I will animate the debate that will be carried on along the walk itself, suggesting thoughts debated in my previous researches, continuing to study at the same time the different viewpoints that will surely come out during the course of the event. The photographer will not just document the walk, but he will bring attention to possible encounters during the path.

*Preview* is nothing but a preview, a first step towards thoughts to be thought together, analysing city spaces that are unusual but important for citizens that are scared by the wrapped up image given by media. The walk will take place May 14th 2011.

Per Wirtén is a free-lance cultural critic; he has lived his whole life in different suburban areas south of Stockholm. The strong urge to defend urban areas made him think to write the book *Där jag kommer från*, based on a two-day walk that connected one landscape to another.

"I felt like I walked through my whole life and 80 years of modernist urban planning", he said. The book underlines philosophical and political ideas behind planning and architecture, and, what is more, brings to light unknown places and stories that lie just around the corner. "It is always said that the suburbs are places of drab concrete, but in reality oaks, pines, flowers, bugs and butterflies dominated this space. During my walk I realised how artificial the division between the inner city and the suburbs really is. There are no such things as suburbs any longer. What I found was an integrated urban landscape where different kinds of ideas about the 'good city' and different architectural concepts coexists. Diversity is the character of Greater Stockholm. This stands in sharp contrast to what is commonly believed: that the suburbs are endless in their uniformity".

Andrzej Markiewicz is a photographer born in Poland, now living in Sweden since 1981. In 1995 he walked through Norra Botkyrka with a goal to produce an exhibition for the Mångkulturellt centre in Fittja. His goal was not to focus his attention on emigrants, but to find his own places and his own people in a space considered full of contradictions, as it was the image of suburbs at that time, and, in a way, still now.

After 15 years he started to photograph Fatbursparken in Stockholm –*Fatbur project*–, close to his new home. The space has changed, but not his practice.

"I decided to focus my efforts on people, to show who is using the park and to communicate and learn about them. I left empty spaces for people in spaces, people who are cooperating with me and people who are interacting – with me and with each other".

Both suburbs and city centre are places that express complexity. The knowledge of the territory is gained through direct experience, that tries to detect and deepen a non-attended city space, and that opens a path in that place, activating a process that involves many other people, in a participative event that creates a contact with the public.

The movement is here intended as a re-discovery of a primitive condition and a re-definition of the human condition, but also, most of all, as a way to ask ourselves about the possibility to re-think life in the modern metropolis.

Listening, participation, elaboration and discovery practices should be used as the starting points to wonder about the territory before suggesting interventions for its preservation or development, an artistic practice that becomes more of a process rather than a final result. Planning territories is not only a planning act but also a creative one, the effort to catch contradictions and transform them in relations, not paying attention to the modification of the space but to its perception.

About me: I am an Italian artist, at the moment working on the reconstruction of the city of L'Aquila, destroyed by the 2009 earthquake. Berlusconi's policy to face the situation is exemplified in the construction of 19 new towns around the abandoned city centre. I came here in Stockholm to study the exemplar model of the new towns constructed during Miljonprogrammet. Here I was supported by Residence Botkyrka, that has its apartment and studio in Fittja. My researches will end with a theoretical essay, two art books and this active walk presented in May.

My fields of interest in the last two years have been interdisciplinary connections between art and architecture. I have been working on problematic areas since the year 2009, trying to realize artworks that inform people who do not know about those realities, as well as working in contact with people from those places, in order to find out strategies in their abilities that allow the spectator to have another view on the place taken into account. I need to practice working on site-specific and relational projects. I am interested in what is called a small memory, an emotional memory, an everyday knowledge that is part of all of us, and that can be enhanced by collective acts.

The idea to collaborate with Per Wirtén and Andrzej Markiewicz in this exhibition and in the afterward walk was originated by a sharing of knowledge and a strong need of mine to learn from people and the territory, to find out new strategies and abilities in order to face the world. I think that the different means adopted by each of us really show the powerful potential of this exhibition.

Elena Mazzi

