London: City as Material
Proboscis
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The focus for this class will be in considering the role of the city totally and in particular London, in understanding it as urban. Only inadequately understood as “public art,” urban interventions produce public space where it does not exist, foster new modes of urban citizenship and participation, render legible the force of political and financial power shaping the global city, expose the mutability of “public” and “private,” entail new media transformations of social space, create alliances between varied urban stakeholders, challenge the zero-tolerance policies of the increasingly securitized city, and broaden the repertoire of political resistance and direct action. In addition to contemporary practice the course will consider the rich histories of urban intervention by artists in London and elsewhere.

The class will be co-creative, i.e. students will collaborate with the tutors and with each other. Our aim is to create situations and inspire space in which students are encouraged to work both individually and collectively, drawing upon each other for help and advice as much as us tutors.

A communal lunch at the end of each session will be held at the Proboscis studio or as a picnic if we are outside.

Some Links
CityMine(d) - http://www.citymined.org/
Platform - http://www.platformlondon.org/
Space Hijackers - http://www.spacehijackers.co.uk/
Reclaim the Streets - http://rts.gn.apc.org/
City of Sound Blog - http://www.cityofsound.com
Hide & Seek Festival - http://www.hideandseekfest.co.uk/
Some Places We Might Visit

- Smithfield Market / Borough Market / Spitalfields
- Barbican/Museum of London
- Sir John Soane's Museum
- Geffrye Museum
- Hampstead Heath / Highgate Cemetery
- Tate Modern
- Pollocks Toy Museum

Some Books We Can Read/Refer To

- London Encyclopedia, eds Weinreb & Hibbert (Macmillan 1993)
- Actions: What You Can Do With the City, eds Borasi & Zardini (CCA 2008)
- London Walking, Simon Pope (Ellipsis 2000)
- Flesh and Stone, Richard Sennett (Faber & Faber 1994)
- Robinson in Space, Patrick Keiller (Reaktion Books 1999)
- Liquid City, Derek Jarman (Verso 1999)
- London: What You Can Do With the City, eds Bosma & Hildebrandt (Macmillan 1999)
- The Poetics of Space, Gaston Bachelard (Beacon Press 1969)
- Species of Spaces, Georges Perec (New Directions 1997)
- On Guerilla Gardening, Andrew Kelling (New Society 2000)
- On Guerrilla Gardening, Andrew Kelling (New Society 2000)
- Policing in Space, Patrick Keiller (Reaktion Books 1999)
- Policing in Space, Patrick Keiller (Reaktion Books 1999)
- London Walking, Simon Pope (Ellipsis 2000)
- Melbourne from Koonoomoo (Macmillan Press 1999)
- Delicious New York, Rambler's Guide (Macmillan 2001)

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http://proboscis.org.uk

www.bookleteer.com
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Assignment
The assignment for the class will be two-fold:

1. Group Project – the class will collaborate together to document their experiences and explorations of the city as material, setting up and maintaining a blog and using various media (audio/video/photography etc). This will be an ongoing activity throughout the course.

2. Individual Project – each student will publish a Diffusion eBook of a personal artistic action or urban intervention they have carried out during the course.