The Cross-Border Citizen

Border regions are global laboratories for rethinking citizenship. Is it possible to conceive of citizenship beyond the nation state? Can we orient ourselves instead around shared values and common interests regardless of the physical barrier that separates us?

IS THERE A CROSS-BORDER CITIZEN?

Program
Opening Night Reception
Friday, March 10, 2017, 6-9 PM
Screening Room & Youth Arts Lounge
Free of gallery admission

Celebrate the opening of Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman’s Visualizing Citizenship: Seeking a New Public Imagination with a reception and artist conversation.
At 6 PM, Cruz and Forman join YBCA’s Director of Visual Arts, Lucia Swenson, in a discussion of their research of a renewed public imagination in the Trump era.

Free First Tuesday warm-ups by Directors Forum Members, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is grateful to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.

Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman’s Visualizing Citizenship: Seeking a New Public Imagination is an ongoing project of the Community Cultural Development and the Urban Informatics Collaborative at the University of California, San Diego. Artists: Aben Kub革新 and Egon Eiermann. Photos: Michael Margolin.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is one of the nation’s most innovative contemporary arts centers. Founded in 1993, YBCA’s mission is to generate culture that moves people. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, YBCA is committed to creating an inclusive culture that awakens personal and social transformation. YBCA presents a wide variety of programming year-round, including performing arts, visual arts, film/video, and civic engagement. YBCA venues include the Forum, Screening Room, galleries, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater. For tickets and information, call 415.399.ARTS (2787).

YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS
701 Mission St
San Francisco, CA 94103
YBCA.org

MARCH 10 – JUNE 18, 2017
UPSTAIRS GALLERIES
YBCA.org
EXHIBITIONS KIDS IN THE ARTS
TEDDY CRUZ AND FONNA FORMAN
VISUALIZING CITIZENSHIP:
SEEKING A NEW PUBLIC IMAGINATION
**The Political Equator**

Vinyl, color video

**Courtsey Estudio Teddy Cruz & Foramen, in collaboration with Studio Matthias Grillich**

The Political Equator situates Cruz & Foreman’s practice on the Tijuana-San Diego border region, which is both a geographical location of their office and a site of their understanding of internality and zones of conflict as spatial political and cultural imaginaries. It includes a short side of a performance in which they and others walk across a drainage pipe that lies under the border wall that divides the United States and Mexico as the countries reach the Pacific Ocean. The gesture links a marginalized neighborhood in Naja California with an austerity in California, noting that the two areas are ecologically interdependent. The mural “The Cross-Border Citizenry Culture Survey” represents geopolitical factors as a facet of crossed local processes of transnational cross-pollination rather than as a delimitation of nation-states.

With a combined population of more than five million, the cities of San Diego and Tijuana are the world’s largest metropolitan region in the Americas. The summer of 2014, Cruz & Foreman brought the formalized regional C:po civic/economic project, Antanas Mockus, to the border. They, along with the C:po workshops by an interdisciplinary team, a sociological survey, a research instrument designed by Mockus and his Bogotá-based team Corporacion de Medellín to measure public trust and social perceptions of corruption, a series of tools and games that recalibrate social behavior and government policies, it has provoked a baseline to understand over time in more than sixty cities across the globe. For this translation of the Citizenry Culture Survey was implemented for the first time in a specific border territory in partnership with the mayors of both cities and broad cross-sectoral citizens, and with funding from the Ford Foundation.

Cruz & Foreman set out to identify the prevailing informal dynamics that bind Tijuana and San Diego, and the cross-border urban flows through which a regional civic consciousness emerges from the actual experience of living there. Survey results revealed that a majority of respondents on both sides of the border wanted to see increased cross-border collaboration on many issues, from economic development to public health, immigration, public health, and the environment.

As mayor of Bogotá from 1995 to 1997 and 2001 to 2003, Mockus understands that urban transformation requires more than infrastructure improvements and investments in social services. His “Civic culture” policies expressed commitment to an open and collaborative model of governance, and his strategies for reifying the behavioral patterns of civic engagement through performance art successfully changed social norms.

The seventeen posters created for this exhibition synthesize key findings of The Cross-Border Citizenry Culture Survey into vignettes that weave together data gathered by the survey’s participation, and texts that narrate Mockus’s everyday “public citizen” platform. Like all Cruz & Foreman’s graphic work, it eloquently visualizes alternative civic imaginaries.

**The Medellin Diagram**

Vinyl, digital video animation, monitors, table, inkjet prints

**Courtsey Estudio Teddy Cruz & Foreman, with support from the Global Center on Global Justice at the University of California, San Diego; Alejandro Echeverria (URBAN BART); PepeCali; and Studio Matthias Grillich**

During the 1980s and 1990s, Medellín was widely regarded as the most dangerous city on the planet, with murder rates as high as 365 per 100,000 people, a staggering 380 per 100,000 people, and was plagued by severe unemployment and poverty. Two decades later it has undergone an urban transformation so dramatic that it captured the attention of city planners, architects, and politicians around the world. The determination to reduce violence and poverty in Medellín intensified under the government of Sergio Fajardo, mayor from 2003 to 2017. His government sought to improve public health and stimulate a vibrant, participatory civic culture. This was achieved through innovative tactics of collaborative municipal governance and planning, and a campaign of massive cross-sectoral collaboration in local and national infrastructure and social services in the poorest and most violent neighborhoods of the city.

The Medellín Diagram is an urban and political research tool and an exercise to which Cruz & Foreman dedicate “visualizing the political.” This process involved an online survey, research with stakeholders in Medellín, and interpretation of policy and civic changes. It was designed to be useful to the citizens of Medellín as a method to provide feedback for future policies. The diagram reveals that Medellín’s urban transformation was, first, a political project in which institutions were reimagined, while cross-disciplinary collaboration facilitated knowledge and research exchange at all levels. From the perspective of party political, civic and social justice, Medellín’s story is about how citizens reshaped urban dignity, instigated collective agency, and reimagined the future of their own city.

The Medellin diagram functions as an exhibition and digital public policy intervention, which are accompanied by specific examples of infrastructure changes and process diagrams.

**Visualizing Citizenship: Seeking a New Public Imagining**

**Part of the City, Town, and Country: A Series of Case Studies by architects, designers, planners, and artists creating provocative works in the urban environment. It is curated by Louise Strickland, Director of Visual Arts, and organized by Martin Strickland, Exhibitions Associate.**

**ARTIST BIO**

Teddy Cruz is a Professor of Public Culture and Urbanism at the University of California, San Diego. As Founding Director of Visual Arts at the University of California, San Diego, he initiated his urban research on the Tijuana/San Diego border, advancing border thinking as sites of cultural production from which to rethink urban policy, affordable housing, and public space. Recipient of the Rome Prize in Architecture in 1991, his honors include representing the US in the 2006 Venice Architecture Biennale, the Ford Foundation Visionary Award in 2015, and the 2019 Architecture Award from the US Academy of Arts and Letters. Fonna Forman is a Professor of Political Theory and Founding Director of the Center on Global Justice at the University of California, San Diego. A theorist of ethics and public culture, her work focuses on human rights at the urban scale, climate justice in cities, and equitable urbanization in the US. She has written extensively on recuperating the public and social commons, including Citizenship Theory. She serves as Vice-Chair of the University of California Climate Solutions Group, and on the Global Citizenship Commission (advising UK policy on human rights).

Cruz & Foreman direct the UCSB Cross-Border Initiative, and are principals in Estudio Teddy Cruz & Foreman, an award-winning political and architectural practice in San Diego. Their work emphasizes urban conflict and informality as sites of intervention in the transformation of public and civic infrastructure, with a special emphasis on cross-border communities. From 2012-13 they served as special advisors on Cis and Urban and Immigrant Centers for the City of San Diego and led the development of its Civic Innovation Lab.