The Children's Rebellion - Contrafile' Group

We have been developing project since 2005,during a rebellioon in youth detention centres in Sao Paulo

Young people's demonstration to the creation of a park, São Paulo, 2011. Source: Folha de São Paulo (Print Media).

A critical reading of the situation was enhanced as we (counter-)translated the mass mediaâ€™s headlines by replacing certain terms: â€˜delinquentsâ€™ with â€˜childrenâ€™; â€˜external agents inciting rebellionsâ€™ with â€˜mothersâ€™. We were prompted by our wish, before making any statements, to ask this question: what is behind the rebellion? Under the hypothesis that we live in a society in which a childâ€™s presence is anchored in imagesâ€”on one hand of the future and, on the other, of potential dangerâ€”we judge it necessary to create transgenerational experiences of critical production to question the stigmas that shape these spaces of identity. Thus, Park to Play and Think and Backyard were born.

A backyard is, in the contemporary world, a plateau that puts us all on equal ground: who doesnâ€™t need to play or (re)learn how to play? Winning that space of collective creation has a deep meaning, as it is above all an access to a space of freedom. During the construction of a backyard in the outskirts of SÃ£o Bernardo do Campo (2013), the group realised that, to many immigrants from the Brazilian countryside (who, in the city, are burdened with precarious jobs and lives), the idea suggests a potential landscape that is at the same time intimate and vast. (When they were children, the backyard was a whole world.) These are the people that are connected with the land. The exile of this knowledge causes us to forget that there is a possible corporeity in our relationship with the city, yet when reminded of this corporeity, we are taught to live it as art-fact. Our desire is to continue this research and action.

About the artist

ContrafilÃ© (SÃ£o Paulo, Brazil, 2000) studies possible relations connecting art, politics and education, and how these enhance the right to creative production in the city. It creates â€˜devices to engage the worldâ€™ that arenâ€™t rigid, acquiring different shapes all the time. These are tools that allow powerful crossings, as they raise the â€˜right nowâ€™ urgencies, put the body itself in a state of availability, and make intelligible all that escapes predetermined categories or practices.

Project author or developer:
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Where:
BR / Brasile / San Paolo

Website:
www.visibleproject.org/blog/project/the-childrens-rebellion-so-paulo-brasil/

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