

Concrete Dialogues

How do you imagine a city? Thousands of square kilometers of concrete crawling across the landscape, the population divided by administrative boundaries and distance. Density driving up neon-tipped spires, character invested in landmarks. The logic of street planning grown beyond any easy comprehension of the whole; short cuts, late night delis and free parking becoming matters of local expertise.

We understand a city through the places we know. We create a map of the easiest routes to school and work and to the supermarkets and video stores around our home. We arrive in stranger postcodes pursuing adventure or obligations. Location becomes the frame for memories and stories. An alley may remember a kiss. An intersection always rings with carousing. A bus stop is haunted by the saddest passenger.

Concrete Dialogues is a narration of the stories seeping from the sidewalks and the silences of Perth. From roads that have been swallowed to suburbs newly born, the city's young writers expose a side of the street you may not have known. The project aims to redraw the street directories with text, filling grid coordinates with prose and points of interest with verse. This is the beginning of a different map of Perth - through this selection of talented writers, take a brief journey into a postcode you've never visited, or meet a character you may have.

Concrete Dialogues is a collaborative online writing project, created for young writers in Perth, Western Australia. The project organises creative works according to geographic location on a digital streemap of the Perth Metropolitan region. Submissions are based on specific locations in the city and suburbs, which become hyperlinks across the digital map. The result is a psychogeographic portrait of our city - a mosaic of writing that uncovers the darker doorsteps of the intersections you know, the romances in the parks you drive past, the characters of the suburbs you can't place.

The Concrete Organisation

Modern society is built on concrete; the urban human is borne of concrete. Concrete shapes our buildings, shapes our cities, and shapes our lives. The Situationists said that concrete breeds apathy, but we disagree - from the concrete city comes music, poetry, art, politics, life and love.

The Concrete Organisation exists to uncover the moments of beauty and truth in our concrete existence, and to bring about real social change, not just talk about it. We are about ideas, theory, design, photography, film, art, video, writing, hacking, jamming, slashing, spraying, lobbying, petitioning, blogging and talking.

Membership is open to most anybody who cares about Perth.

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Source: www.concrete.org.au