

A Mis-Guide To Anywhere

'a new guidebook that can be used anywhere you choose'

Mindful of at least a few of the ironies, impossibilities, contradictions and perils present in its title, **A Mis-Guide To Anywhere** provides a number of provocations for reader-walkers to make their own exploratory journeys in whatever environment they choose: metropolis, home town, countryside, holiday destination... anywhere.

Three years in the making, and referencing walks undertaken in Shanghai, rural Zambia, Copenhagen, Barcelona, Manchester, Paris, the island of Herm, etc., **A Mis-Guide To Anywhere** provides an inspiration for destination-less travels, strategies for seeing the world in new ways through disrupted walking.

A Mis-Guide To Anywhere is the brainchild of Exeter-based *Wrights & Sites*, a group of four walking artists (*Stephen Hodge, Cathy Turner, Simon Persighetti* and *Phil Smith*) who are influenced by a range of nomadic practices, from psychogeography to experimental tourism. It has been created in collaboration with the visual artist *Tony Weaver*.

Phil Smith of Wrights & Sites said: "A Mis-Guide To Anywhere is like no other guide you have ever used before. Rather than telling you where to go and what to see, it gives you the ways to see your city or environment that no one else has found yet. It suggests a series of walks and points of observation and contemplation within any town, city or landscape of your own choosing. Anywhere you can walk slowly down the street without being shot at by Western contractors. Anywhere you can fall asleep on your feet. Anywhere you can reorganise buildings without permission. Anywhere the movie you always wanted to see is playing. Unlike an ordinary guide book, it is guided by the practice of mythogeography, which places the fictional, fanciful, fragile and personal on equal terms with 'factual', municipal history. Author and walker become partners in ascribing significance to place."

In 2003 *Wrights & Sites* published **An Exeter Mis-Guide**. "*Mis-guide' tourism is the latest of all the forms of experimental tourism. And it has an unlikely home town: Exeter...*" (The Times, 13 September 2003). Rather surprisingly, it gathered an international readership and is now taught in numerous theatre, fine art, geography and sociology departments in universities around the world. One of the walks from **An Exeter Mis-Guide** was also included in the Lonely Planet Guide to Experimental Travel. This widespread demand for the book and its use in cities like Bangalore, Melbourne and Washington inspired the making of **A Mis-Guide To Anywhere**.

Other related work by *Wrights & Sites* has included a Three Minute Wonder film for Channel 4 (Subverting The City: Mis-Guide To Milton Keynes), numerous performances and mis-guided tours including their Lost Tours in Exeter, Mind the MAP in Zurich for Walk21 and Urbis Mis-Guided at Urbis, Museum of the City, in Manchester. **A Mis-Guide To Anywhere (ISBN: 0954613015)** retails at £10. *More details are available from*

<http://www.mis-guide.com/anywhere.html>

A Mis-Guide To Anywhere is financially supported by Arts Council England (Lottery Funded) & the Centre for Creative Enterprise & Participation at Dartington College of Arts.

More general information about Wrights & Sites and the 'Mis-Guide' project is available online at:

<http://www.mis-guide.com>