Drawing Walking Fasai

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Abstract

The article presents a drawing exercise concerning the author's substitution of a sketchbook and drawing for walking his dog, called Fasai, and for this purpose repeats Fasai's daily routine around a local village. The author terms this a mapping exercise that seeks to determine the dog's marking of territory as nodal points en-route. To aid recording the walk and enabling a series of eight drawings to be seen in process, the author wears an action camera in front of his eyes to capture video, and speaks his observations into a microphone. Collectively, the exercise generates material for discussion in and as the article. The activity is conducted twice, resulting in two layers of working of each of the drawings, two videos, each of around sixty minutes in length and two voice-recordings. Transcripts were written of the voice-recordings and sections of these are shown in the article along with relevant screenshots of the videos embedded in jpegs. Such transcripts that indicate a degree of speech dis-functionality suggest, reciprocally, the author's fluctuation between integral- and two different kinds of focus of concentration. The author discusses the efficacy of drawing while walking and the kinds of questions that such an activity raises through reference to a particular idea of image by the philosopher Henri Bergson, to the phenomenology of Merleau-Ponty, and to an idea of the glance in inter-subjective decision-making by the psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan. Such references are linked through the phenomena, in themselves linked, of movement and time, which are integral to the activity of drawing while walking. The author's underpinning personal motive for the work, jointly drawing and writing, is to commemorate the recent passing away of Fasai.

This is the abstract for a full-length version of the image document that is presented in PSIAX 4, Series 2