

Moving in, Moving out

During its development nikamon ohci askiy (songs because of the land) has moved around a lot. It was always about the city and how it was used but we never exactly knew where it started. So we started taking walks. Much of what this project became was envisioned during those walks or because of them. Walking the city with Cheryl continued over many months.

In the genesis of this project for Cheryl was the idea of songlines, an essential part of Australian Aboriginal culture. According to their beliefs ancestral totemic beings sang the landscape into existence and these songs are still used to navigate a territory. Cheryl had just moved to Vancouver and wanted to navigate her new city through songs and audio.

In the 1950's the Situationists explored notions of Psycho-geography and central to this was the practice of "derive" translated in English as drifting. It meant to walk through the landscape with no purpose or destination. According to Guy Debord: "Chance is a less important factor in this activity than one might think: from a d rive point of view cities have psychogeographical contours, with constant currents, fixed points and vortexes that strongly discourage entry into or exit from certain zones." (1)

Hakim Bey writes of Temporary Autonomous Zones that elude formal control structures creating anarchist space that shifts borders constantly. These also exist naturally within the city in the borders between zones. nikamon ohci askiy (songs because of the land) navigates between L'Hirondelle's performative wanderings in the city and the audio bytes she uploads through the internet. We move from real space to virtual space but somehow the project lies in between the two. Within the website viewers are free to access the soundbytes through the tipi poles that lay out the Cree world view and create their own temporary shelters within the interactive design. The soundbytes change and shift depending on the poles you choose. Other parts of the project include a [blog](#), [You Tube](#) and [Twitter](#). There are several ways into this world Cheryl has created and the borders will constantly shift.

As Cheryl explores the city her performance will be a response to the places and the people who inhabit them. She will have no set destination or purpose except to respond to her landscape. Through the shortest and darkest days of the year she will create a soundmap of this city as we get to listen in.

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(1) <http://library.nothingness.org/articles/all/all/display/314>