

About transitpassengers

We are transitpassengers, an organisation that works with culture as a weapon and a provocateur for discussion or quiet contemplation about the world we share.

Our mission is to:

- Promote cultural exchange.
- Work with cultural diversity and for the creation of democratic spaces for free expression.
- Create and implement transitpassengers' and associates' projects, and support likeminded initiatives.

Transitpassengers is a politically independent and non-profit organisation which believes that complexity, diversity, multiple layers, memory, history are notions which should always come to our minds when we evoke the tricky concept of culture.

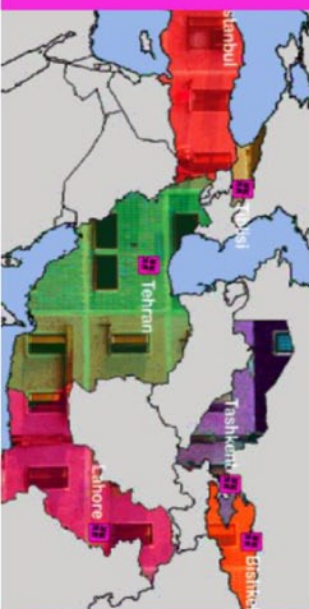
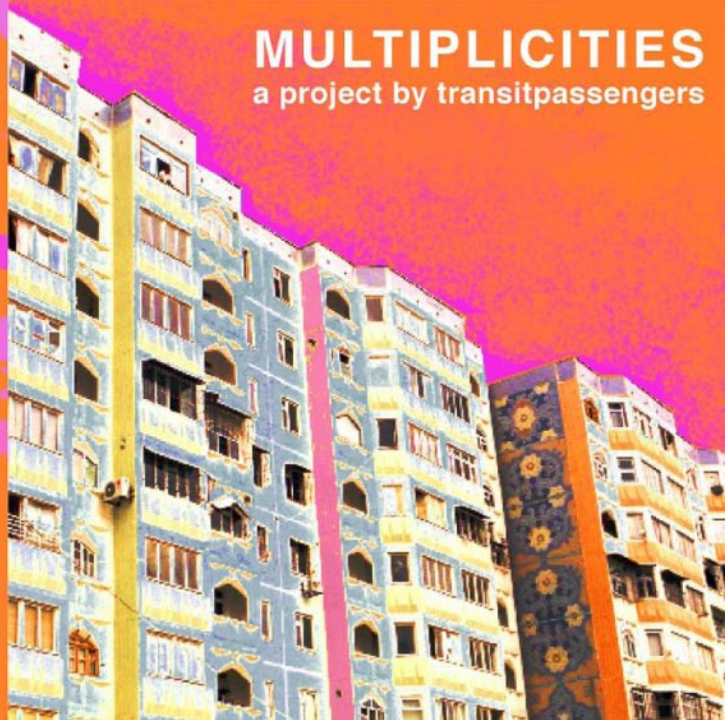
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You can also check our website: www.transitpassengers.net

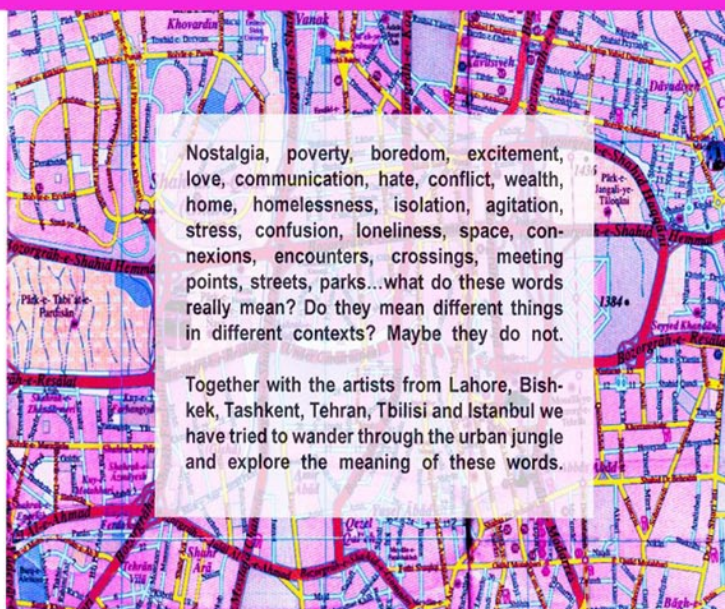
MULTIPLICITIES

a project by transitpassengers



The ideas behind the project: Urban living and representation

How do we orientate ourselves in this world? Through words, sounds and images we explain and try to communicate the world we live in, and in the process we create reality. Words and images have the power to unite but also to divide. We can see both globally and locally how identities are more than often created on projected differences. We use words and images to create these differences. However, every place is knotted together in a net that encompasses all other places. Every human and every culture is a crossover of the world's traffic - maybe then we need to understand our identity through other metaphors. For instance, what words would you use to describe the urban experience?



Nostalgia, poverty, boredom, excitement, love, communication, hate, conflict, wealth, home, homelessness, isolation, agitation, stress, confusion, loneliness, space, connexions, encounters, crossings, meeting points, streets, parks...what do these words really mean? Do they mean different things in different contexts? Maybe they do not.

Together with the artists from Lahore, Bishkek, Tashkent, Tehran, Tbilisi and Istanbul we have tried to wander through the urban jungle and explore the meaning of these words.

The urban context

A growing majority of people worldwide are sharing a common reality, the urban one. From one context to another, this reality offers many commonalities such as houses, roads, pathways, buses, markets. We share these and other aspects of urban life, daily meetings with unknown people, crowds, queues... Together we are creating these spaces into our homes, our work and our lives. The urban environment contains people from all ranges of society: urban slums sprawl out from major cities' centres, the growing middle classes are buying their second car and are eating Italian cuisine or perhaps sushi. **How do you explain this reality?** In every city there are different layers of meanings connected to places. A single place can be both seen as a place for hope and aspiration, or desperation; as a community or a simple neighbourhood. These meanings are created both by individuals and by the inhabitants of the city as a collective. We are constantly in a process of negotiating space with one another.



Culture in the urban context is contradictory, evolving and created everyday. Social differences, ecological consequences, lifestyle choices, cities are being planned, constructed and developed according to a logic that has very diverse sources, modernisation being one of them. But there are others: Lahore, Bishkek, Tashkent, Tehran, Tbilisi and Istanbul are situated in an area that is becoming more in focus globally for geopolitical reasons. Recent events from this area include revolutions, successful and not, religious turmoil, oil politics with one of the world's largest pipeline projects, nuclear power controversies, EU discussions, all in a context of ex-Soviet Union legacies, US involvement and political power play. It is an area that is in a process, where there is a restructuring of society, rapid development and transformations of cities and urban space. It is an area in transition: how is this mirrored in the lives of the people living there? Some signs are obvious: George W. Bush has a road named after him, shopping malls are being built, consumerism and coca-cola, pollution and noise, latest Madonna hits are spreading all over. Others are less obvious, like fears and dreams, the relations we create surrounded by the concrete and the asphalt, the isolation together with the crowd. Living in an urban globalised culture, **do we as urban people all want the same things?**