

PROFESSUR
CHARBONNET
HEIZ

VOLUPTAS
VOYAGE PITTORESQUE II

ECHO

It's always been a city in a state of becoming. It's always been a city which is endlessly renewed out of its own ashes. In that sense I cannot be defined, it has no meaning. Its only meaning is the process of becoming.
(PETER ACKROYD, on IN OUR TIME, 2000)

VOYAGE PITTORESQUE is a playful seminar launched by VOLUPTAS which focuses on the infinite and often hidden complexity in our immediate environment. Over the coming years, VOYAGE PITTORESQUE will bring us to specific territories and neighbourhoods that are closely related to the teaching team of VOLUPTAS. Thanks to the precise geographical boundaries and the local connections, VOYAGE PITTORESQUE offers time and knowledge to critically engage with an environment.

Me and you against this city of parasites

*Parasite, paradise,
Parasite, paradise*

KING KRULE, BERMONDSEY BOSOM
RIGHT (2017)

In Greek mythology Echo is a nymph who was cursed to only repeat the last words spoken to her. In scientific terms, an echo is described as a reflection of sound that arrives at the listener with a delay after the direct sound. In a further abstraction, an echo is a reverberation of a past moment in the present.

We understand ECHO as an agent when we try to find out why things are the way they are. ECHO brings us to London where we will seek to find out how the past directly reverberates in the cultural production of the city today.

Founded as a Roman settlement and once the centre of a 35,500,000km² empire, London has drawn in people and influences from all over the world. The city served as a fertile ground to explore ideas and produce culture and in the process accumulating an illustrious as well as complicated history. That past has an inescapable presence and the tension between maintaining and progressing has shaped the city and its inhabitants ever since the industrial revolution.

Having stood on the edge of the abyss countless times and despite the most recent hardships – the financial crisis of 2008, the government's austerity program, Grenfell Tower, Brexit and the pandemic – ever more people and wealth pours into the city where towers and construction cranes dominate the skyline. At the same time the space for independent cultural production on the ground is dispersing.

The subdued bass on Burial is the spectral echo of a roar, burned-out cars remembering the noise they once made.

MARK FISHER, LONDON AFTER THE
RAVE (14.04.2006)

Enjoying the extensive network of publicly accessible spaces, we will walk through different neighbourhoods within London's 1,600km² of architecture. We will experience how the polycentric urban structure of London acts as a positive force in the struggle to find new spaces for experimentation. On our strolls along rivers and motorways, through parks and museums, into clubs and restaurants, we will meet with people who know their patch of the city by heart. They are historians, artists, chefs, radio hosts, musicians, journalists and architects. Each of them will invite us into their specific field of expertise and tell us how their past influences the way they act in the present and thus giving the city its soft fabric and agency back.

DATES

October 24th – 28th, 2022
We'll meet on Monday 24.10.2022 at 10am in London. Individual transportation to and from London.

LOCATION

London

COST

Category C, CHF 501–750. This covers entrances, accommodation, reader and one dinner. Individual transportation to and from London is not included!

ENQUIRIES

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CREDIT

Danny Boyle, London Olympic Opening Ceremony, 2012