

# POLITICAL EQUATOR II

NOVEMBER 16 - 17: 2007  
A 2-DAY TRANS-BORDER EVENT  
SAN DIEGO/TIJUANA

THE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO (UCSD)  
in collaboration with  
**haudenschildGarage**  
Casa Familiar  
Centro Cultural Tijuana (CECUT)  
inSite

COLLECTIVE TERRITORIES /  
TERRITORIES OF  
COLLABORATION

Tracing an imaginary line along the US/México border and extending it directly across a map of the world, what emerges is a *political equator* that roughly corresponds with the revised geography of the post-9/11 world according to Thomas P. M. Barnett's scheme for *The Pentagon's New Map*, in which he effectively divides the globe into "Functioning Core," or parts of the world where "globalization is thick with network connectivity, financial transactions, liberal media flows, and collective security," and "Non-Integrating Gap," "regions plagued by politically repressive regimes, widespread poverty and disease, routine mass murder, and ... chronic conflicts that incubate the next generation of global terrorists."

The Political Equator Conferences were launched in June 2006 with an investigation into the theme of Urbanities of Labor and Surveillance. Political Equator II stages an exploration of the intersection between sociopolitical and natural domains, foregrounding the notion of a *collective territory*, but also a *territory of collaboration* that transgresses hemispheric boundaries. At the core of such trans-hemispheric sociopolitical and economic dynamics is the conflict between transcontinental borders and the natural and social ecologies they interrupt and seek to erase. A renewed politics of environmental activism, searching for effective paths to sustainability worldwide, increasingly collides and eventually clashes with the now-ubiquitous climate of heightened security and territorial dominance that is flourishing at the local as well as the global scale. What has been called the "disaster capitalism complex" is rapidly rising to its own form of dominance as global warming and terrorism challenge aging urban infrastructure and threaten fragile ecosystems and economies.

The field of operations represented by the collectives of architects and urbanists brought together for Political Equator II traces an invisible trajectory across the political equator. This time the axis runs south to north, along which emergent Latin American practices of intervention simultaneously engage the politics of the environment and policies that are shaping contemporary cities. The Political Equator re-emerges in 2007 as a collaboration with Tránsito(ry) Público / Public(o) Transit(orio), following an event-based itinerary that travels from Los Angeles to San Diego to Tijuana, and back again. This provocative series of events and interventions will be hosted by major cultural institutions, neighborhood-based NGOs, and independent alternative spaces, eventually crossing over into the no man's land of the border zone itself, where the Tijuana River symbolizes the conflicts these collaborative practices seek to expose and engage.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16  
Main Lobby UNION STATION /  
AMTRACK Pacific Surfliner

800 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

12:30 PM

A Conversation on the Move

Traveling by train from Los Angeles to the US/México border, and shifting from Tránsito(ry) Público to Political Equator II, this colloquium unfolds as it moves through the landscape. The diverse character of a Southern California megalopolis is revealed as the train cuts a section through the artificial and natural ecologies of the territory linking Alta and Baja California.

with **Teddy Cruz**, Architect + Associate Professor,  
Visual Arts Department, UCSD

**haudenschildGarage**

1870 La Jolla Rancho Road  
La Jolla, California 92037

7:00 PM

Table of Collaboration:

**Arepas + Empanadas**  
Providing a cultural platform that stands somewhere between a salon and an alternative space, the goal of the *haudenschildGarage* is to be a home away from home for cultural experimentation, play, and conversation. The *haudenschildGarage* commissioned Raúl Cárdenas of Torolab to construct a Table of Collaboration as the stage for this exchange between two collaborative practices of artists and architects.

**Ala Plástica**

Silvina Babich + Alejandro Meitín  
La Plata

**Caracas Think Tank**

Alfredo Brillenbourg + Hubert Klumpner  
Caracas

Moderator

**Ariana Hernandez**, Assistant Professor of  
Media Studies, Communication Department, UCSD

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17  
THE FRONT  
at CASA FAMILIAR

147 West San Ysidro Boulevard  
San Ysidro, California 92173

10:00 AM

Intervention: Fences + Food

As a community-based non-profit organization, Casa Familiar engages in cultural, social, and urban activism at the US/México border, generating the material for collaborative and interventionist art works. Casa's recently inaugurated neighborhood center confronts the border in the neighborhood of San Ysidro: The Front is the site of an intervention involving two collaborative urban practices.

**Tercerunquinto**

Gabriel Cázares Salas, Julio Castro Carreón +  
Rolando Flores Tovar  
Monterrey + México City

**Torolab**

Raúl Cárdenas  
Tijuana

Moderators

**Jennifer Flores Sternad**, Art Critic and Curator;  
MA Candidate, Art History Department, UCLA

**Felipe Zuniga**, Visual Artist and Art Facilitator;  
MFA Candidate, Visual Arts Department, UCSD

Tacos: Food for Thought

TIJUANA BORDER  
CHECKPOINT

1:00 PM

Sounthbound Border Crossing

Participants will cross the border on foot with the general public, passing through the manifold contradictions that fracture the natural and political territory of the border zone. Our border crossing will be amplified by a bus ride along the Tijuana River, taking us deep into the city's sprawling expanse of informal residential settlements, *maquiladora* factories, and miniature simulations of American-style suburban housing developments.

with **Teddy Cruz**, Architect + Associate Professor,  
Visual Arts Department, UCSD

**Oscar Romo**, Coastal Training Program Coordinator,  
Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

CENTRO CULTURAL TIJUANA  
(CECUT)

Avenida Paseo de los Heroes  
Tijuana, Baja California 22320

5:00 PM

Lecture by Gilles Clément:  
The Third Landscape and its Share  
in the Planetary Garden

Clément's theoretical project has evolved from his principle of the *jardin en mouvement* or dynamic gardening, to the broader notion of the *jardin planétaire* or planetary garden, to his political project on the potential of the fragment or spatial leftover to become a refuge for biodiversity: Clément's *Manifeste du Tiers paysage*, or Manifesto on the Third Landscape (2004, forthcoming in English), is the basis for a preliminary survey and analysis of Third Landscape sites in the border zone along the Tijuana River.

**Gilles Clément**

Landscape Architect + Gardener,  
Paris + La Vallée, France;  
Professor, Ecole nationale supérieure  
du paysage, Versailles

Respondent

**Lesley Stern**, Film Theorist and Historian;  
Chair, Visual Arts Department, UCSD

CENTRO CULTURAL TIJUANA  
(CECUT)

Avenida Paseo de los Heroes  
Tijuana, Baja California 22320

8:00 PM

Conversation:

**From Tijuana to the World**  
Political Equator II concludes at CECUT with a forum for discussion and reflection in which observations on the US/México border dividing San Diego and Tijuana will be refracted in light of territorial phenomena and practices characterizing border zones around the world.

**John Palmesino**

Architect + Principal of Territorial Agency,  
Basel, Switzerland; Co-founder of Multiplicity, Milan

**Lost Highway Expedition**

Kyong Park, Associate Professor, Visual Arts  
Department, University of California, San Diego +  
Srđjan Jovanovic Weiss, School of Missing Studies,  
New York + Belgrade

Moderators

**Lieven de Cauter**, Philosopher +  
Author of *Capsular Civilization*, Brussels

**Markus Miessen**, Architect + Co-editor  
of *Did Someone Say Participate?*, London

**The Boredom Patrol**

DJ Fingerlust

in collaboration with

TRÁNSITO(RY) PÚBLICO / PUBLIC(O) TRANSIT(ORIO)

November 13-16 + 18-20: 2007

Los Angeles

**Ala Plástica** (La Plata) • **An Atlas** (Los Angeles) • **Bijari** (São Paulo) •  
**Butchialis de Panochtitlan** (Los Angeles) • **Etcétera + Internacional Errorista**  
(Buenos Aires) • **Frente 3 de Fevereiro** (São Paulo) • **Gloria Alvarez** (Los Angeles) •  
**Jenny Jaramillo** (Quito) • **Journal of Aesthetics & Protest** (Los Angeles) •  
**Just Space(s)** (Los Angeles) • **Kirsten Dufour** (Copenhagen) • **La Lleca** (México City) •  
**Make/shift** (Los Angeles) • **María Adela Díaz** (Los Angeles) • **Mónica Mayer**  
(México City) • **Mothers of East Los Angeles (MELA)** (Los Angeles) •  
**Pilar Riaño-Alcalá** (Vancouver) • **Proyecto Jardín** (Los Angeles) • **Regina José**  
**Galindo** (Guatemala City) • **Suzanne Lacy** (Los Angeles) • **Ulises Unda** (Quito) •  
**Ultra-red** (Los Angeles) • **Womyn Image Makers** (Los Angeles) •  
**Yreina Cervantez** (Los Angeles)

Downtown Labor Center, UCLA  
Farmlab + Under Spring  
Glorya Kaufman Dance Theater, UCLA  
Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions / LACE  
Los Angeles State Historic Park  
MacArthur Park  
MFA Public Practice Program at Otis College of Art + Design  
18th Street Arts Center  
The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles / MOCA  
Royce Hall + Faculty Center, UCLA

For more information:

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