

APHELEIA International Seminar

Mação, March 30th to April 4th, 2020

Humanities, Arts and Social Cohesion

BORDER ART

RETHINKING BORDER SPACES THROUGH THE
PRISM OF ART

Definition and issues



Border Art is a conceptual artistic practice largely inspired by issues arising from the political, geopolitical, economic and social contexts of borders, materialized or imaginary.

Despite globalisation, we are witnessing a phenomenon of border fortification (walls, border controls).



In reaction to this phenomenon, artistic productions are emerging on these borders.

How can Border Art subvert the border, its representation and its original function?

To answer this question, we are going to study the following walled borders art production

Mexico – US

Border

Berlin Wall

Online resources

**SCIENTIFIC
ARTICLES**

**PRESS
ARTICLE**

PODCAST

ENCYCLOPEDIA

**RESEARCH
THESES**

REPORTING

**WEBSITES
RELATED TO
WORK'S
ARTIST**

**JOURNAL
ARTICLES**

Methodology

Definitions of key terms with scientific articles and encyclopedias

Delimitation of the geographical points of analysis based on the most commented walls in the press.

- ° Villes jumelles **El Paso/ Ciudad** Juarez et Tijuana / **San Diego**
- ° the **western** facade of the Berlin Wall

Great attention paid to journal articles, scientific articles and comparison with the websites of artists working in the delimited spaces in order to combine theoretical and practical approaches.

The Impact of Building a Wall in a Cultural Landscape

Building a wall reaffirms political and cultural separation / division

The wall disrupts the spatial landmarks of those who live in the landscape concerned and those who receive the projection.

The wall is an aesthetic and symbolic fracture in a landscape

We can then understand that the emergence of artistic projects is a response to the violence caused by the wall in the landscape.

Border Art on the Mexico-US border

On the one hand, art sheds light on issues related to immigration, surveillance and danger.

On the other hand, it affirms a certain social cohesion between the cities separated by it.

Study of Silvia Gruner's project on a smuggling point between San Diego and Tijuana

Study of Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's project connecting the inhabitants of the cities of El Paso and Ciudad Juarez

The Berlin Wall: Symbol of Border Art

First, the wall allows everyone to express their anger with graffiti, draws...



Secondly, the wall serves as an artistic experiment for artists to divert it.

After its fall, the wall attracts artists whose themes deal with peace and gathering. It allows to be the support of a memory.



What does Border Art allow?

First of all it puts forward another representation of the border zones.

- The bi-national collectives present in the twin cities, for example, overturn national representations of the border zone by highlighting a place whose **local identity** is an hybrid of cultural experiences.

- it is a reappropriation of space that seems to be at stake through artistic production on the frontier

Then, art on the border seems to go so far as to completely deny the main function of the wall. **The wall doesn't stop anything**

Finally, art on the border allows an adaptation to the brutality of the wall in the landscape, creates a social link between the artists and the locals.

The border art: what's behind it?

The Border Art can be understood as an act of re-appropriation by locals and local artists. What happens when an internationally renowned artist takes over a wall?

Border Art makes it possible to hide the wall and, paradoxically, give it international visibility.

Could this not help to strengthen the image in people's minds of a world with closed, problematic and violent borders? because 10% of international borders are closed.

Thank you



Tijuana/San Diego Wall: Tijuana's side