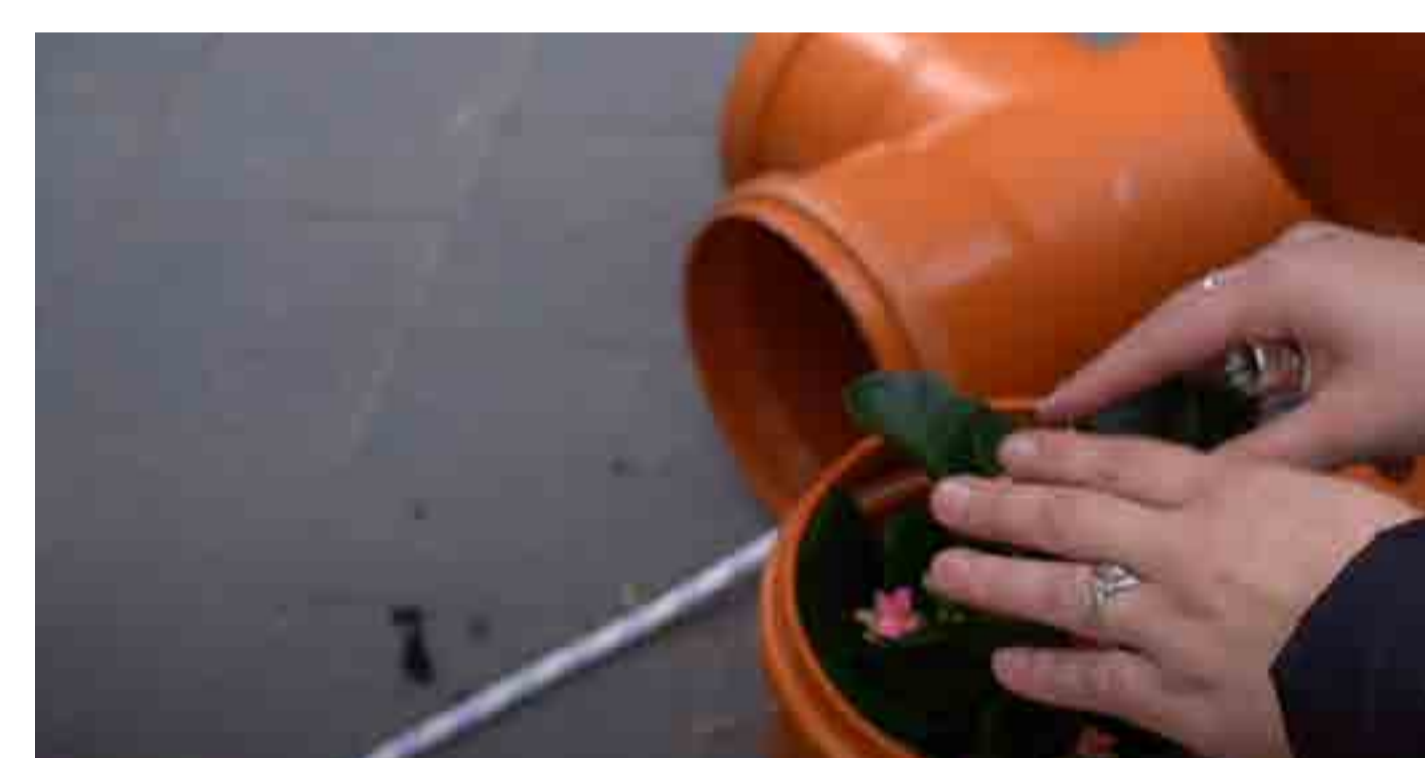


# Building creative societies

Public spaces provide an open platform for artistic expression, where artists and communities can bring their visions to life, explore new ideas and connect with others through shared experiences. By promoting the use of public spaces as territories for artistic creation, cities can encourage cultural diversity, foster creativity, promote social cohesion and contribute to energising urban life.

cultural diversity, **collective creativity**: art and creativity help to create aesthetically compelling, culturally relevant, and socially engaging places, shared spaces, urban art

## A Weaved Place



**Partners:** School of Architecture La Salle  
**Location:** Bellvitge neighbourhood, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Barcelona)  
**Date:** April-November 2021

Personal memories and experiences related to places often go unnoticed in the public sphere. In order to highlight the importance of certain places in the Bellvitge neighbourhood, secondary school students were encouraged to identify places that had a special value for them. The architecture students then proposed interventions to share the significance of these places. Finally, they all collaborated in setting up the installations in the public space.

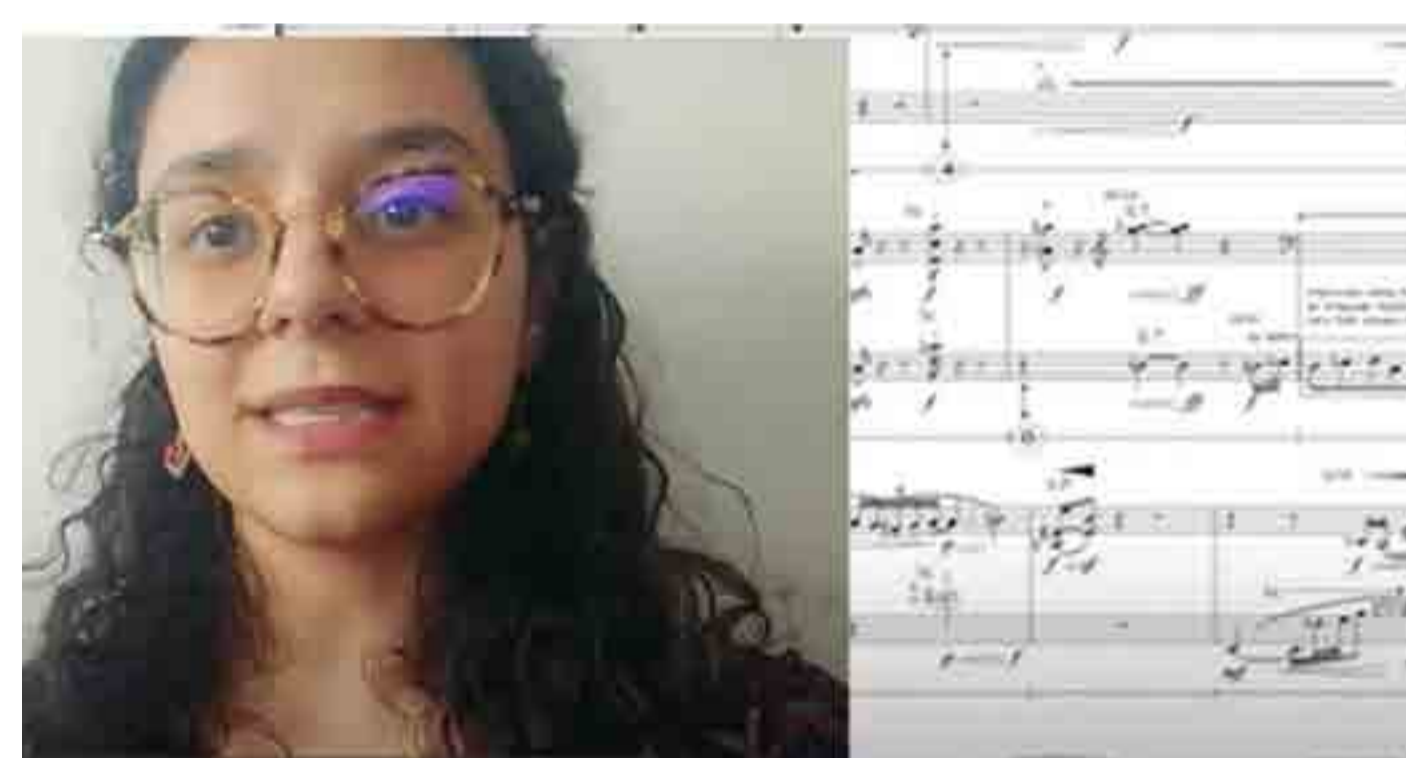
## A Sound Place



Martim Moniz square, Lisbon



"Ulyssipo", a music piece composed by Mariana Ribeiro



"Mantra", a music piece composed by Marta Domingues



Live concert, Mouraria Innovation Centre

**Partners:** Universidade Nova de Lisboa  
**Location:** Mouraria neighbourhood, Lisbon  
**Date:** March - April 2020

Inspired by the real and imaginary sounds of Mouraria and the experiences of Martim Moniz Square, young composers created musical pieces in the style of contemporary classical music. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the concert could not be held in the square as originally planned. Instead, the pieces were performed and streamed live from the Mouraria Innovation Centre. As originally planned, the concert played in the public space would inspire people to re-imagine the surroundings through the music pieces crafted from the very places they were in.

## A Calm Place



Planned intervention in the courtyard of the Maison des Arts. Source: Alive Architecture

*"Imagine society without the influence of the arts and you'll have to strip out what is most pleasurable in life, and much that is educationally vital."*

Peter Bazalgette



KU Leuven students setting up a cardboard structure to be repurposed into a foldable table



Neighbourhood children painting the cardboard foldable table. Source: Alive Architecture

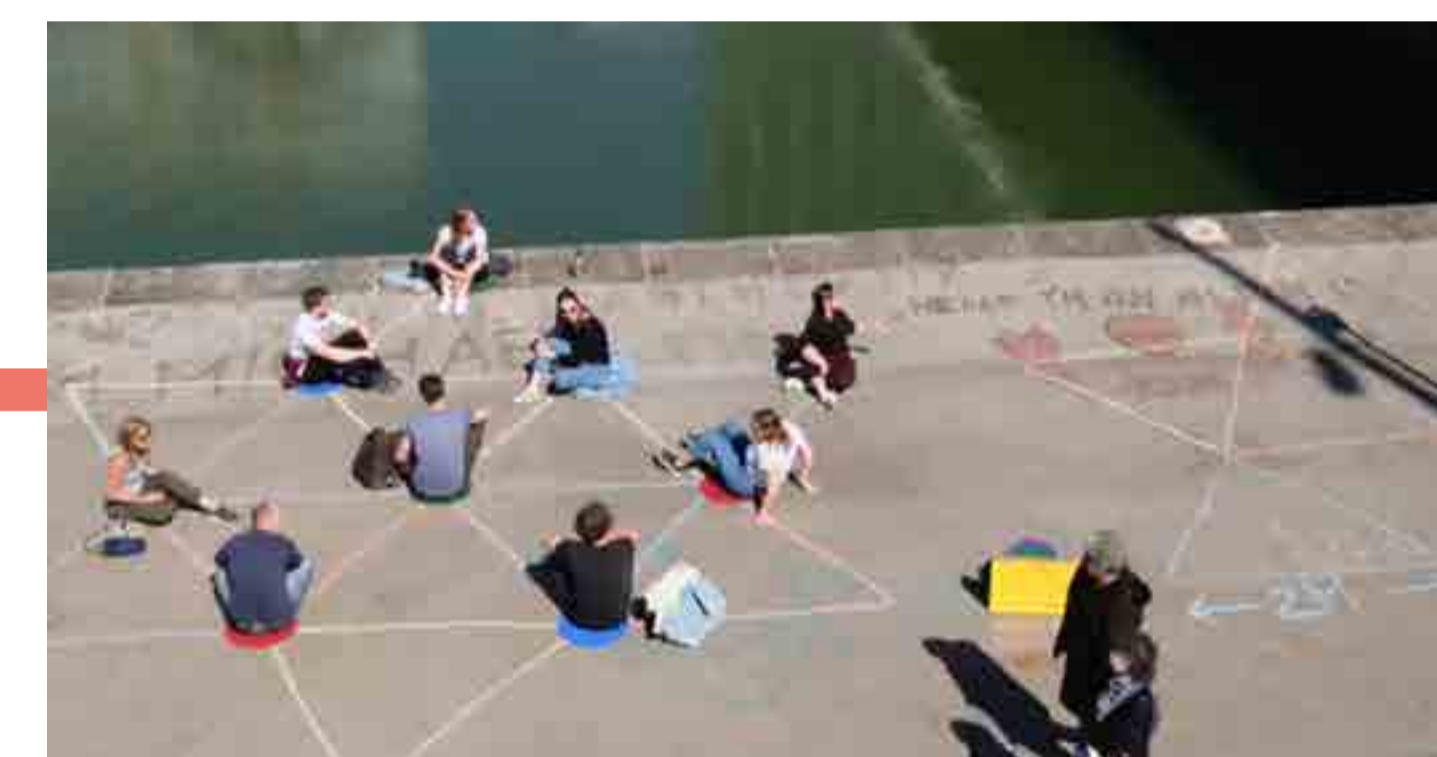
**Partners:** Alive Architecture and KU Leuven Department of Architecture  
**Location:** Schaerbeek district, Brussels  
**Date:** October 2020

Master's students from KU Leuven's "Alt-Shift" course led a community workshop aimed at introducing the public to recycling materials through a hands-on, do-it-yourself approach. The activity focused on experimenting with design techniques to create foldable furniture using leftover cardboard boxes. Prior to the workshop, the same techniques were explored by students during the spring semester's design course. This inclusive activity was open to people of all ages who were interested in participating.

## A Confined Place



"Quarantine mood", by Alessandro Marinelli, first prize of the A-Place short film competition



"#AsocialPlace", by Sophie Thiel and Miriam Cooler, winners of the first prize in the open call for artistic interventions



"The nutcracker", by Jihane Moudou, La Salle School of Architecture



"#AhabitsPlace", by Marina Papadakis, winner of the third prize in the open call for artistic interventions

**Partners:** La Salle-URL, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, University of Ljubljana, Urban Gorillas and City Space Architecture  
**Location:** Online  
**Date:** March - December 2020

In response to the 2020 lockdown, students from higher education institutions in A-Place collaborated to share their experiences with lived spaces by means of photographs and texts. Creators from around the world participated in an open call for artistic interventions in public spaces in time of confinement. Filmmakers from different countries submitted their short films about public space during the lockdown to the "A Confined Urban Vision" call.

January 2022

February 2022

March 2022

April 2022

May 2022

June 2022

A Weaved Place Collaborative collage workshop

Paper at AMPS Conference

A Re-connecting Place Lisbon

A Just Radio

A Seedling Place

Adopt a Plant

Joint meeting in Brussels

A Happy Place in Daardar

New European Bauhaus

Festival and workshops in Brussels. Side events.

# Celebrating diversity and inclusiveness

Diversity and inclusion are key components of a healthy and thriving urban community. By embracing diversity, we can enrich our communities with a broader range of perspectives, experiences and ideas, contributing to a more inclusive society. Inclusion also helps to create a more equitable environment, where everyone has the opportunity to participate and contribute, regardless of their background or identity.

coexistence, design justice, diversity, multiculturalism, **social inclusion:** promoting diversity, equity, and accessibility for creating inclusive environments

## A Just Place



Students discussion at the Grand Hospice



Radio studio at the Grand Hospice



Interactive exhibition at the Grand Hospice

**Partners:** Department of Architecture, KU Leuven  
**Location:** Grand Hospice, Brussels  
**Date:** February-May 2022

The Grand Hospice provided an exhibition space and co-working room for a live radio podcast studio showcasing the work of master students from the Architecture Design Justice Studio. The focus was on spatial justice in Brussels, in particular on homelessness and transmigrant communities. The podcasts featured interviews with architects, students, NGOs, and activists. The exhibition included a comparative research project on temporary occupations, questioning the values, narratives, practices, sites, and pedagogies of supporting organizations.

## A Weaved Place



Installation in La Florida district: sharing the experience of domestic places

**Partners:** School of Architecture La Salle  
**Location:** La Florida neighbourhood, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Barcelona)  
**Date:** June 2022

The Florida neighbourhood is a densely populated area of L'Hospitalet, inhabited mainly by low-income immigrants and characterised by low-quality housing with tiny flats. Residents were invited to share their home-life experiences through photographs and texts. Artists from La Gloria Factoría de Arte curated the works and assembled them on the outer wall of the neighbourhood's civic centre. This installation provided an opportunity for personal experiences of domestic spaces to be shared in a public space.

## A Hidden Place



Searching for the plants to prepare the meal



Preparing the burek



social inclusion



A sense of place and a sense of nature: food, engagement, commitment and sharing

**Partners:** Prostoroz  
**Location:** Bežigranski Dvor, Ljubljana  
**Date:** August 2020

This community dinner brought attention to a long-forgotten place hidden behind a fence. Burek, an imported but well-accepted dish brought by migrants from Bosnia, was cooked using plants found on the site. The meal helped to highlight the value of combining cultures and places. The event was videotaped and presented at the Pame Kaimakli festival in Nicosia, thus promoting cultural diversity across geographical borders and connections between places.

## A Reconnecting Place



Residents recording sounds from the neighbourhood



A sound walking with neighbours



Preparing the flash mob: a creative dance workshop

**Partners:** Universidade Nova de Lisboa  
**Location:** Rego neighbourhood, Lisbon  
**Date:** January-September 2022

Rego is a diverse neighbourhood that is home to a mix of immigrants and residents of all ages. Urban art and cultural development projects can help bring these diverse social groups together and foster a shared sense of belonging. Through a series of artistic performances with music and dance, people were encouraged to develop collective identity, strengthening their ties and sense of belonging to the neighbourhood.

July 2022

August 2022

September 2022

October 2022

November 2022

December 2022

Pame Kaimakli festival, Nicosia

LOOP Barcelona festival

A Weaved Place ES\_CULTURA Public art festival, L'Hospitalet

A Seedling Place Vertical gardens installation

"Walden 7" exhibition, Barcelona

"The place that I inhabit" exhibition, Barcelona

Urban Visions festival, Bologna

# Creating learning places

Educational activities in communities can give rise to new places of learning that transcend the boundaries between academia and society, between formal and informal learning, and between different subjects, academic levels and disciplines. In addition, these places encourage the transfer of knowledge and skills between community members and academia, fostering interdisciplinary and intergenerational learning.

action learning, project-based learning, **situated learning**: creating environments that support active and experiential learning where individuals can engage with their surroundings

## A Re-place



**Partners:** Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana and Prostorož  
**Location:** "Krater" area, Bežigranski Dvor, Ljubljana  
**Date:** March - April 2022

A dynamic learning platform brought together experts, students and community members to exchange their experiences and views with the aim of revitalising the "Krater" area. The site was transformed into a place of learning by hosting lively discussions on the need for recycling and reuse in urban design, as well as on the protection of natural resources in cities.

## A-Pla(y)ce



**Partners:** Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana and Prostorož  
**Location:** Bežigranski Dvor, Ljubljana  
**Date:** March-May 2021

Play can contribute to a sense of joy, creativity, and community engagement. Residents became involved in the co-creation of a new place by responding to questionnaires prepared by students to understand their needs and visions. The proposed interventions were then presented to local community representatives and exhibited in the neighbourhood. In a closing event, residents, students, and mentors discussed possibilities and options for the implementation of the designs.

## A Weaved Place



**Partners:** School of Architecture La Salle  
**Location:** Bellvitge neighbourhood, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Barcelona)  
**Date:** April - November 2021

High school students from Institut Bellvitge documented their personal experiences in nearby public spaces through photographs and texts, which they shared with architecture students from La Salle. They proposed interventions in the public space to represent these experiences, and a joint meeting was organised in the Plaça de la Cultura to discuss the proposals. Through these activities, the public space became a place of learning.

## A Happy Place



**Partners:** Alive Architecture, in collaboration with BRAVVO  
**Location:** Marolles neighbourhood, Brussels  
**Date:** April - June 2022

Residents were invited to participate in workshops to co-design and co-produce temporary urban interventions to make Pieremans' courtyard more liveable. During the workshops, residents made proposals for the design and placement of new pieces of street furniture, and were trained to collaborate in their construction. In addition, musical performances were organised to attract neighbours, who were also invited to share meals on site.

situated learning

January 2023

February 2023

March 2023

April 2023

May 2023

June 2023

Newsletter #3  
 Article at Journal of Public Space

Closing event Brussels

Closing event Barcelona

## Festivals

The A-Place project involves three festivals: LOOP Barcelona, Urban Visions in Bologna and Pame Kaimakli in Nicosia. In these festivals a special section is dedicated to A-Place where creative and artistic content such as videos, films and installations are produced and shared. In addition, intercultural debates and public events related to art, community and public space are organised.

### LOOP Barcelona

LOOP Barcelona is an annual contemporary art festival dedicated to video art and moving image practices. Each year, the festival launches an open call as part of the A-Place project, in which proposals to produce a video are selected and evaluated by a jury of experts. In addition, LOOP invites an artist-in-residence to investigate place construction practices using audiovisual media. The video works produced by the resident artist and those selected through the open call are premiered and exhibited in the A-Place section of the festival. In addition, debates and meetings with professionals are organised to exchange knowledge and discuss the role of artists and artistic media, especially video art, in creating a sense of place.



"Terrāpolis", Sitesize, LOOP artists-in-residence, 2020

### Pame Kaimakli

Pame Kaimakli is an annual festival that provides an interdisciplinary platform for local communities to connect with global arts. Through creative interventions involving residents and artists, the concepts of publicness, co-creation and community engagement are explored. The festival has hosted various A-Place activities. In 2020, videos on the thematic of food and placemaking were screened in a pop-up cinema. In addition, three community dinners, cooking workshops and guided walks were organised. In the 2022 edition, selected works from the LOOP Barcelona and Urban Visions festivals were screened in a pop-up cinema. Alongside this, there were several urban reforestation activities, community dinners, and debates on the role of festivals and artists in creating a sense of place and community in A-Place.



Workshops with We Circle collective, Pame Kaimakli, 2020

### Urban Visions

The aim of this film festival is to foster a dialogue between urban theory, social dynamics and film studies, and to raise awareness of the relationship between individuals and the urban spaces they inhabit. To this end, the A-Place section of the festival organises short film competitions on the themes "Migrants, Refugees and Displaced Communities" and "Resilient Communities". After a curatorial selection process of the submitted films, a jury awards the prizes during the festival where the winning and shortlisted works are screened.



Urban Visions festival 2022

July 2023

August 2023

September 2023

October 2023

November 2023

Closing event Lisbon

Closing event LOOP Barcelona

# Representing and creating places

The sense of place can be expressed and conveyed through different media, such as photographs, videos, music, dance, installations and texts. Each of these media has its own way of representing and communicating the essence of a place, which can provoke differ-

ent reactions, intellectual and emotional in the beholder. Moreover, artistic interventions can physically and symbolically transform public spaces, giving them new meanings.

## Photographs

The photographs represent a place in isolation from the spatial continuum. They capture the physical atmosphere of a space at a particular moment in time, through the perspective of the photographer and according to the technical characteristics of the camera. In addition, photographs can convey social and cultural aspects of a place that contribute to its identity, and thus evoke emotions and memories related to it in the viewer.



"A new sublime", Iñaki Volante, A-Place MAPPING contest, 2022



"8:00 pm", Irene de la Garza, A Confined Place, 2020



"Silence", Catarina Cabral, A Confined Place, 2020



"Matryoshka's evolution", Ariuna Bogdan, A Confined Place, 2020



"Wild and Free", Azbah Ansari, A-Place MAPPING contest, 2022



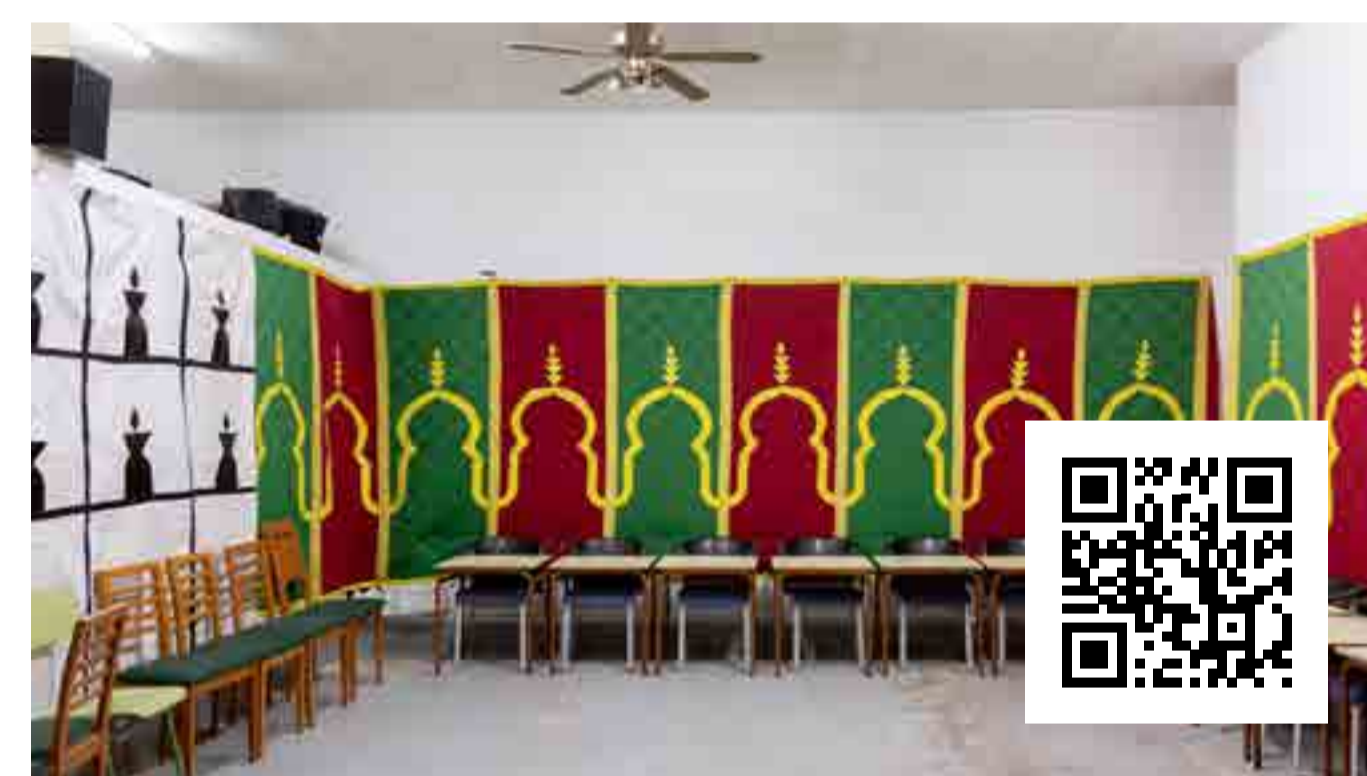
"The Unknown", Marina Papadakis, A-Place MAPPING contest, 2021

## Videos

Videos have the ability to capture the life of a place and its temporal dimension, through moving images and sound. They allow for observation and analysis of the relationships between people and the places they inhabit, as expressed through their actions and words.



"La città dentro", Anna de Manincor/Zimmerfrei, LOOP Open Call, 2020



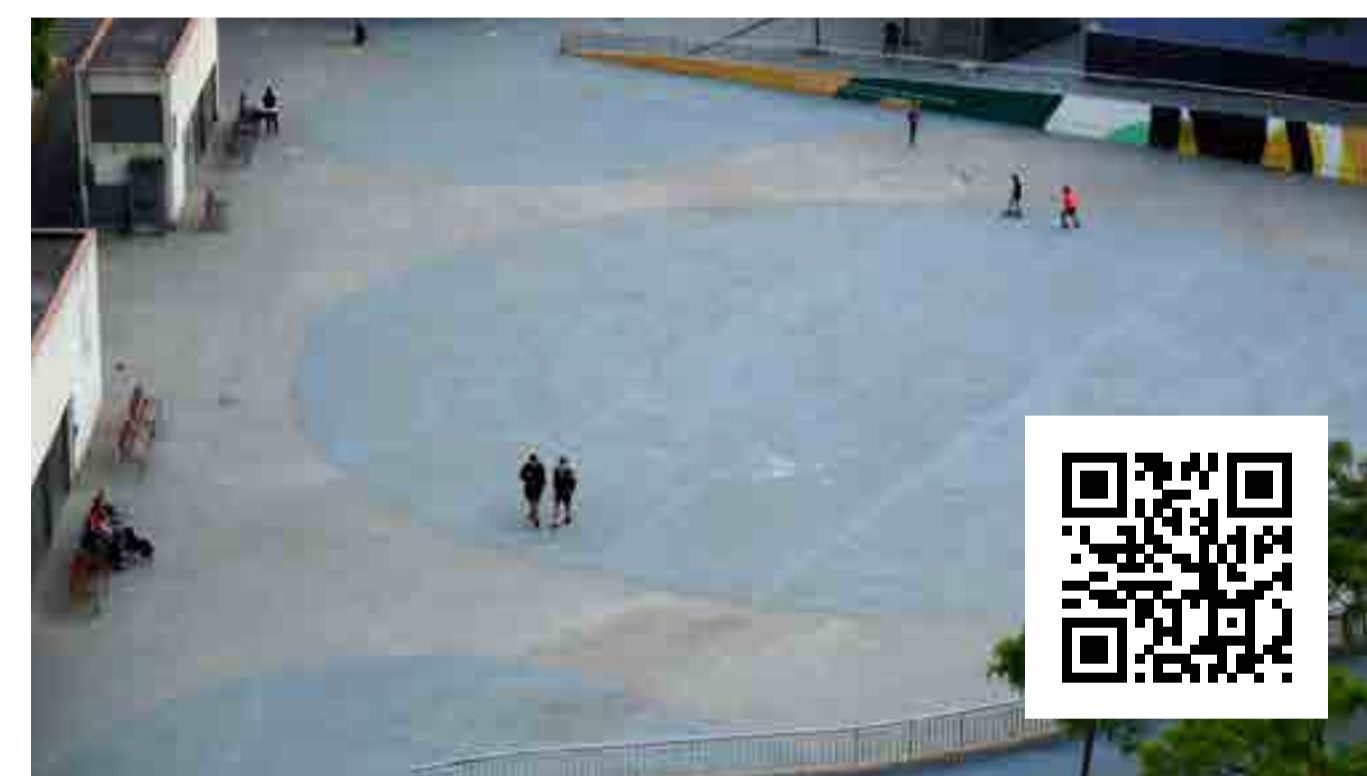
"I Can Only Dance to One Song", Arash Fayezi, LOOP Open Call, 2021



"A journey to L'Hospitalet de Llobregat", Claudio Zulian, A Weaved Place, 2022



"Quarantine Mood", Alessandro Marinelli, A Confined Urban Vision, 2020



"La Carpa", David Bestué and Roser Corella, LOOP artists-in-residence, 2021



"Terràpolis", Sitesize, LOOP artists-in-residence, 2020

## Sounds

The character of a place is not only defined by its visual aspects but also by its audio ambiance. The sounds that bounce off surfaces, the voices of the inhabitants speaking different languages, and the music playing in the streets or emanating from windows, all contribute to the cultural diversity that defines a location.



"Soundwalking", A Reconnecting Place, Lisbon, 2022



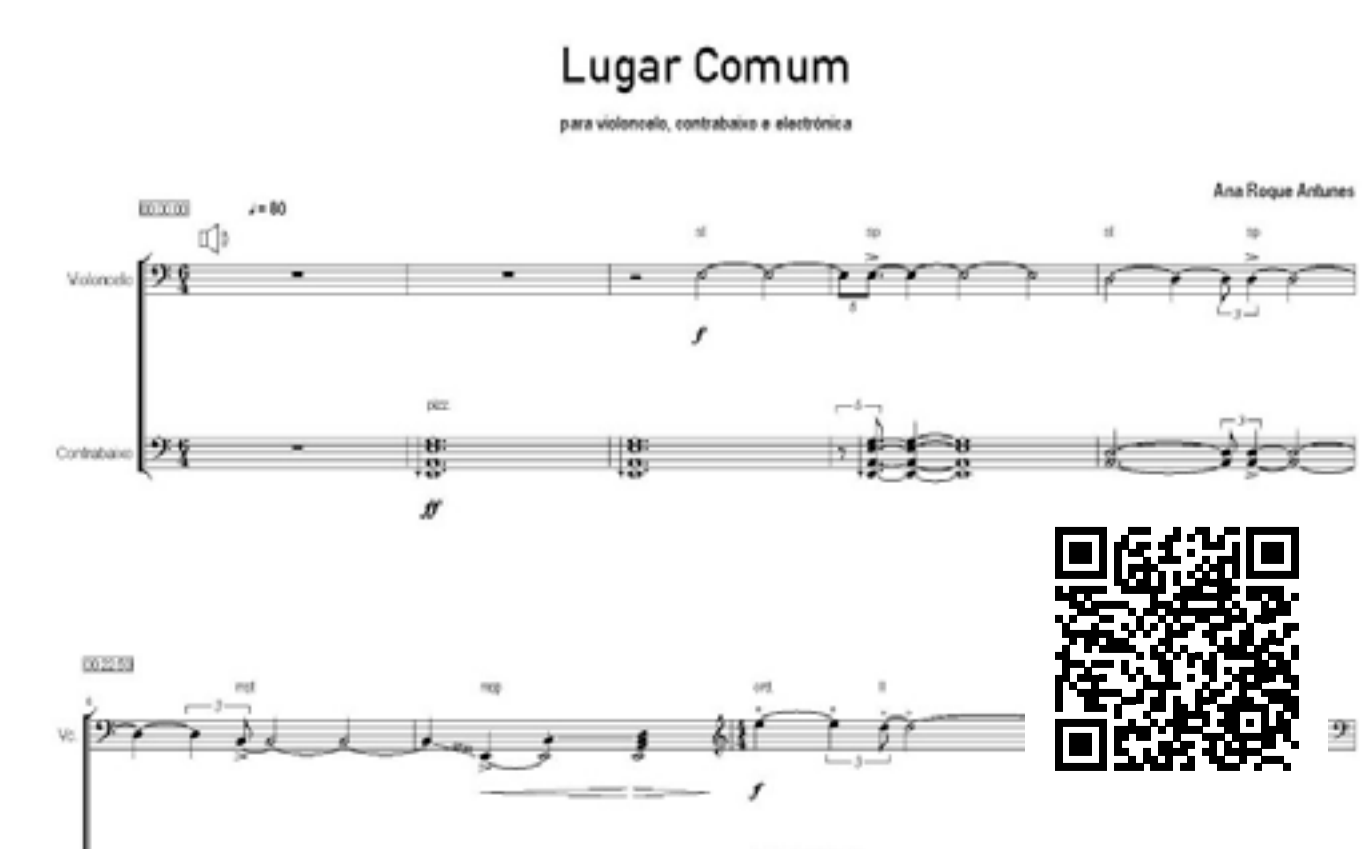
"Electromagnetic neighbourhood", A Reconnecting Place, Lisbon, 2022



"Rehearsal", A Sound Place, Lisbon, 2022



"Mantra", Marta Domingues, A Sound Place, Lisbon, 2022



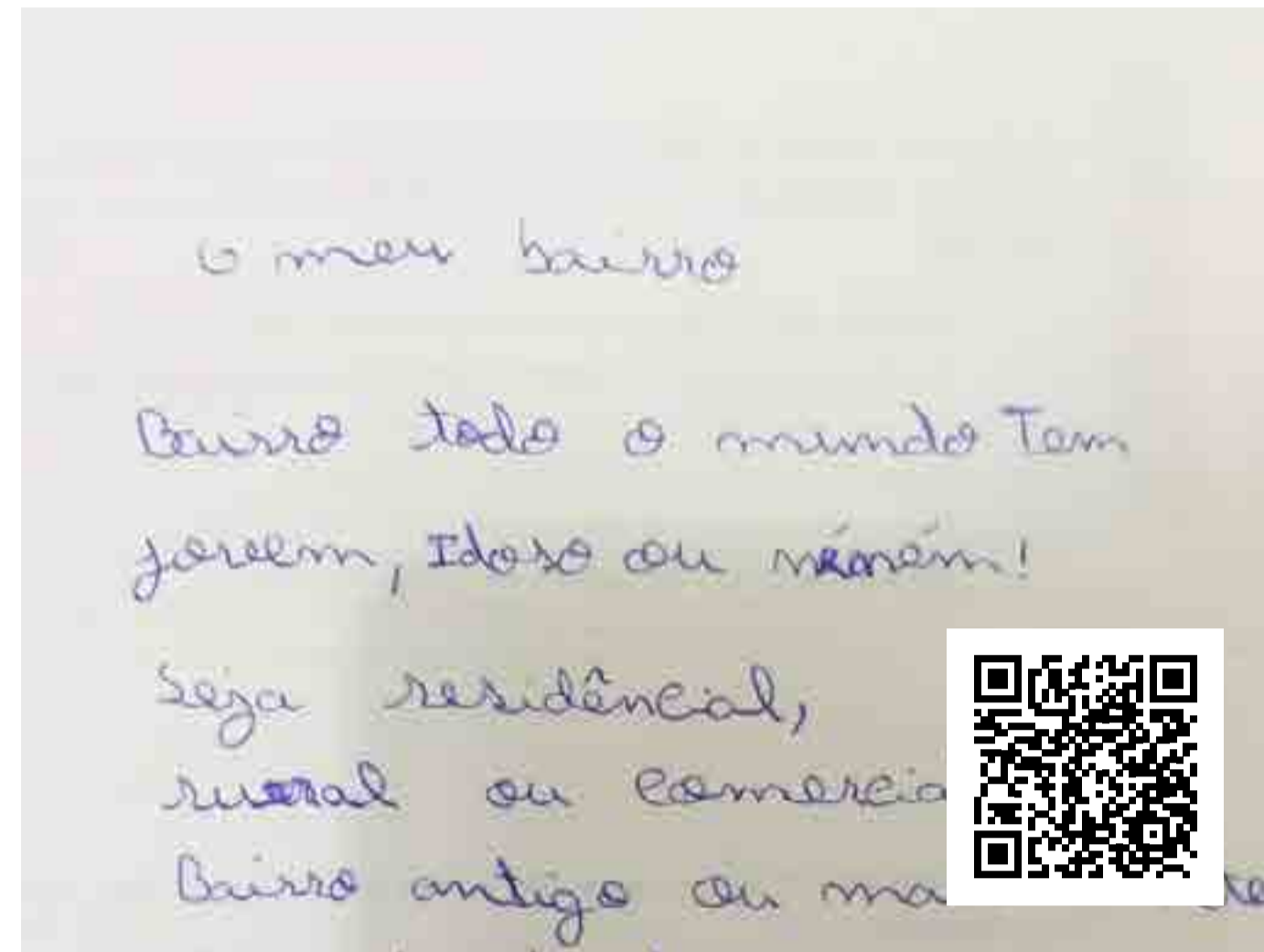
"Lugar Comum", Ana Roque, A Sound Place, Lisbon, 2022



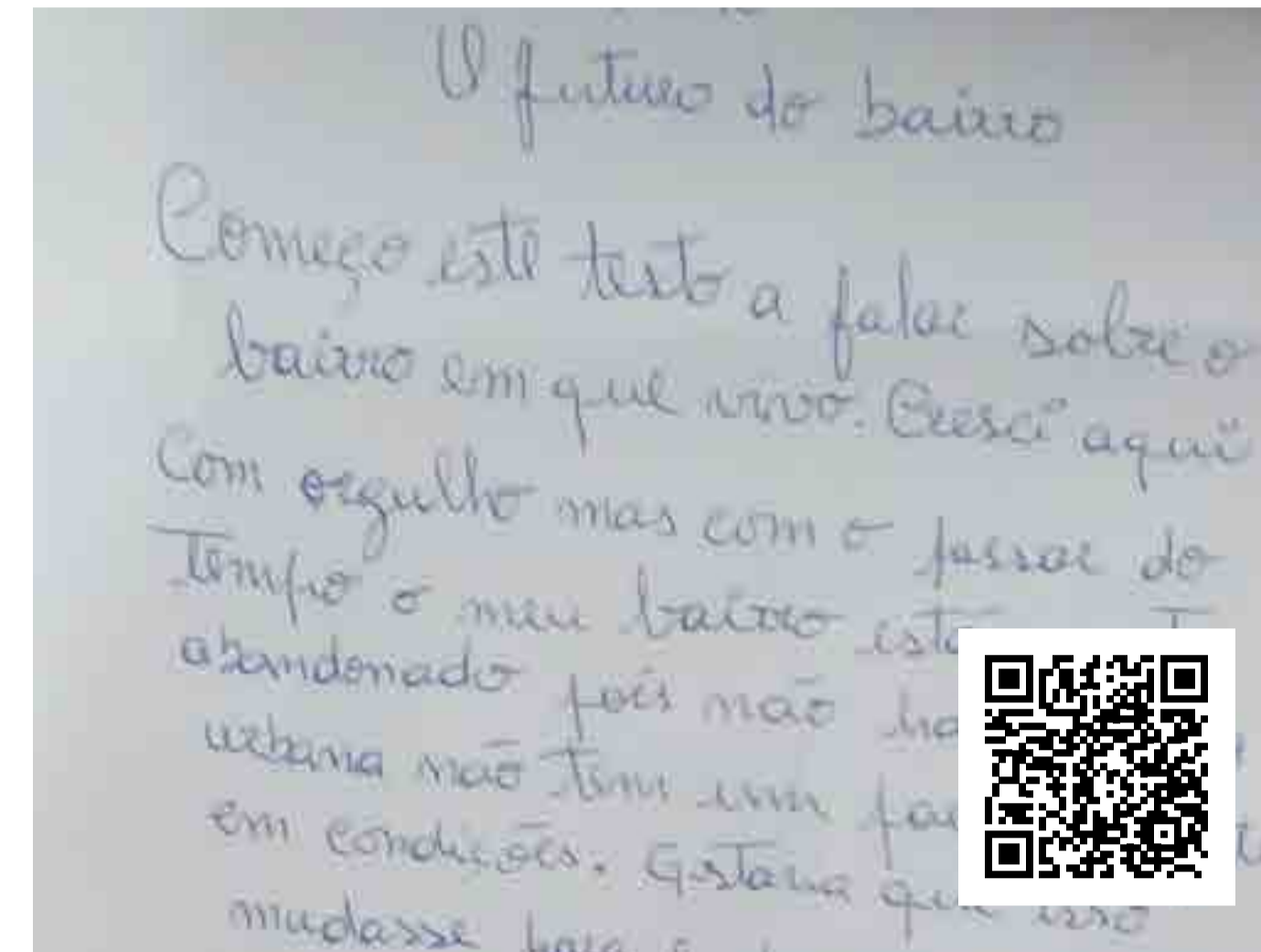
"Ulyssipo", Mariana Ribeiro, A Sound Place, Lisbon, 2022

## Texts

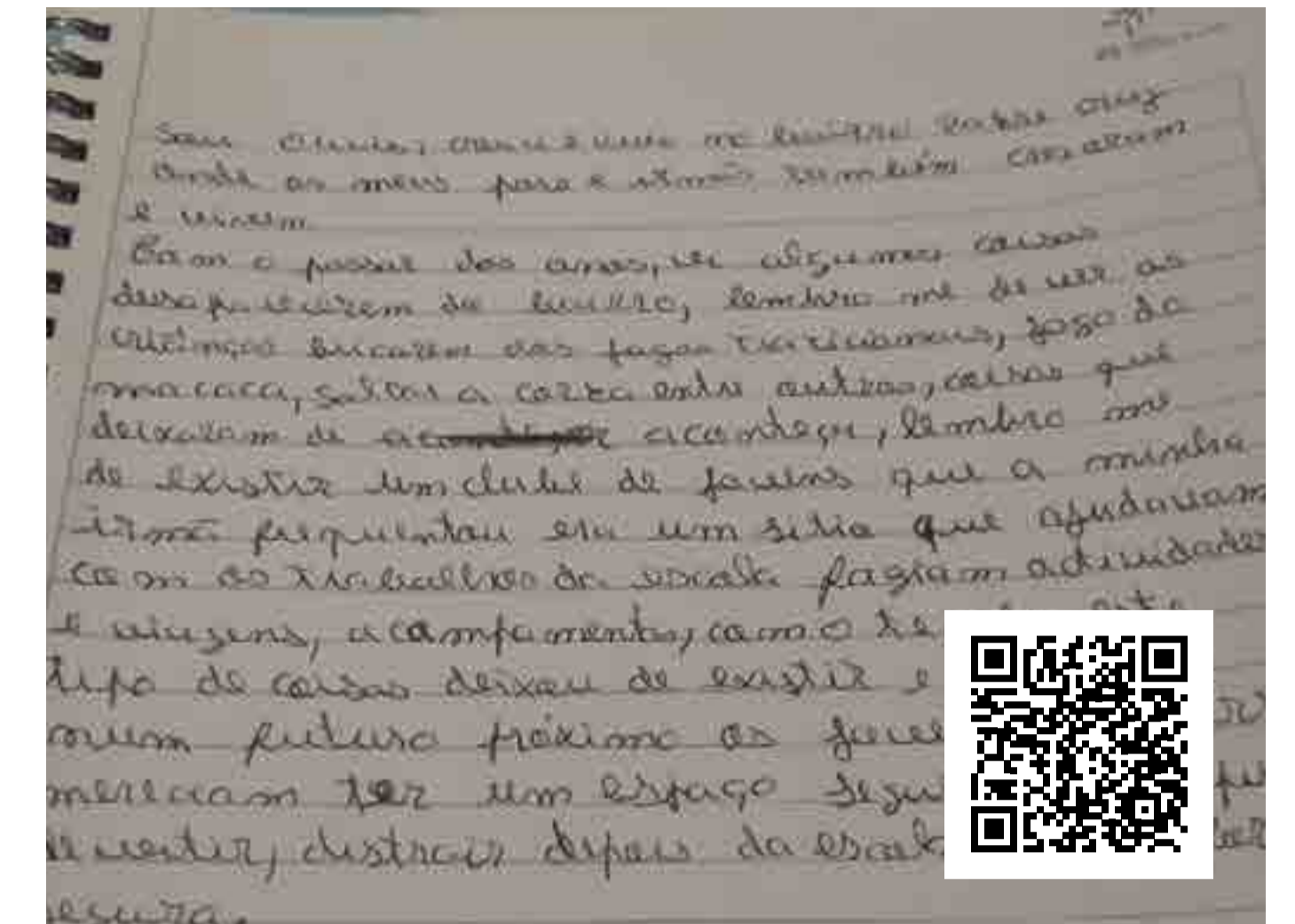
A place can be described through both prose and poetry. The narration of memories reveals the links that people have with a place and enables them to share personal stories. Poems, in particular, are effective at expressing the sense of attachment to a place through the use of symbolic language that evokes vivid images and emotions.



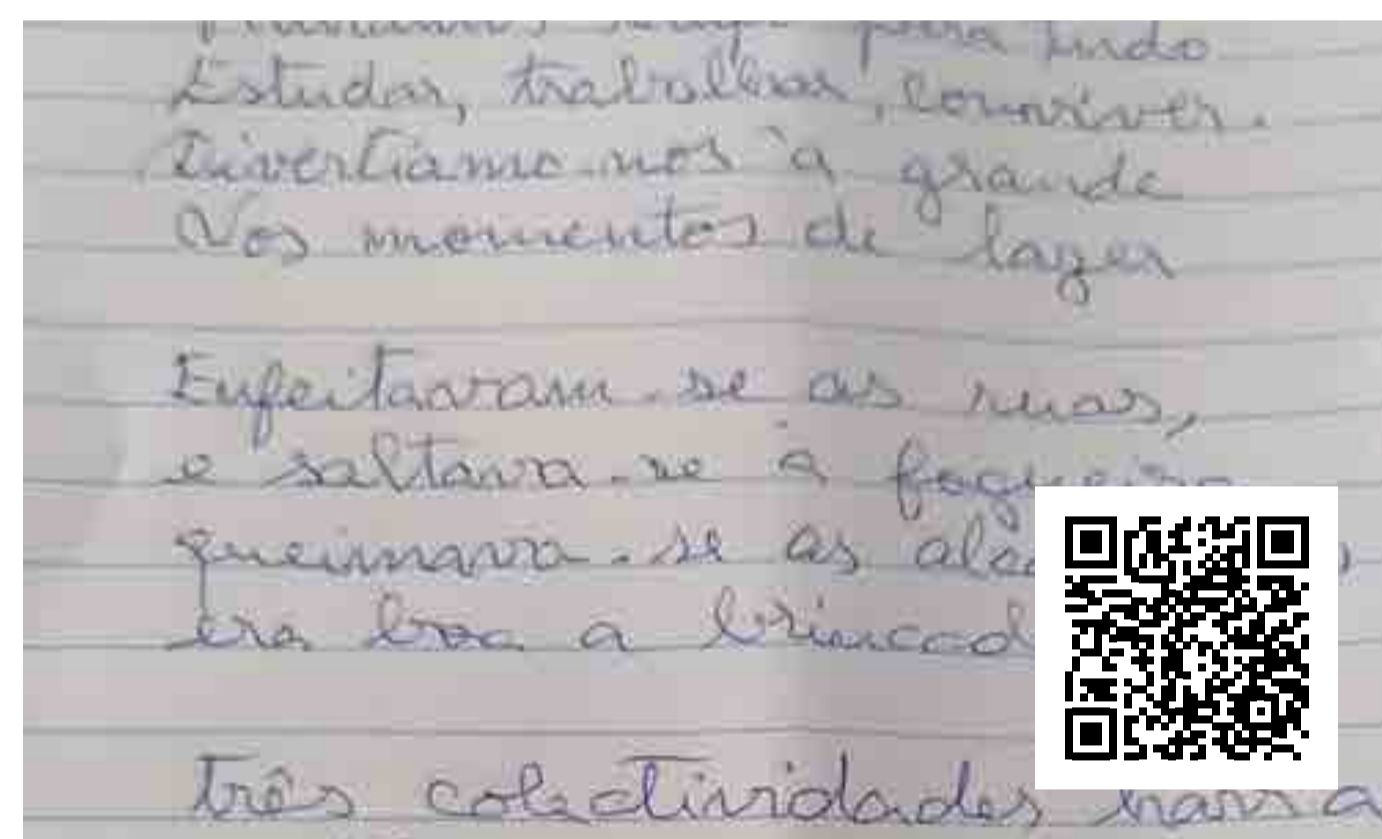
"O meu bairro", Ivan Lérias, A Future Place, 2021



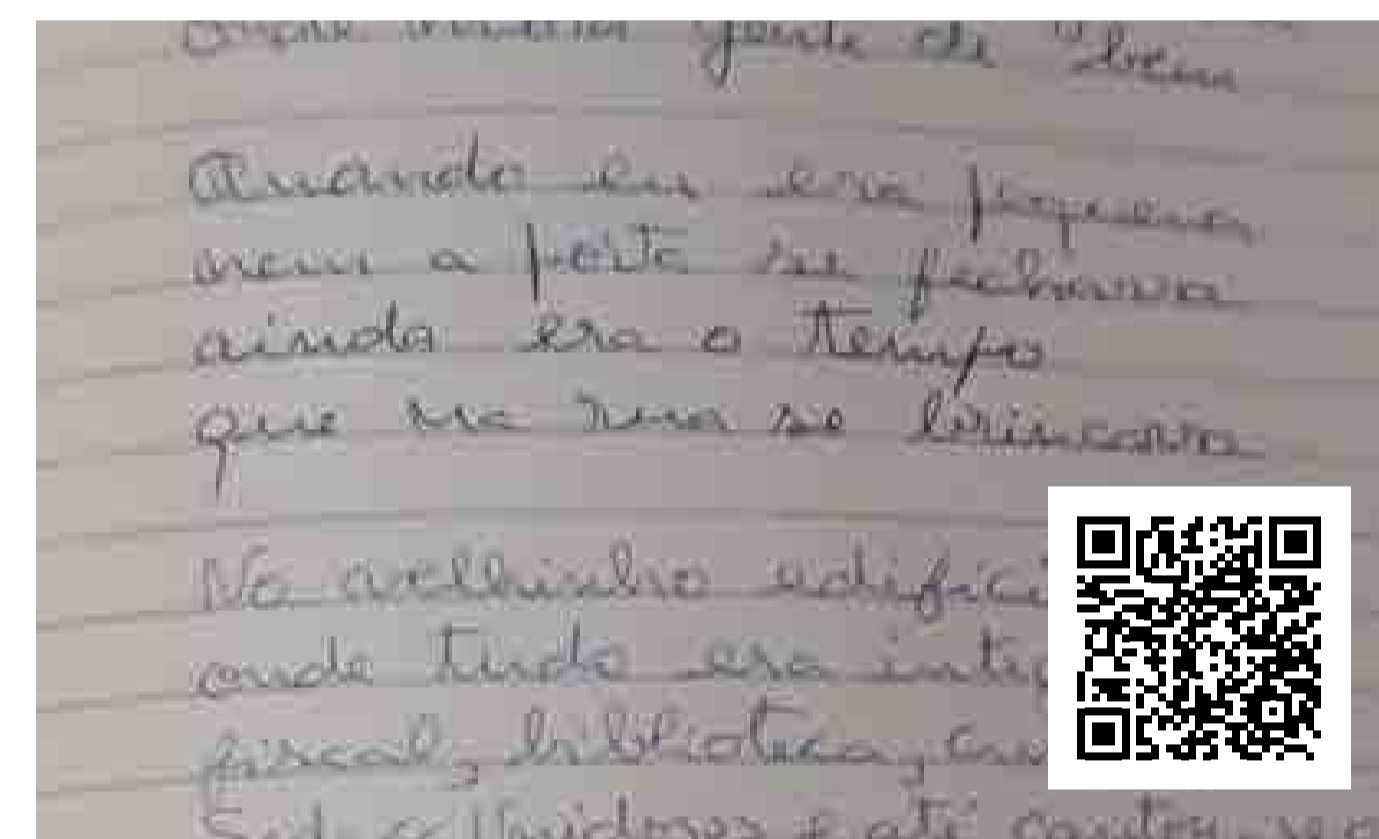
"O futuro do bairro", Tomás Estevão, A Future Place, 2021



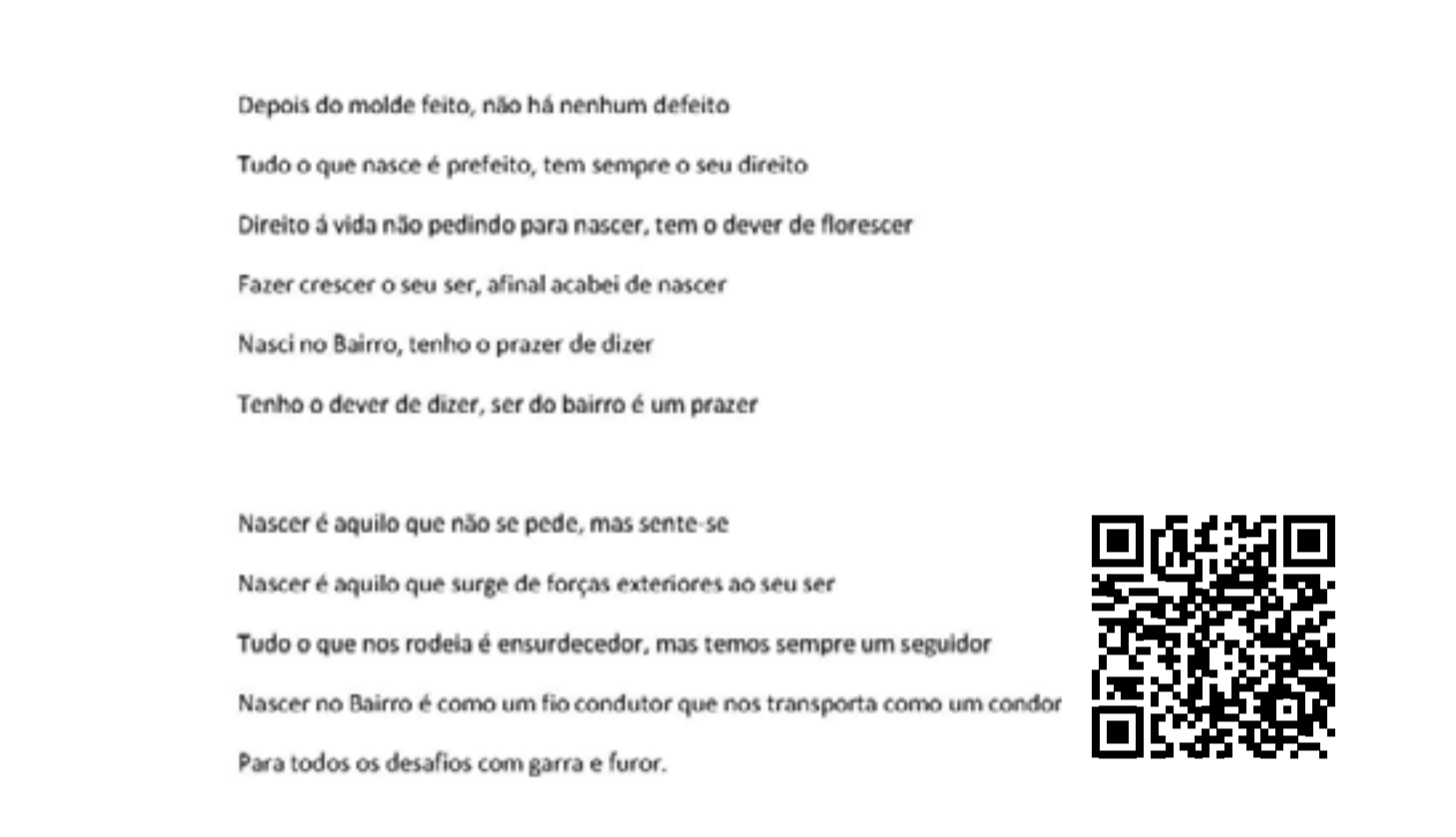
"Memórias do Bairro", Luis Moreira, A Future Place, 2021



"Sempre disse", Leopoldina Botelh, A Future Place, 2021



"Bairro Padre Cruz", Cátia Botelho, A Future Place, 2021



"Nasci no Bairro", Ricardo Palma, A Future Place, 2021

## Objects

Objects installed in public spaces, whether as stand-alone pieces or incorporated into urban infrastructure, have the capacity to signal a place and draw attention to it. The connection that is established between the object and the viewers is fundamental to signify a place.



"Bureau", Nerea Mejías, Inês Moxo, María Rosa Gavin and Paula Díaz, ES\_CULTURA festival, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, 2022



Charlotte Wo, Lina Eva Poženel, Eva Kožar, Helena Šuláková and Veronika Bachuk, A Re-Place, Ljubljana, 2022



Simon Devos, A Happy Place: Dardaar, Alive Architecture, 2022



Re-signifying urban infrastructure, A Weaved Place, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, 2021



"Fill the gap", Anna Trasserra, ES\_CULTURA festival, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, 2022



"Vertical Garden", Agia Varvara Square, Nicosia

## Performances

Performances in public spaces have the capacity to activate a place and attract people. They help to revitalise public spaces that may be underused or neglected, transforming them into spaces in which to develop creativity. They also bring people together and foster the creation of a sense of community and connection to a place.



Flash mob, A Reconnecting Place, Lisbon, October 2022



A Delicious Place, Ljubljana, August 2020



Ca n'Arús seniors association, ES\_CULTURA festival, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Barcelona), November 2022



A Delicious Place, Nicosia, July-August 2020



Stamurgia performance, A Visionary Place, Bologna, November 2020



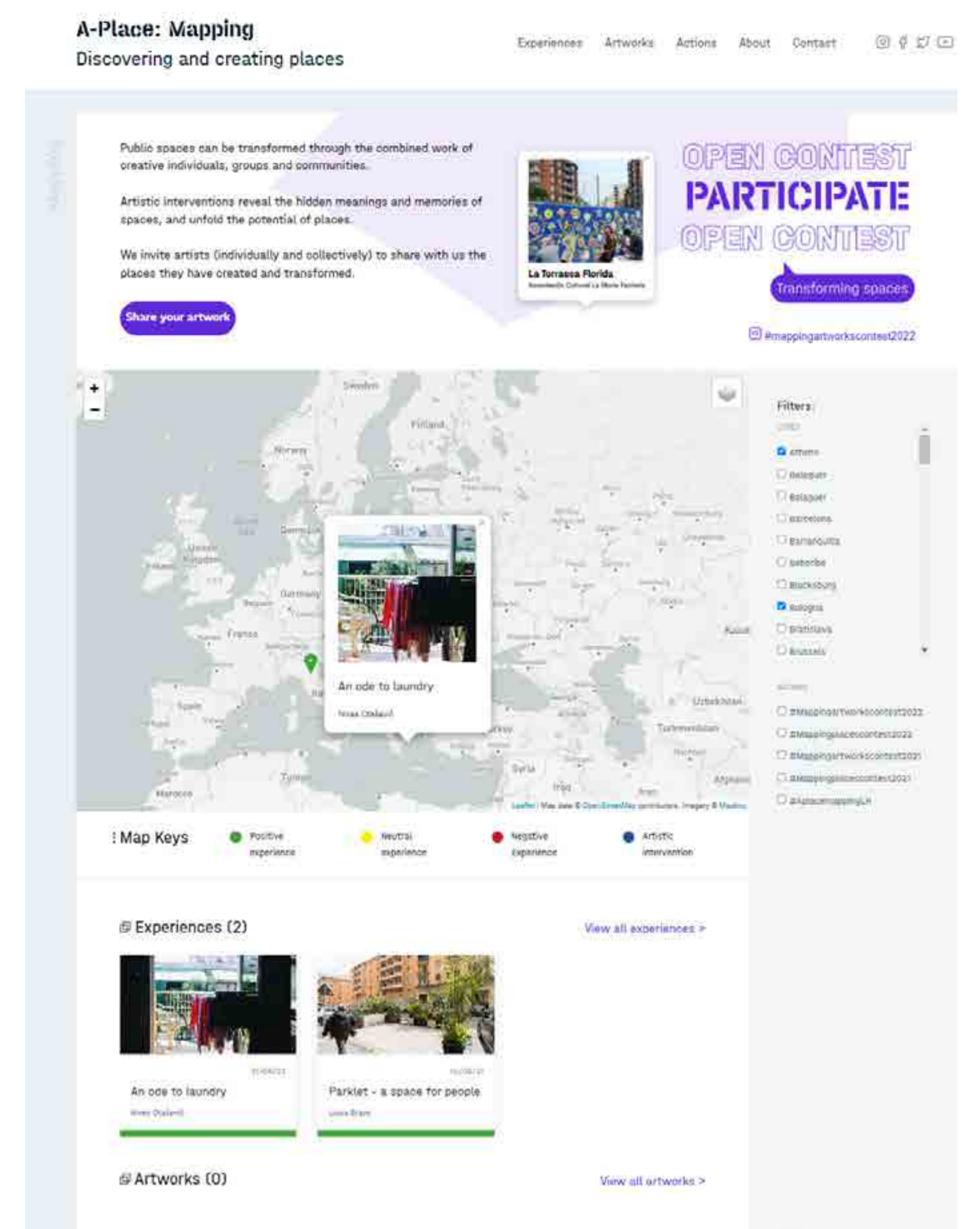
Pop-up cinema, Pame Kaimakli festival, Nicosia, 2020

## Digital places

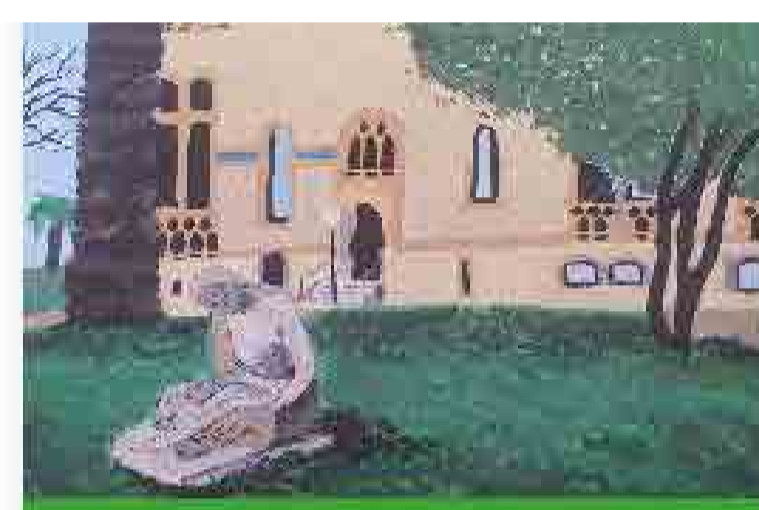
In today's digital age, the global culture is characterised by a continuous flow of images that are transmitted through digital networks. Consequently, our perceptions of the environment are deeply influenced by these media. The contemporary sense of place is experienced in digital spaces that transcend geographical and cultural boundaries, connecting people and places from around the world.

### A-Place: Mapping

The online platform, specifically designed for A-Place, facilitates activities that aim to share people's experiences of places from around the world. These activities include two contests: "Share your experience of places" and "Share your artworks in places."



**Before COVID hit us**  
Aidy  
This photo of a street in Barcelona was made by me once when I went with my friends partying before quarantine and before COVID hit us. This is the reason why it transmits me good vibes and good memories. One week after this day the quarantine started and everything went down. The place is...



**My favourite person**  
Serrat Jimenez  
In this place, is the first time that I saw my brother, it was at this moment my life changed but now, he is my favourite person and the most important in my life. I will always remember this moment because it was a new beginning...



**From Russia with Love**  
Celia  
A little over a year ago and in the middle of winter, I arrived in this wonderful city. When I was still in my country, Soain. I remember that people were...



**Vacant window No.1**  
Irene Navarrete  
If you might be walking down the Rue des Brigittines in Brussels and seeing wired windows with white curtains, this might be Chapele's...

### Share your experience of places

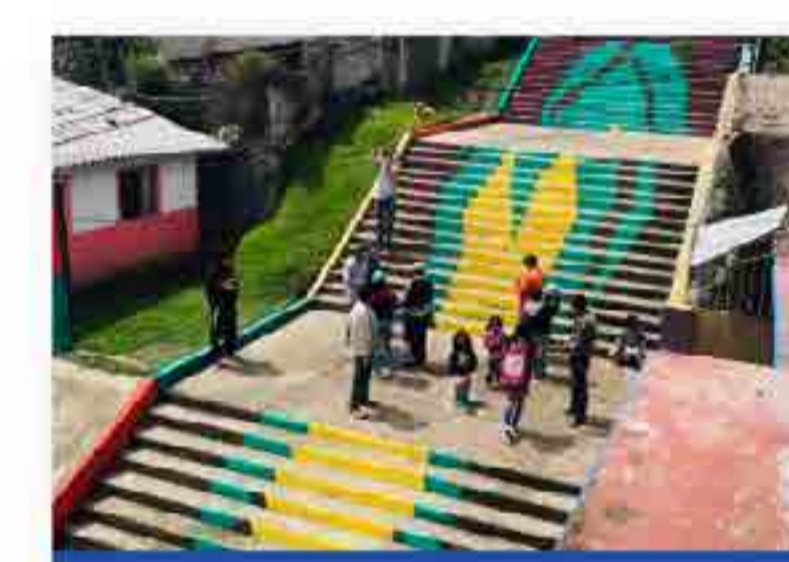
In this contest, participants are invited to share their experiences of places with a photograph and a text. An international, multidisciplinary jury evaluates the submissions and awards prizes based on the following criteria:

- The uniqueness and originality of the place and of the related experience.
- The ability of the photographer to capture the characteristics of the place and to evoke the narrated experience.
- The literary value of the text in itself and in relation to the photograph.

### Share your artworks in places

This contest is aimed at those who have transformed or created places through artistic interventions. The multidisciplinary jury awards prizes considering:

- The aesthetics of the intervention and its ability to integrate art, architecture, and landscape.
- The level of community involvement in the process of creating the place.
- The transformative power of the intervention, its impact on the community and on the built environment.



**Flor de maíz**  
R+LAB  
Flor de Maíz is an intervention made alongside the inhabitants of the neighborhood Toctitlaco, students from the university of the Americas - UDLA, Quito, and LIBRARI AR Medellín/Berlin. The intervention was meant to improve the public space of this accidented topographic neighbourhood through a...



**Spaces and Places**  
SURIJITH DEDOLKAR  
An inclusive 'space', attracts more people. Interaction occurs, activity lasts making it a vibrant 'place' through which a city breathes. Artwork is a public place promenade in Mumbai representing people's cognitive expressions, behavioral and sensorial patterns offering city uniqueness, ident...



**La Ciudad Enferma es Rescatable**  
Anthony McKinney  
The temporary intervention was part of a practice lead research of the place of the Mapocho River in the Public Imaginary through its bridges, edges and...



**Direction Lines**  
Gabriel Sastre, Alicia Moriel  
Durante una excursión al Hospitalat nos dimos cuenta de cómo, para llegar a lugares como la biblioteca o el mercado, que quedan más alejadas...

Would you like to share your experiences of places with us? Just send us a photograph and a brief text to accompany it!

