



University of the
West of England

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

For a Walk With...

- **Format:**

Presentation in person. Video and a research paper.

- **Author(s) Name:**

Anton Kats

- **University or Company Affiliation:**

Goldsmiths University of London. Art and research project affiliation: Tate Modern, Serpentine Galleries, London and Documenta 14, Kassel Germany.

- **Abstract (300 words):**

For a Walk With... (2013–ongoing) is a project encircling such fields as artistic research and pedagogy. For a Walk With... invites elderly people experiencing dementia to take a walk. Stretching between two residential care homes, institutions of art and culture such as Tate Modern, Serpentine Galleries and Goldsmiths, University of London Kats's presentation addresses multiple conditions of residential care and care work and the politics of redevelopment.

Addressing walking as a non-representative activity within a diversity of institutional agencies the presentation relates memory to redevelopment and argues that the prevailing understanding of redevelopment as urban amnesia is obsolete; instead, reading the city from within of the care home through dementia, in combination between collaborative art practices and research is more useful in practice.

This case study weaves participatory methods of art practice and academic research allowing to embrace pragmatic questions of access and infrastructure together with these of art and knowledge production in context of residential care.

Among other elements of work Kats will introduce the publication *For A Walk With: Dementia in the City*, film *For a Walk With...* commissioned by the Serpentine Galleries and developed by the author together with the residents of two care homes in London. Addressing metaphorical and literal correlations and overlaps between the architecture of a care home, memory and redevelopment this reading will be diversified through an outline of the Radio Narrowcast project developed in collaboration with the Tate Modern Gallery and Age UK allowing for developing of collaborative, dementia friendly and interactive design in a gallery context.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Anton Kats (b.1983, Ukraine) is an artist and musician currently based between London, Athens and Kassel.

Anton's practice derives from informal everyday relationships within a vibrant neighbourhood in Kherson, Ukraine and is complemented through necessity and pragmatics of self-legalisation in Europe via entering formal institutions of education. After attending masters programmes in Art in Context at the University of Arts Berlin and Interactive Media: Critical Theory and Practice at Goldsmiths College, Kats finalised his studies through a practice-based PhD at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Developing practice-driven research projects, Kats explores ambiguity of art practice as a question of agency and intentionality and develops site-specific work engaging with structures of self-organisation, self-education, marginalised people and the non-normative. His enquiry reveals the various forms of learning necessary to generate critical and practical knowledge in the everyday and combines pedagogy and art practice as a form of investigation.

Kats is an editor of *Sound Space Downtown: Workbook and User Manual* and a lecturer of Contextual Studies at the Ravensbourne University in London. His works have been exhibited and performed in venues including the Serpentine Galleries, Tate Modern, Tate Britain, the Showroom Gallery and are currently unfolding as a part of the educational program at documenta 14.