



CONNECTING CULTURES presents

“Mapping the invisible. EU-Roma Gypsies”

Introduction by **Anna Detheridge**, Connecting Cultures' President
with **Gabi Scardi, Thomas Acton, Maria Papadimitriou**
and the participation of **Alexander Valentino**
Contemporary Arts Archive of Connecting Cultures

6th October 2010

h. 7.00 pm



The presence of Roma people in cities seems to have become an open and problematic issue especially in Italian and European chronicles. Except in rare cases, Roma people are seen more and more as a thorny and controversial presence; the feeling of rejection that falls on “other” people is ever stronger. Most of Roma population lives in extreme poverty and degradation, apart from the rest of society and physically separated: in some areas they are isolated, due to the lack of minimum infrastructures. They occupy “nowhere places” - abandoned buildings or unplanted areas by the roadside - from which they are too often cleared out without any policy of real support or effort towards integration on the part of public administrations in search of consensus. The result is a vicious circle, which removes the “problem” on the surface without searching for any lasting solutions.

The issue is complex and touches deep chords. A more genuine and open understanding of Roma culture can help to face it. But what is the role of culture in the processes of social integration and coexistence in cities? What could be the longterm effects? And more specifically, what is the added value that creativity and arts may have in the process of understanding and acceptance of differences?

Connecting Cultures, together with **Gabi Scardi, Thomas Acton** and **Maria Papadimitriou** and the coordinator of the project “European Roma Mapping” (EU-ROMA) **Alexander Valentino**, will try to answer to these and other questions. Through critical interventions, art projects, testimonials and open discussion with the audience Roma culture and its specificities will be approached from cross-cultural and new points of view. The aim is to understand whether and how visual arts, in its many forms of expression, can contribute to making diversity a strength.

On the same occasion the book “Mapping the Invisible. Eu-Roma Gypsies”(Blackdog Publishing, 2010) will be presented. The book collects the experiences arising from the project Eu-Rome conducted together with the gypsy communities in Romania, Greece, Italy and the UK. A visually engaging account sure to inform and inspire anyone with an interest in human rights, contemporary architecture, visual art, design and social sustainability.

After the discussion the film **ELECTRIC FRAGMENTS n°1 - ROM (MEN)**, 2001, 13' by Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi will be projected.



INFO

EVENT *"Mapping the invisible. EU-Roma Gypsies"*

CURATED BY Connecting Cultures

LOCATION Contemporary Arts Archive of Connecting Cultures
Via Giorgio Merula 62, 20142 Milano
h. 7.00 pm

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an event by

