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«HÖR-SPIEL-  
SPAZIERGÄNGE»  
KATJA MÜNKER

COLLECTIVE WALK  
& PODCAST-RELEASE



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# «City Cues»

BEATRIX JOYCE

Viktoria-Park, Kreuzberg, Berlin. I came here once on a date in early spring. Flowers were peeping out at me as I wandered by with this new, unfamiliar person. The winter before I took part in a residency at Tanzfabrik, and I trudged across the paths caked in snow, keeping to the sides so as not to be run over by kids on sledges. I have come to this park at various times of day and night, and it has connected me in many ways to other people and other places. But this was the first time, with Katja Munker's «Invitation to Walk», I felt completely immersed in the experience of being there.

«When you look behind you, you will see the memorial on which you will find the name Leipzig, 18.10.1813,» said a calm female voice, in my ears. I looked behind me, and as if on cue, the text appeared before me in shiny, golden letters engraved in the dark stone of the memorial. I had never noticed it before. I listened to the voice, wondering to myself what else hadn't I observed that may be waiting for me, just around the corner.

At the top of the hill, I looked out over the city towards Kreuzberg. I learned from the voice that this would be the direction of my journey: I was to head down Großbeerenstraße, across the river where the street meets Ida-Wolff-Platz at a slanted angle. I began my descent down the slope. At the waterfall, the voice invited me to look around. I turned around my axis in a slow circle. I noticed a white envelope, sitting unopened by the fence; a QR code stuck to the railing. I thought of those who had left them there and why, and how we tend to get too involved in our pocket-sized screens to receive the hidden messages of the city.

The voice encouraged me to observe my surroundings with my body. To listen with my eyes. To see with my ears. As I walked on, I felt my senses mix and I expanded my arms to test the reach of my kinesphere. My feet set the pace and I found myself slipping into an easy rhythm. The orange and red leaves blinked at me, bright against the grey sky. The voice asked me whether I could still see the memorial, reminding me of where I had come from. I felt present. I felt a closeness to myself, a sensation of time stretching out in front of me, a feeling so rare and yet so familiar, like running into an old friend I haven't seen in a while.

I arrived at Ida-Wolff-Platz and I felt like I was in a completely new place, not even in Berlin. I watched the square as if I were watching a film. A family walked by. A cyclist followed. The voice announced I had reached the end of the walk and thanked me for my participation. I lingered on the square for a little while longer. I rotated around my axis, the rubber soles of my boots meeting the pavement, their sound blocked out by my headphones. Slightly dazed, I turned to where I had come from and walked back down Großbeerenstraße, the city revealing itself to me from the other side.

Katja Munker's podcast series «Invitation to Walk» brings listeners on guided walks through the city, accompanied by body-perception exercises and local urban history. Aside from Viktoria-Park/Kreuzberg, she has designed walks for Mitte, Friedrichshain and Strausberger Platz, all available via the Tanzfabrik website.