

A Whatsapp Group Conversation Script for Performative Walk

Participants: Irem and Yunus

Date and time: 26 Feb, 10.00 am

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(What will happen?)

-Hello friends! I will conduct the performative walk experience via WhatsApp. The experience consists of two parts. The first part is the walk. We will meet in the second part. There are 9 areas on the Tilburg City Centre map to explore that city experts decided.

Your walk will take place in the green area. It will last about 30-45 minutes.

You can write to me on WhatsApp however you want until you reach the starting point. Let me know when you arrive at the starting point!

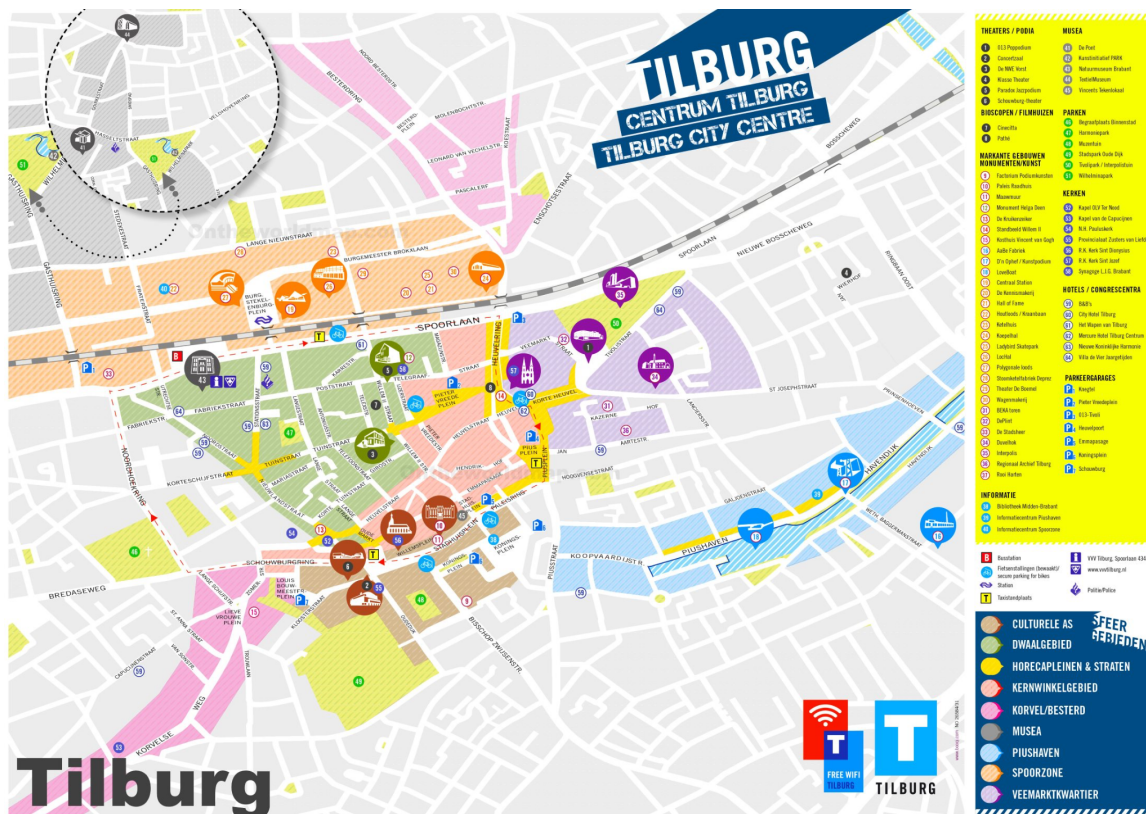
I will give you a starting point. But your endpoint is uncertain. The purpose of the experience is for the endpoint to be uncertain! Drifting towards an uncertain endpoint from a specific starting point... And stay inside your chosen area.

(About the Experience)

-‘Drifting’ comes from the term ‘dérive’ which is the psychogeographic exploration of the urban environment. The Situationists saw the city as a landscape for the practice of the dérive, a continuous drifting through urban space with no particular destination, allowing for the discovery of new experiences and perspectives. They challenge the representative image of the city. We can say that the practice of drifting is a critique of the dominant modes of urban planning and design. And, you will not be navigated with Tilburg City Center Map which is a touristic map that is actually designed for inhabitants who are international students and entrepreneurs. But you will be navigated by your experience in the lived space. So, this walk is different from the practice of a tourist for sure.

-This experience is about the exploration of the city identity of Tilburg. City identity is fluid and socially constructed, just like our identity. So, a city is not a container with famous buildings, statues; the way people move and perform in its space is what creates its characteristics. And, the built environment is actually similar to a work of art. The aesthetic experience of it is not merely limited to the buildings or statues but related to the nature of relationship patterns between them and people.

Location:



-You can start to leave your home slowly and meet with each other to walk towards the starting point. Let me know when you arrive at the starting point! In the meantime, I will explain what to do during your walk.

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-concepts:

the perceived space: how people experience and perceive space

the conceived space: how space is represented, planned, and organized

the lived space: how space is used and appropriated by people in their everyday lives

-While I am exploring the city identity by walking individually, I started to think it is also multiple. What is fluidness and multiplicity for you?

-Answers can be multiple... Don't try to answer now.

-Decide if you want to do the experience together or separately.

Instructions:

If you want to walk together,

While walking together don't talk with each other. I will provide guidance every 7 minutes on who should prioritize the walk.

If you have any questions, you can text me whenever you want. I'm here for you.

Activities in performative walk:

- Use the map I sent you to see if you are inside the area.
- You can take voice notes or write down what you want to remember during your walk.
- Instead of taking photos, frame the moments you want to remember with your hand frame gesture [].
- You can also take breaks to observe your surroundings in stillness instead of walking continuously.

It's time to take a stroll through two locations and observe the work of art! I will provide you with some tasks while you are walking. You can think of these tasks as suggestions. Walk in any direction that feels appealing to you along the way.

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TASKS:

- Focus on your breath for a while and listen to the rhythm in your surroundings.

And, focus on the movement of the space. How do people, cars, bicycles move in space? How often are the traffic lights turning on?

- Observe the people. Where might the people you see on the street be going this morning? How are their walks? Excited, calm, rushed?
- What stands out the most in the place you're at? Is it old, modern, historical, authentic...? How do the structures in the environment guide you? Is there a street you want to follow?
- Focus on the built environment: architecture, signs, street furniture, roads... What is the relationship of these structures with the surroundings?

Think about a Tilburger who lives or grew up in this environment.

- Observe people. Smile at someone passing by and say hello!

Start a conversation with a passerby. You can ask:

-How are people using these buildings, or what is this place?

- Engage with the built environment with your movement. What does the space expect from you right now? For example, jump over bushes or touch one of the flags hanging in the city. Maybe you want to wander around a tree in the middle of the city or you may need to crawl through a narrow space.

Decide on an endpoint to gradually end your walk.

Congratulations, you made it! Let's meet you in RAW Tilburg. **See you there!**