

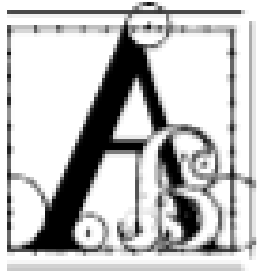
PSYCHO GEOGRA PHY

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Psychogeography is a discipline derived from ideas put forth by the Marxist Lettrist and Situationist Internationals and their founder Guy Debord. It is the study of the effects of the geographical and architectural environment on the emotions and behaviours (psychology) of individuals.



Guy Debord and Michèle Bernstein from his 1961 short film *Critique de la séparation*



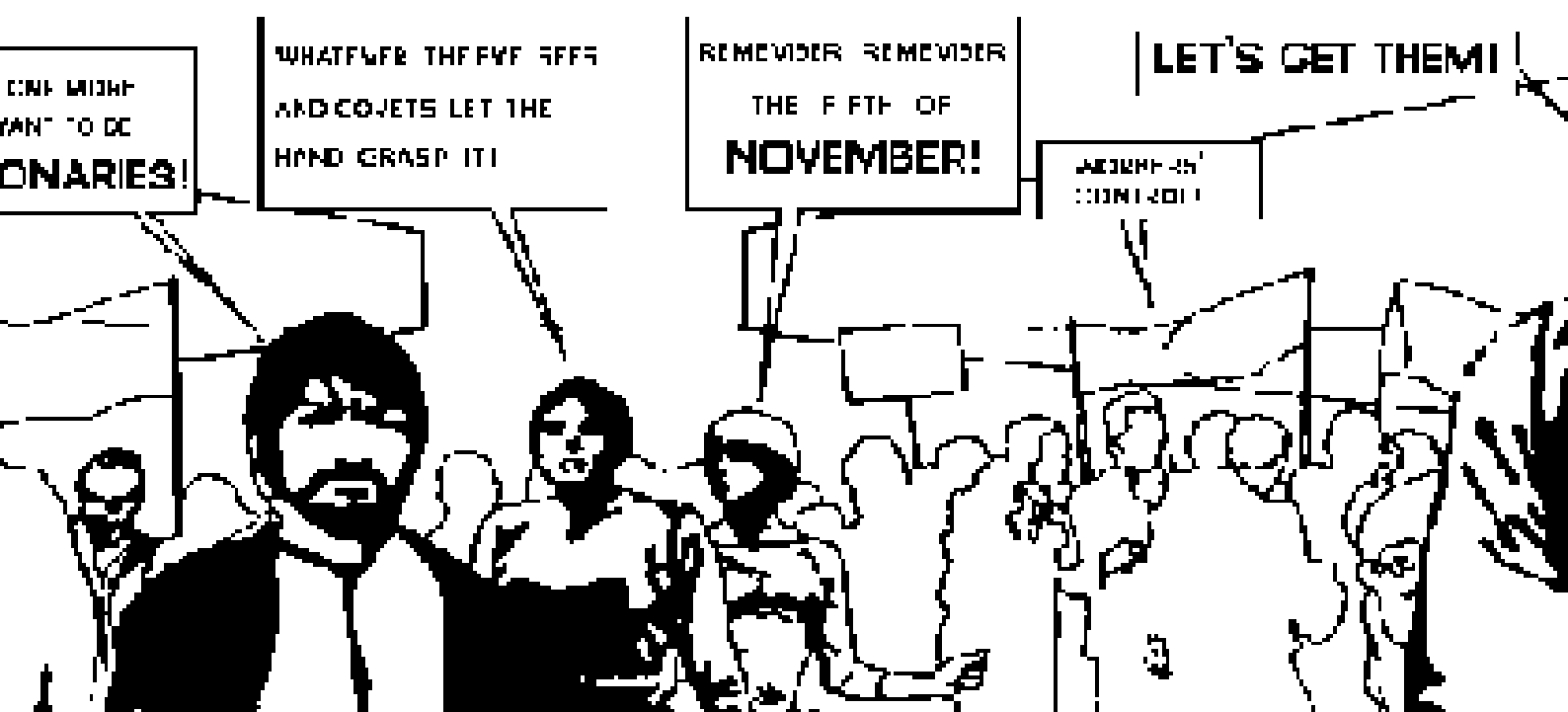
common exercise in psychogeography is DRIFTING, or the DÉRIVE. Put simply, this is wandering, letting the urban environment direct you and seeing where you are directed. This is an activity that can be done alone but is preferably done, dialectically, in groups of two or three.

Drifting can employ various methods of transportation: walking, biking, hitchhiking, taxi, or bus. You must either disorient yourself, defamiliarize the city, by going to a random destination, or pay attention to the most minute details, the changes in psychic ambiance that can happen within the smallest urban distances.



Still from
Critique de la
séparation
(1961)

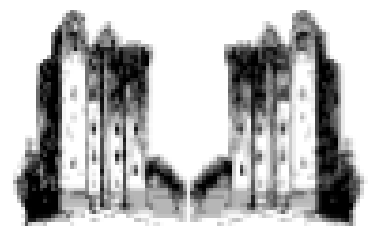
Drifting takes place for up to a day at a time. Often, for Debord and his followers, it would begin at a bar in the morning and end in the evening when they so decided. They would drift between neighbourhood bars



In Our Spectacular Society by a.h.s boy
and drink and talk.

Drifting also requires purpose. Even with no destination there must be determination. The city must reveal itself to you.

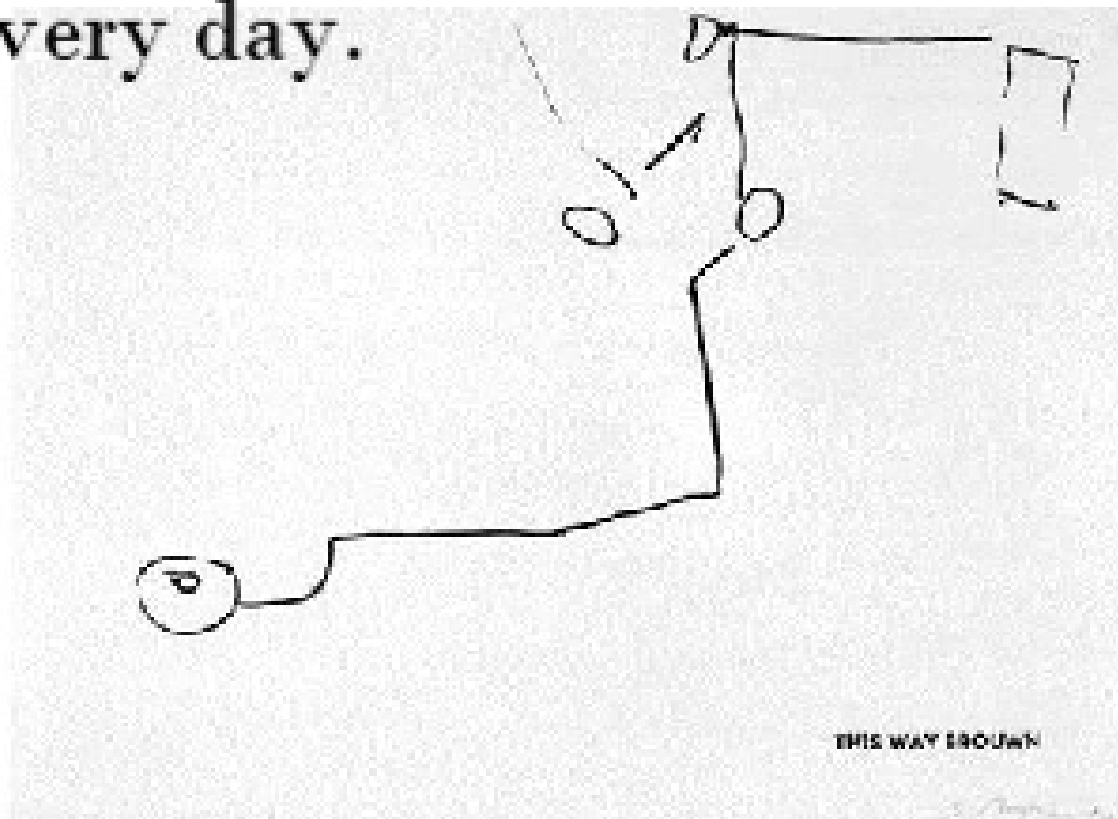
LISTEN. OBSERVE. CONVERSE. FEEL.



Defamiliarizing yourself from the setting of everyday life allows you to see with clear eyes, remaking the city + the space. Bring a notebook: record sights, sounds, smells, textures, energies, thoughts, interpretations, memories. Sketch + outline, but briefly. The *dérive* can be practised in any city, any location, already familiar or not. Remember the city is produced by + for CAPITALIST interests. You realise in travelling what you CANNOT do. This is demarcated along many lines (ability, race, gender, class,...)



Create a psychogeographical
map for a route you travel
every day.



Stanley Broun, *This Way Broun*, 1963

Get on at the nearest bus
stop and get off whenever
you feel like it.

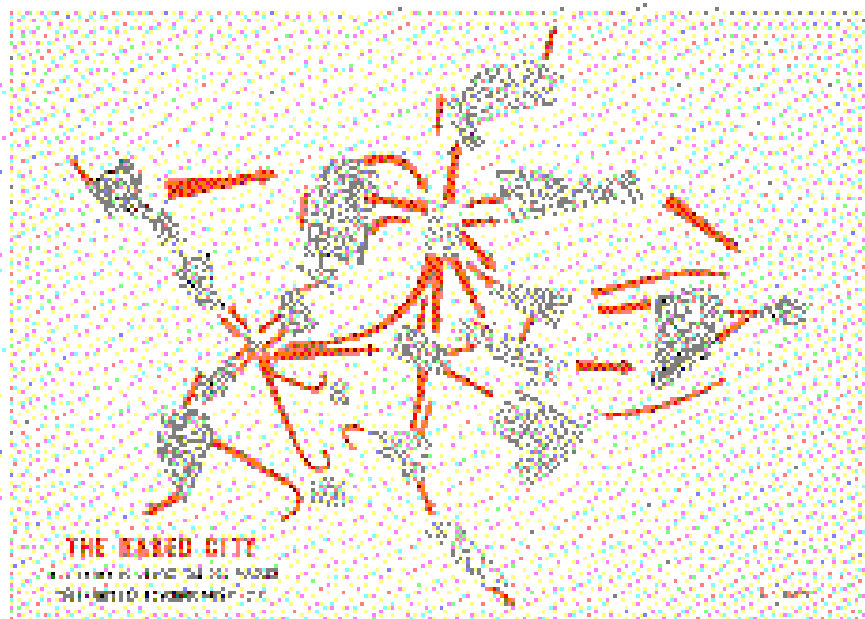


Asger Jorn and Guy Debord, from *Mémoires*, 1959

Walk to the store using only
seldom-used alleys.



Psychogeography is a science & an art, subjective & ephemeral. The skill of the ramble & the creation of situations allow us to escape the meaningless monotony & alienation of capitalist society. The city cannot be seen objectively, only through memory, images, feelings.



Psychogeographic map of Paris by Guy Debord

Bibliography:

magentamenace.neocities.org