

「千里之行，始於足下。」《老子·第六十四章》

The journey of a thousand miles begins beneath your feet. (Laozi, Tao Te Ching 6:4)

We all walk the line. We have an end and a beginning which is joined to a much longer invisible line in the past and in the future. (Richard Long, Walking the Line, 2002: 9)

Thesis title:

Towards In-Between Nature-Culture

Walking Along the River... On the Road... In the City...

Abstract

Throughout the genealogy of **Chinese landscape art** (*Shanshui 山水* or *Mountains & Rivers*), the historic legacies and contexts of the Scroll have been widely used as literary traditions (文人) that interplay among image, calligraphy, poetry, text, and painting. Through walking among mountainous landscapes with massive crags and narrow fissures between rocks, and water flowing, landscape art depicts aesthetic, philosophical, and religious qualities as art genre and as subjects of Nature. This PhD investigates an entangled field of artworks, literary and philosophical texts, nature writing, digital images, and moving-image on spaces of possibility and the imaginary, by which landscapes have been illustrated, the research argues, as cultural construction.

An important aspect of the project is that the **Practice-based Research (PbR)** has been initiated by the dichotomous propositions from Robert Smithson's *A Tour of the Monuments of Passaic, New Jersey*. Smithson documented and walked, referring to **Walking As Art**, or *Walkscapes*, as claimed by Careri, across a post-industrial city of Passaic. Smithson's writing creates a cultural and textural space of art production (as mediation, representation, mimesis, and a documentary process), which echoes an anti-landscape and anti-aesthetic, developed through my research questions and arguments. Referring to and exploring the *walking-writings* and thoughts from 18th century to present, the research also experiments with and contextualizes the dialectical questions of how Nature has been widely adapted as the key to creative practices and production in relation to the extensive-**SCAPES** study or in the representative view, such as in *Landscapes, Seascesapes, Riverscesapes, Mountainscesapes, Cityscapes, Streetscesapes, Soundscesapes, Walkscapes, Picturescesapes, Imagescesapes, and Videoscesapes*. Thus, the unique *artistic form- SCROLL* would be employed as critical *scapes* and *scopes* in contributing to both practical and theoretical investigation.

The methodological framework expands the philosophical **SCROLLs** on contemporary art, by which photo documentations, fiction-like writings and travelogue have been illustrated as critical reflections on **City Modernization and Urbanization** in a view of *cityscapes*, that further contextualize via artistic

praxis and extensive theories. The research is, thus, situated within this trajectory and trans or inter- disciplinary studies in focusing on the *still-image* and *moving-image*. Thus, the term **MOVing-Image** has been coined to describe the dynamism and rapid changes in nature.

This PhD thesis mainly consists of three research SCROLLs: ***Walking Along the River, On the Road..., and In the City...*** that demonstrate *Walking/the Flâneur* as a significant artistic-interventive tactic to further explain and illustrate an interceptive/interactive/interpretative praxis for creating contemporary art outcomes in terms of literary or visual representations.

The findings also contribute to the research arguments and to distinct knowledge by exploring new hybrid **MOVing-Image** forms (Manovich, 2006), via theoretical and practical contributions- a methodology which extensively updates definitions of **MOVing-Image**. Especially, the emergence and resurgence of the visual representation of **SCROLLs** as **MOVing-Image** are further examined in terms of experimentation with significant aspects of the **Entanglement** between such concepts as *East and West, Nature and Culture, and High and Low*.

Finally, this PhD research also contributes to contemporary art practices that explore movement and its mediation, especially through the *analogue* and *digital MOVing-Image*.

Keywords: *Cityscapes, Culture, Dichotomies, Entanglement, Flâneur, Landscapes, Modernization, MOVing-Image, Nature, Riverscapes, Road, Painting, Practice-based Research, Psychogeography, Scroll, Urbanization, Videoscapes, Walkscapes.*