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The wrong city : an immersive installation by olga kisseleva

Mains d'Oeuvres and the Interface Zone at Sarai - two inter-disciplinary spaces for research and creative practice in new media with a common interest in urban space, are hosting a unique encounter between Delhi and Paris - The Wrong City - a multimedia installation by Olga Kisseleva in Delhi and Paris.

"The Wrong City :: Une Autre Ville" invites the visitor - to be at the 'other' place... and to expect: is the 'other' place, always the 'wrong' place ?

Parisians are invited to a simulated Delhi environment, and the people of Delhi are invited to a space that simulates the urbanity of Paris. Both environments will contain, within a convivial and functional atmosphere, elements that signify the urban space of the other. These include local press, television broadcasts, video streaming with webcams and locally organized bookmarks. The two spaces will signal to each other with these ubiquitous forms of actual communication.

This "inversion" or mirroring of each others space is further articulated through the presence of a webcam, that streams live images of Paris to Delhi and vice versa. This is act like a virtual window that allows people at either end to traverse the real distance between the two cities.

The installation is an integral part of a series of public events that create links between the two cities - an interactive buffet between Paris and Delhi, exchanges such as the Techno-soiree featuring DJ Dum Dum, Drav'Indians and Swaraj, as well as diverse other encounters.

The work of Olga Kisseleva uses photographic images as points of departure from which to embark on her global journeys. She brings forward evidence of the displacements that are already a part of the realities of all contemporary metropolitan spaces - successive migrations, the dilemmas of identities, and the accretion of streets, built forms and monumental spaces that reconstitute the original environments of great cities. Her video work *Virtual Cities* (2001), documents the post modern fantasies of Las Vegas, juxtaposed with the Indian, Jewish, Chinese and Italian quarters of New York, Paris, Amsterdam and other spaces.

The displacements and dislocations that Kisseleva's work evokes are engendered by the human movements across distances, that reflect a different relationship with the category of the virtual. This echoes the phenomenon of "Tele-Objectivity", as elucidated by Paul Virillio which entails the immersion of embodied realities within an imaginary digital universe. The discoveries that we make in

the digital 'online' world, provoke paradigmatic shifts in our points of view on the real world. This is the predicament that is brought alive by Olga Kisseleva.