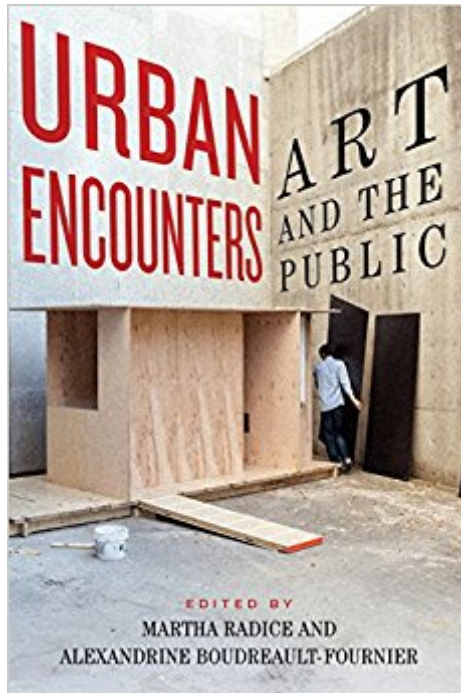




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# Urban Encounters: Art And The Public (Culture Of Cities)



## Synopsis

Public art is on the urban agenda. Given recent claims about the importance of creativity to urban prosperity, opportunities for installing or performing art in the city have multiplied. As cities strive to appear culturally dynamic, the stakes of artistic production rise higher than ever. Exploring the interaction between art and the public in Canadian cities, *Urban Encounters* features writing by artists, architects, curators, anthropologists, geographers, and urban studies specialists. They show how people and places affect the structure and content of public artworks, what kinds of urban spaces and socialities are generated through art, and how to investigate and interpret encounters between art and its viewers in the city. Discussing a variety of art forms, including mobile cinemas, street improvisation, audiovisual investigations, and assembled objects, the contributors treat public artworks not just as aesthetic installations, but as agents that participate in the social and cultural evolution of cities. Using original, hands-on approaches, *Urban Encounters* reveals how art in the urban public space generates encounters that can transform both the city itself and the ways that people relate to it. Contributors include Alison Bain (York University), Robert Bean (NSCAD University), Lawrence Bird (architect, artist), Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier (University of Victoria), Brenden Harvey (Dalhousie University), Wes Johnston (artist, curator), L'Ã©cole Le Blanc (media artist), Brian Lilley (Dalhousie University), Barbara Lounder (NSCAD University), Mary Elizabeth Luka (York University), Sebastian Matthias (HafenCityUniversity), Christof Migone (Western University), Ellen Moffat (media artist), Kim Morgan (NSCAD University), Solomon Nagler (NSCAD University), Martha Radice (Dalhousie University), Nicole Rallis (McMaster University), Susanne Shawyer (Elon University), Shannon Turner (Aarhus University), Laurent Vernet (INRS Urbanisation Culture SociÃ©tÃ©), and Nick Wees (University of Victoria).

## Book Information

Series: Culture of Cities (Book 6)

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: McGill-Queen's University Press (May 17, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0773550062

ISBN-13: 978-0773550063

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,394,698 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Public Art #4196 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Urban #7130 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Anthropology > General

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“The strength of this collection lies in its commitment to interdisciplinary perspectives from across social sciences and humanities. While sociological and anthropological perspectives and methodologies are the central focus, the volume also includes approaches to urban cultures deriving from creative and practice-based research, cultural studies, and media studies.”  
Michael Darroch, University of Windsor

Martha Radice is associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Dalhousie University. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier is assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Victoria.

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