

LINE AS LABYRINTH: WALKING THE URBAN PATH OF DESIRE



Sunday February 23, 2020

A labyrinth is a line, often considered as a line convoluted, with compounded twists and turns. The very word labyrinthine is a term to describe that which is complicated and intricate. But at its core, at the heart of it, a labyrinth is just a line. One without distractions, one without the burden of choices along the way. It is a singular line to follow. One that is chosen by the walker, not forced upon them by the built environment. The invitation to walk a labyrinth is just that, an invitation. It is not a demand, or even a request. It is an option. One chosen when you feel the need, the pull, the desire. The desire to take on a path, or a pilgrimage. The desire to set out with an intention, or a question.

**From Broadway
Bridge
to Battery Park
Walking
New York City's
Earliest
Desire Line**

According to some urban planning experts, Broadway was New York City's earliest desire line, following as it does the Native American-made Wickquasgeck Path, which is thought to have been the shortest walking route between pre-colonial settlements in Manhattan. Broadway is the only remaining path, according to Architect and urban planner Riccardo Marini, that "wasn't wiped out by the European grid being overlaid on it." For this event, this path of desire becomes the line of a labyrinth progressing through the city. A singular line from the most northern to the most southern tips of Manhattan. In the moments we travel mindfully along this path together, this line becomes an urban labyrinth of desire.

A labyrinth is not a maze, nor a puzzle to be solved, but a singular path to be traveled. One followed by choice. One where the destination is clearly the journey, and time and the space for contemplation the purpose.

As part of the international TERMINALIA - FESTIVAL OF PSYCHOGEOGRAPHY, the artist Christopher Kaczmarek invites any who feel the need, pull or aspiration to undertake a walking pilgrimage to join him on a path down the urban labyrinth of desire that is the street of Broadway. We will begin on Sunday morning February 23, 2020. For more information contact <https://tinyurl.com/labyrinthnyc>