

Guided Tours : Prospect Heights DVD



“Guided Tours : Prospect Heights” explores and makes visible some of the intersecting personal neighborhoods of the mind that constitute the physical neighborhood of the small multi-ethnic area of Prospect Heights, Brooklyn. It is structured around recorded, narrated neighborhood walks guided by several residents (my “tour guides”) and the photographs that I make that document those walks. People give me their personal tours of their community and hence the work focuses on how the locales of everyday practices act as repositories of memory and narrative.

GT:PH takes the form of an interactive DVD and is the subject of my MA work in the Environmental Psychology department at the CUNY Graduate Center.

The viewer of the DVD experiences stories of place from my tour guides, as though they themselves were walking through the neighborhood. At each “intersection,” the viewer faces a menu choice, as above, of which street to “walk” down next, and once she chooses, will see a series of still images, of the “sites” on that block, like George’s Diner, above, that my guides have imbued with meaning, and will hear the audio of my guides’ stories & memories.

This piece has been shown both within the community and at the International Visual Sociology Conference, 2004.