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Artists as Creative Laborers? Dynamics between Art and Space

As the logic of city branding continues to be globalized, we see the violent transformation of cities around the world to fit for certain prescribed images. This paper examines how Beijing artists have collaborated to develop art spaces in Beijing, and how they are increasingly lured into the creative industries discourse. In the age of the creative economy which has the tendency of melting all concreteness, artists are increasingly aloof to the materiality of their place, easily losing their sensibility to come to terms with their own production. Here we might also reflect on the differences and similarities between artists and traditional labors, and re-consider the specificity of art-making.