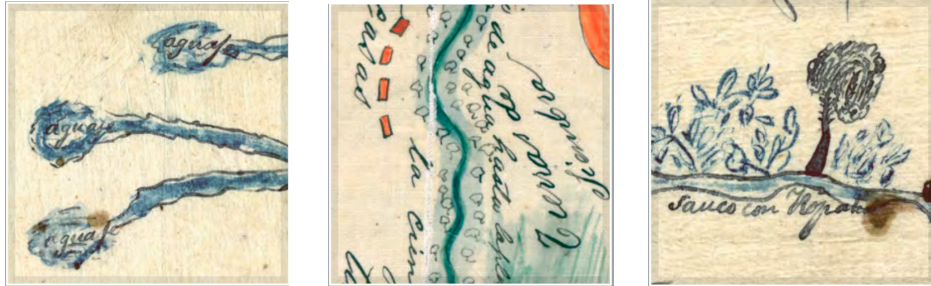


Citizen Cartographer: Autopsies of the Self and the City
A Perambulation in Three Parts
Facilitated by Laura Vena



Solvitur ambulando (the problem is solved by walking)

Consider a problem. Choose a route to the furthest point along the LA Road Concert. Stretch your limbs, note the temperature and, while walking in silence, consider how to tend to personal happiness in a time of war or upheaval. Stop halfway to your destination. Now: listen for birds. Pause. Change your route. Try to get lost a little. Find the edge of a labyrinth. Seek the center. Envision being displaced. Find plant life: take photos or sketch what you find. Consider: how to map hopelessness, and how to plot agency, how to scheme. With paper and pen, map the gestures of people in your field of view. Write a title for the mood of their movements. Consider: how to make a network, how to build community around you.

Perform a walk

Walk intentionally along the road concert route, noticing where your foot falls, the angle of the shadow cast by the sun, acknowledge if there is a sense of loss or fear in the pit of your stomach, or a welling of joy. As you walk, record a one minute video of the landscape around you, trying to avoid recording your own voice. Immediately email the recording along with your name to lauravena@gmail.com. I will layer what I receive together and post the audio to lauravena.com (it will also be linked to at laroadconcerts.com)

Be a compass.

Face toward Ballona Creek (it is .5 miles due east): listen for the waters. Close your eyes. Imagine the waters. Picture building a board boat (is there a tree nearby?), sealing it with asphaltum from the ancient La Brea Tarpits (3.4 miles northeast). Face the ocean (it is 6.5 miles southwest). Listen for water and imagine evaporation. Imagine deterioration, disintegration. Picture around you now, the demolition of buildings, one by one. Imagine the splitting of concrete, it falls away. Asphalt melts: a river that runs dry. Imagine wetlands take their place, a grove of very large alders, Grebes and Herons, Newts, Vernal pools, wet meadows, thickets of Willow trees, monkeyflower. Open your eyes. Which building would you demolish first?