Loitering with Intent: 
a cultural geography of Sullivans Cove

by

Anna Paftis
Batchelor of Education

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Statement of Authenticity

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other higher degree or graduate diploma in any tertiary institution. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except when due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

Anna Paitsis
22 November 2002
Abstract

This is a study that is drawn from the discipline of cultural geography.

It explores the proposition that conviviality in public spaces contributes to a civil society, and seeks to identify the physical qualities and characteristics of a place that contribute to convivial activity. I have chosen to study conviviality in the spaces of Sullivans Cove on the waterfront of the capital city of Hobart, Tasmania, a landscape that in the last decade or more has undergone a transformation from a neglected working port to a centre of social and civic activity.

I have adopted the character of a flâneuse to take the reader through a journey of Sullivans Cove, and in so doing uncover real life activities that support the propositions that I have chosen to investigate. Flâneuses are traditionally known as observers and loiterers of public spaces. The idea of the flâneuse is used as a device in this study by which the urban landscape can be narrativised. Observing the public sphere with a flâneuse raises questions about the aesthetic experiences of public spaces and the possibilities that these spaces hold for citizenship.

This research revealed that conviviality has the potential to contribute to a civil society. For conviviality to prosper it requires a place that is both physically and psychologically safe, this is achieved through fulfilling conditions that encourage a diversity of people and activity into an area.
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This period of study will be remembered for the guidance, friendship and mentoring of my supervisor Dr. Elaine Stratford. I know I have been fortunate to be her student.

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I would like also to acknowledge the original author of *Loitering with Intent: From Arcadia to the arcades*, Simon Pugh, who examined the unfinished work of the legendary flâneur Walter Benjamin.
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