

Documentation Strategies: Making L.A. Visible presents artistic and research-based projects that map Los Angeles in varied ways. Without the descriptive imagery maps provide, the geographic scale and cultural richness of the region is difficult to comprehend fully. Any maps of the area—whether AAA road maps or Star Maps of the Hollywood Hills—present a particular vision that is often isolated from another. These visions of the city concretize particular notions of the city's past, present, and future, alternatively emphasizing growth or decay, diversity or isolation.

As viewers, we bring to any map our own personal, cultural, and political perceptions of the city. Seemingly straightforward data, such as freeway routes or the location of neighborhoods, not only tell us how to get from one place to another. When viewed uncritically, they also serve as the spatial markers of our own mental map-making. The power of maps, however, is not only to reaffirm what we know and have experienced, but to challenge us with new narratives that may transform our sense of place. An area previously uninvestigated becomes a new destination; and a neighborhood rarely visited gains new dimensions.

The projects shown here incorporate new technologies to represent specific complexities of the region. Each emerges from an insistence that any map or image of Los Angeles should remind us of the obligation to explore the city anew, redrawing our maps in the process.

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L.A. AS SUBJECT

The Transformative Culture of
Los Angeles Communities

EXHIBIT

DOCUMENTATION STRATEGIES:

Making L.A. Visible

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