

INCESTE NOW STRATA

Studying public art in Douala, I found that one of the most interesting features of producing art in run-down districts is their ability to "make space". It is not a metaphorical skill but, quite literally, the ability to produce public works of art in contexts where they are not expected to be produced, where they have had to shift mountains of rubbish, create a square, negotiate the corner of a house. "Making space" is an operation that involves making both physical and mental space, it is often exhausting, but it is an effort that doesn't go against the grain of cultural institutions. The prime feature of a cultural institution is effectively that of being a space. Physical or mental space, a space in which to produce, conserve and enjoy.