



Blake Morris

It is difficult to resist the infectiousness of **Blake Morris's** enthusiasm for walking and walking art (see his <https://thisisnotaslog.com>) Originally from California, via Seattle, New York and now based in London, Blake is co-founder of **Walk Exchange**, an intriguing 'think tank on foot' in New York City. An advocate for reading about walking as much as walking about reading, he has devised the *Walk Study Training Course* with New York based artist Dillon De Give and developed with the *Walk Exchange*. Take the course and you get the chance to walk, read and study walking art with others and to create your own. When **Andrew Stuck** came across Blake two or three years ago, he was so intrigued with the *Walk Exchange* and what it had already achieved that he wanted to emulate it here in the UK. Blake has trounced that idea by coming to London and running it here himself. 22'57" 10.8MB.

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded in August 2015, on a circular walk around the Olympic stadium in the Queen Elisabeth Park in London. Published in February 2016 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Fresno, California: <https://www.fresno.gov/darm/historic-preservation/history-of-fresno>

Popping & Locking: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popping>

Blake studied Theatre at the **University California, Santa Cruz** <http://theater.ucsc.edu/>

When Blake was in New York City he was studying on foot the public projects of **Robert Moses**, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Moses Blake met **Dillon de Give**, <https://www.dillondegive.com> .

Walk Exchange Walk Study Training Course <http://walkexchange.org/category/wstc/>

Blake is keen not only to produce knowledge but also to transmit it - so participants create a walk during the course. Blake and Dillon's interest in walking art was specifically focused on contemporary practice rather than the works created some forty years ago, although they have explored the works of **Richard Long** <http://www.richardlong.org/> and **Hamish Fulton** <http://www.hamish-fulton.com/> You can listen to a **Talking Walking** interview with Hamish Fulton here: <http://www.talkingwalking.net/hamish-fulton-talking-walking/>

After the first two versions of the *Walk Study Training Course*, Blake and Dillon were joined by Dr Bess Matassa, Vige Millington and Moira Williams to further develop it.

Francis Alys: The Modern Procession

http://www.publicartfund.org/view/exhibitions/5997_the_modern_procession

Alex Villa's: Alternative Access: Highbridge Park <https://medium.com/breaking-into-business/alternative-access-38a15a0c7c10#.8oil4i5dn>

Queens Museum of Art: Panorama includes a scale model of New York City <http://www.queensmuseum.org/2013/10/panorama-of-the-city-of-new-york>

Simone Kenyon: <http://www.siobhandavies.com/people/detail/neil-simone/> Ithaca gorges <http://www.visitithaca.com/attractions/waterfalls.html>

Walk Study Training Course #6 will take place spring 2016, with group walks in London, and a distance participation option: <http://walkexchange.org/walk-study-training-course-6/>

Blake has come to London to study a PhD at the University of East London <https://www.uel.ac.uk/Postgraduate> , researching group walking as an artistic practice - drawn to the university because **Clare Qualmann** <http://www.clarequalmann.co.uk/> and Mark Hunter (Institute of Contemporary Music Performance) set up the Walking Artist Network <http://www.walkingartistsnetwork.org/>



Blake Morris's recommendation for a walk is:

1. Tower District in Fresno, California - a route that links memory images contributed by ex-pat Fresnoians. <http://www.towervillage.org/> Or try out a memorial walk across the farmlands inspired by Cesar Chavez, founder of the National Farm Workers' Association https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cesar_Chavez
2. Walk in and around Flushing Meadows - site to the 1939 and 1964 World's Fair, and at one time temporary home to the United Nations. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flushing_Meadows%E2%80%93Corona_Park

TALKING



WALKING

What has Blake Morris been doing since our interview?

“Since my interview with Talking Walking I have completed my doctorate at the University of East London. My thesis, *Walking Networks: The Development of an Artistic Medium* defined walking as a specific artistic medium and offers new methodologies for critical and creative walking practices. It will be available through the British Library in 2018.

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I have also started collaborating with the Living Maps Network (<http://www.livingmaps.org.uk>) and, along with Clare Qualmann, I edit 'Lines of Desire' for the critical cartography journal *Living Maps Review* (<https://livingmaps.review>). Over the summer all the members of the Walk Exchange were able to meet in New York City for the first time in a few years, and discussions are underway for WSTC 7 in Seattle, London and NYC. I am currently working on *A Wander is not a Slog* (2018) (<https://awanderisnotaslog.wordpress.com>) a project in which I will undertake all 54 walks from *Ways to Wander* a compendium of walking instructions from members of the Walking Artists Network.”

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