



Julie Poitras Santos

Chatting to Julie Poitras Santos, you can't help but be enthused by her sheer exuberance about her work in bringing people together to walk and tell each other stories. A lecturer at an art school in Portland, Maine, on the east coast of the United States, she has travelled a lot to embed herself in many different communities. She is currently exploring people's sense of getting lost and the techniques they use to find their way again, both physically and metaphorically. In part she uses a labyrinth, and in our conversation, we discuss how group walking of labyrinths can bring clarity in thought and a strong sense of camaraderie, amongst strangers. We are walking on a warm summer's day in La Romieu in south west France, one of the entry points to the long distance pilgrimage route known as the Camino de Santiago. 24' 31" 11.5MB

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded in August 2017 as part of *Made of Walking* at La Romieu in south west France. Published in December 2017 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Julie Poitras Santos' website: <http://juliepoitrassantos.com/home.html>

Maine College of Art is where Julie teaches part time: <https://www.meca.edu/people/juliesantos/>

Camino de Santiago https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camino_de_Santiago

Julie's own work on the Camino includes a performance from 2006: <http://juliepoitrassantos.com/artwork/1394103-chemin-camino.html>

Julie went to Sweden for a project called "Map & Universe" <http://juliepoitrassantos.com/artwork/4021352-MAP-UNIVERSE.html> hosted by Bunakra http://brunakra.com/julie_poitras_santos_residency2016/

Scandinavian stone labyrinths: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/etc/ml/ml20.htm> - a bibliography: <http://www.labyrinthos.net/bibliostonelabs.html> and a locator: <https://labyrinthlocator.com/locate-a-labyrinth?action=locate&country=Sweden&state=> Labyrinths - unicursal and otherwise: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labyrinth>

Made of Walking convened by the Milena Principle <http://www.themilena.com/made-of-walking> - listen to the Talking Walking interview with co-founder Geert Vermeire: <http://www.talkingwalking.net/geert-vermeire-talking-walking/>

Greek myth of Ariadne and his thread that gave him a means of escape from the minotaur in the labyrinth: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ariadne>

Talking Walking interviewed Danielle Wilson a labyrinth facilitator: <http://www.talkingwalking.net/danielle-wilson-talking-walking/>

'Flow' and deep thought: <http://wiki.c2.com/?MentalStateCalledFlow>

Buy a labyrinth as a mat: <https://www.labyrinthcompany.com/collections/poly-canvas-mats>

Troubadour: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troubadour>

Platform Projects / Walks 2016: <http://www.platformprojectswalks.com/projects-1/>

Julie is teaching a course on Walking Art history - find out more about walking art through the Walking Artists Network: <http://www.walkingartistsnetwork.org/about/>



T.S.Elliot - author, poet and historical theorist: 'Little Gidding', the second to the last stanza begins:

"We shall not cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time."

<http://www.columbia.edu/itc/history/winter/w3206/edit/tseliotlittlegidding.html>

Julie's recommendations for a walk are:

1. A circular walk starting at Back Cove around the peninsula on which Portland, Maine sits or a circular route around Back Cove itself <http://trails.org/our-trails/back-cove-trail/>
2. Join the pilgrimage to Santiago especially the mountainous section of Galicia <http://www.galiciaguide.com/Camino-de-Santiago.html>