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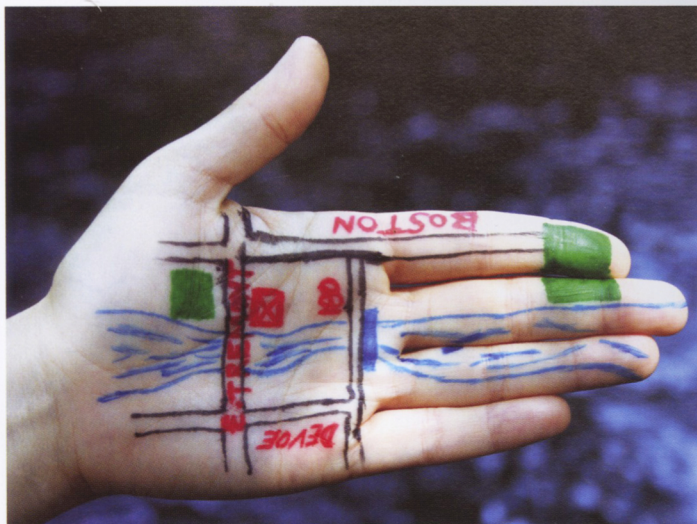
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**MAPPING THE SOUL
OF THE CITY**

Katharine Harmon



YUMI ROTH

Meta Mapa: Bronx, 2008

Photo documentation of a project conducted for an exhibition by the Bronx River Arts Center and Wave Hill

When Yumi Roth, a professor of sculpture at the University of Colorado, travels to new cities, she asks locals to draw maps on her hands, detailing routes to interesting places. She then photographs and prints the hand maps to develop a series of informal yet useful maps that help her gain a greater understanding of the city. During a New York trip, Roth asked residents of the Bronx's West Farms neighborhood to draw maps to nearby green spaces. When she returned with photos, an MTA employee oriented her in the direction of a river, and a man on a subway platform helped her get to a park. Roth thinks of the maps as intermediaries in interactions between strangers, and between official and anecdotal information. Her favorite New York encounter, she says, "was with a teenager, who drew a map to a hidden chicken coop and garden in what amounted to a median strip of land." And she succeeded in locating it, just under her right pinkie.

