



In Divisible Cities A Phanto-Cartographical Missive

By Dominic Pettman

Punctum Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 168 pages. Dimensions: 7.9in. x 5.0in. x 0.5in. Italo Calvino rewrites Baudrillard's America with a more global eye, as edited by Roland Barthes. Were I an architect-deity, I would create an Escheresque subway system, linking all the cities in the world. The tunnels themselves, and the people decanted from one place to the other, would eventually create an Ecumenopolis: a single and continuous city, enlaced and endless. Were this the case I could get on the F train at Delancey Street, Manhattan, and after a couple of changes mid-town emerge in the night-markets of Taipei, or near the Roman baths of Budapest. Or perhaps even downtown Urville. In Divisible Cities takes Italo Calvino's classic re-imagining of Venice, viewed in the mind's eye from many different metaphysical angles, and projects it on to the world at large. Where the Italian saw his favorite city as an impossible metropolis of many moods, shades, and ways of being, this unauthorized sequel unpacks the Escheresque streets in unexpected directions. In Divisible Cities is thus an exercise in cartographic origami: the reflective and poetic result of the narrator's desire to map hidden cities, secret cities, imaginary cities, impossible cities,...



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