public

clothing collection

collection

王大爷打球
grandpa Wang playing ball

路边玩Wii
streetside Wii

北京胡同
Beijing hutong

老百姓
the "100 most common" names
The ruptures, the thresholds, the grey line, the lingering
带断, 门梯, 灰线, 不舍

// Fotini LAZARI-DOU-HATZIGOGA

There are small moments in time everyday, just before sunrise and right after sunset, that one cannot easily describe as either ‘day’ or ‘night’. It’s an in-between period during which the sun is not visible but light is reflected from the upper atmosphere towards the earth. The fictive line that marks the illuminated (day) and the dark (night) side is called the terminator, also known as the grey line or the twilight zone. Depending upon latitude, the terminator moves with different speed, and the twilight can last from a few minutes up to several hours. It is a time with a very special quality of light—the photographers’ favourite blue hour—and a lowering feeling of something ending and something about to begin. Just before and right after. A small rupture.

In spatial terms this in-between situation is often marked by the threshold. Between the inside and the outside, the private and the public, often marked by just a plank or a stone lying under the door, the threshold acknowledges and enables separation. It allows the passage from one space or condition to another, marking the entrance and the exit. And while doing so it underscores this discontinuity, the change that occurs as one travels in.

At the same time this very discontinuity is what allows the two sides to connect. The threshold is the zone where two conditions touch and often overlap and an in-between is created—a neither/nor and both/and at the same time. What matters here is not what lies on each side but the way these different conditions come to meet, the way they relate to one another, and how in acknowledgment we may begin to question the prevailing understanding of the world as a set of binaries.

Alongside this dialectic, a new condition—a third space—emerges, a liminal space of encounter, interaction and exchange. In this in-between zone, the fixed roles and practices of the inside and the outside, the private and the public, the night and the day are put into question. Rather than reproducing or re-performing the familiar, here one can choose to re-imagine the encounter, allowing possibilities for different engagements with the Other to unfold. The marginalized, the foreign, what doesn’t quite fit inside or outside, often gets swept away to the threshold. And it is right here that it can be found again, picked up and recovered.

The threshold thus becomes the site of flows, indeterminacies and resistances—always in a state of becoming, just before or right after. Ambivalence and ambiguity slowly give way to latent possibilities for hybrid spatial meanings and uses, new ways of being and being together. The threshold emerges as the home of potentiality, a small heterotopia that we go through everyday—in space, in time, in our thought.

And what if we linger there just a little bit longer?