

## OH MY HOME - Lost and Found

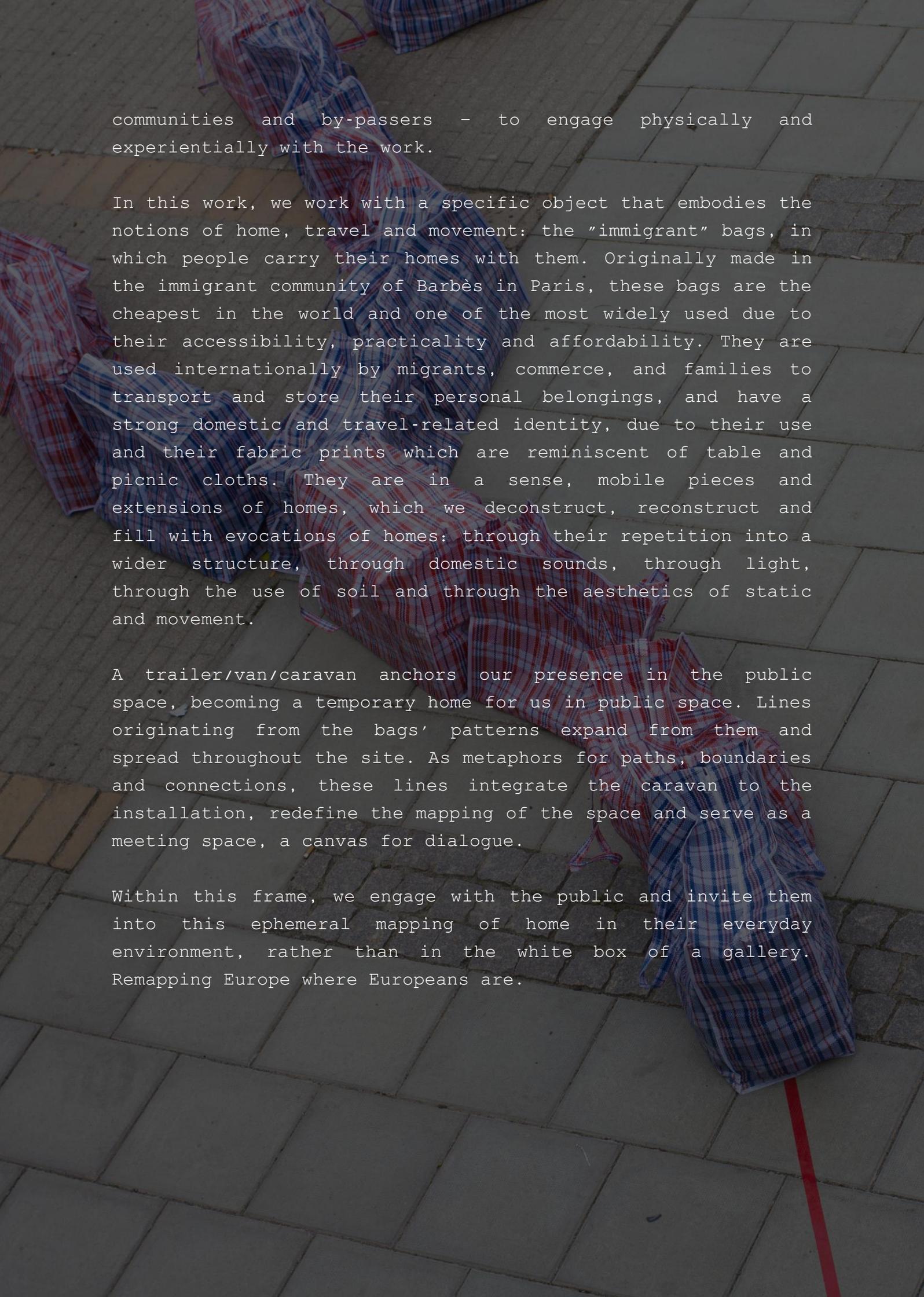
"OH MY HOME, Lost and Found" is a multi-disciplinary project that seeks to explore, reflect on and re-define the meaning of the word 'home', beyond its traditionally place-based and physical definition, in the strict sense of a house and its four walls; as a perpetual movement and network of meeting points, where home is continuously lost and found.

We aim to dig into a deeper sense of belonging that remaps identity, language, culture, family, and homeland, that transcends the individual, and that relates to the on-going fears, hopes, and changes happening in communities across Europe. Home as an experienced, contested, dynamic and negotiated space.

The main objective and the methodology of our project go hand in hand. We seek to:

- a) Reclaim the public space as a home for all, from a geographical, political and philosophical perspective;
- b) Highlight the uses of the public space by those that "occupy" it because of a series of personal circumstances, traditional conventions or political negotiations;
- c) Through this, reflect our own ways, paths, routines, uses, actions and positions in those spaces (either public or private), our navigation through them, and how we fight to seek them, create them, claim them, keep them, share them and survive in them.

Our approach to this is through an intervention that creates an alternate experience of this space: the intervention projects the intimate feeling of home to the open-space of the city, take down barriers and boundaries, and reciprocally encourages a reflection about how one's own notion and claims of home intersect, differ from or morph into that of others. This intervention is a public space installation hosting a series of events and physical interactions. It invites local



communities and by-passers - to engage physically and experientially with the work.

In this work, we work with a specific object that embodies the notions of home, travel and movement: the "immigrant" bags, in which people carry their homes with them. Originally made in the immigrant community of Barbès in Paris, these bags are the cheapest in the world and one of the most widely used due to their accessibility, practicality and affordability. They are used internationally by migrants, commerce, and families to transport and store their personal belongings, and have a strong domestic and travel-related identity, due to their use and their fabric prints which are reminiscent of table and picnic cloths. They are in a sense, mobile pieces and extensions of homes, which we deconstruct, reconstruct and fill with evocations of homes: through their repetition into a wider structure, through domestic sounds, through light, through the use of soil and through the aesthetics of static and movement.

A trailer/van/caravan anchors our presence in the public space, becoming a temporary home for us in public space. Lines originating from the bags' patterns expand from them and spread throughout the site. As metaphors for paths, boundaries and connections, these lines integrate the caravan to the installation, redefine the mapping of the space and serve as a meeting space, a canvas for dialogue.

Within this frame, we engage with the public and invite them into this ephemeral mapping of home in their everyday environment, rather than in the white box of a gallery. Remapping Europe where Europeans are.