



Douala in translation

A view of the city and its creative transforming potentials



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Douala in translation. A view of the city and its creative transformative potentials is a miscellaneous collection of multiple perspectives of the city of Douala, the cultural and economical capital of Cameroon.

Douala is a growing multicultural hub that gathers people of many different ethnic groups, while preserving the memory of a German, British and French colonial past. It is the most populated city of Cameroon with almost 3 million inhabitants and hosts the most important harbor in central Africa.

The publication collects contributions from a wide range of international professionals who have set up consistent relationships with the city at different levels. The authors' analyses encourage to look at the complexity and the elusiveness of the city, to go beyond the predictable and the prejudicial views about African towns, and to develop a different understanding of the urban context in terms of its creative transformative potential. Douala becomes a case study where artistic initiatives trigger social change as they engage and affect the cityscape.

In particular, the book addresses three different issues: it aims to give a broader visibility to Douala and its cultural environment, it analyses the urban practice of doual'art for over 16 years and its impact on the territory, it introduces the first edition of the event **SUD – Salon Urbain de Douala**, a festival of artistic projects focused on the multifaceted aspects of the city.

Douala in translation is also the first publication resulting from the collaboration between doual'art and iStrike, started with the long-term program *SUD 2007*.

doual'art is a research centre of urban practices based in Cameroon. The co-founders, Marilyn Douala Bell and Didier Schaub, organize, since 1991, artistic and cultural projects with the aim to stimulate collective processes of urban development. iStrike is an agency based in The Netherlands concerned mainly with studying urban dynamics. It works as a collective subject at an international level with art projects, multidisciplinary research workshops and urban actions.

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