

## New Arts for a New Citizenship

Laura Verdi<sup>1</sup>

European new cultural diversity has resulted both in inclusion and integration and, quite the reverse, in diverse forms of conflict. The role that art can play within such a scenario takes on a twofold valence: on the one hand facilitating meeting and exchange practices; on the other, safeguarding and strengthening the exclusiveness of cultural and ethnic identities. Following the red thread of creativity and art, the hypothesis is to seek a fundamental pathway of progress and emancipation to conquer new spaces of citizenship, by exploring the possibilities of building unexpected processes for overcoming social exclusion and foster public creativity at the same time. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: <journal@transformativestudies.org> Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2008 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

**KEYWORDS:** Art, Activism, Resistance, Public Creativity, Exclusion, Inclusion, Integration, Exchange Practices, Citizenship.

*In favour of anti-hegemonic art. Translating conflict into social inclusion*

The aim of the present article is to seek the reasons and conditions which, within precise socio-cultural frameworks, can favour or inhibit, on the one side, the processes of conflict and social tension reduction

---

<sup>1</sup> **Laura Verdi** is Associate Professor at the University of Padua, Italy, where she graduated in Humanities and Philosophy and subsequently began research in the field the Sociology of Cultural Processes and epistemological questions, with an interdisciplinary approach to research both in her own studies and in her research. She has worked with many other members of the teaching staff both at the University of Padua and in other Italian and foreign universities. She is a member of AIS (Association of Italian Sociologists) and is the Italian Board Member of the ESA Research Network for the Sociology of the Arts (European Sociological Association) since 2005. She has published over fifty journal articles, book chapters and books. Address correspondence to: Laura Verdi, Department of Sociology, University of Padua, Via M. Cesarotti 10/12, Padova 35123, Italy; tel: ++39 049 8274322; e-mail: [laura.verdi@unipd.it](mailto:laura.verdi@unipd.it).