



# Barcelonan Okupas: Squatter Power!

*Stephen Luis Vilaseca*

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## **Barcelonan Okupas: Squatter Power!** Stephen Luis Vilaseca

*Barcelonan Okupas: Squatter Power!* is the first book to combine close-readings of the representations of Spanish squatters known as *okupas* with the study of everyday life, built environment, and city planning in Barcelona. Vilaseca broadens the scope of Spanish cultural studies by integrating into it notions of embodied cognition and affect that respond to the city before and against the fixed relations of capitalism. Social transformation, as demonstrated by the *okupas*, is possible when city and art interrelate, not through capital or the urbanization of consciousness but through bodily thought. The *okupas* reconfigure the way thoughts, words, images and bodily responses are linked by evoking and communicating the idea of free exchange and openness through art (poetry, music, performance art, the plastic arts, graffiti, urban art and cinema); and by acting out and rehearsing these ideas in the practice of squatting. The *okupas* challenge society to differentiate the images and representations instituted by state domination or capitalist exploitation from the subversive potential of imagination. The *okupas* unify theory and practice, word and body, in pursuit of a positive, social vision that might serve humanity and lead the way out of the current problems caused by capitalism.

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