



## Artist uses polygraph, GPS to create 'emotional maps' of cities

4/28/2007 2:20 PM

By Lisa Leff, Associated Press



SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- As cartography projects go, Christian Nold's approach to charting the peaks and valleys of urban landscapes is decidedly unconventional.

First, he outfits volunteers with global positioning system devices and the sensors used in lie detector tests. Then, he sends his subjects out to wander their neighborhoods. When they return, Nold asks them to recount what they saw and felt when the polygraph recorded a quickened heartbeat or an elevated blood pressure.

"Tried to stomp on some pigeons," one tester recalled after a stroll through San Francisco's bohemian chic Mission District.

"House right here, it reminded me of flowers at a funeral," another said of what he saw a few blocks south.

"Security guard at a business giving lollipops to kids. I think I wanted one," still another volunteer observed.

Nold, a London-based artist, calls his work "emotional mapping." Having mapped settings as varied as industrial areas of Bangladesh and the red light district of Brussels, he recently arrived in San Francisco for his first U.S. project.

He's the first to acknowledge the intimate portraits that result from his endeavors won't help a confused tourist get from Fisherman's Wharf to Golden Gate Park.

p. 1/4

(Image: By Marcio Jose Sanchez, AP)

[Next Page](#)

- [Illegally parked alligator snarls traffic](#)

- [Man accused of stealing 26 cars to see girlfriend](#)

■ [Back to Top](#)

■ [Email Story](#)

■ [Home](#)

■ [About Us](#)

Copyright © 2007  
USATODAY.com