**Transcript from Observational Walk notes**

Date: May 31, 2023

Route in Santo Domingo: From Metro CU to community centre in central Santo Domingo

Observer: A

I arrive at CU metro and walk along Grieta at 11:21. The route is along Grieta to Tochtli and then all the way to Musica and from there to the popular community centre.

I see a lot of copy and photo shops, maybe because of the proximity to the University. I take a photo of the metro Universidad. It's important that this place exists for mobility and accessibility in the neighbourhood. I pass a bookshop. Probably one that focuses on the university and its students. I also pass by a garden with some birds in it. I continue walking along Calle Grieta. On this street there are several alleys. There are several car shops and tyre shops. Through the alleys you can see inside that there are houses and people living in the space. I reach the corner with Jilotzingo, and on my right there is an altar of Santa Muerte. To the left is Calle Grieta, on which several cars are moving along. I see an altar of the Virgin of Guadalupe in an alley and I take a photo of it. I see posters of CONUR, the group of activists against the high electricity prices, on one of the houses. This speaks of the activism against the electricity charges. Among the businesses I also see groceries and beauticians. I see a sign for the welfare fair and take a photo of it. It is a record of government activity in the area. A drop of water falls on my head, and I think maybe it fell from a roof. That feels unpleasant, because I think it's dirty water, as it hasn't rained yesterday or today and it must be cleaning water or something else.

I turn onto Tochtli at 11:34. I see many businesses open here, which is one of the busiest streets in the neighbourhood. Almost all of them sell a variety of foodstuffs. There are also household goods. I pass by a lumber shop and a shop called Elektra. That shop is big in the sale of electrical appliances. I pass by the government community centre. I hear sounds of cars passing by, sounds of music, and sounds of birds too. The building materials among the houses are very diverse. I notice a house that looks like a castle next to other much smaller houses. I continue along Tochtli and see a truck with gas tanks in front of a business that seems to be distributing them. The energy in the neighbourhood also moves with a lot of human labour. There is a smell of charcoal, coming from a cart that sells atole and tamales and heats them with a small stove. I see three kids on a motorbike, people walking and carrying groceries. There is a cart carrying bags of rubbish and rubbish inside them, which I take a photo of. I see a very decorated altar to the Virgin of Guadalupe, which I also take a picture of. The corner with Cactus shows peculiarities in the materiality of the street. It is a very steep corner with stairs. I take a photo of it and climb the stairs. This speaks of a form of the neighbourhood associated with the physical space in which it has been built. I hear the peculiar shout of people collecting rubbish in their trolleys. There is an Oxxo on the corner of Fuerza and Tochtli. I walk to a kindergarten on Tochtli. I see a planter protected by a fence.

I arrive at the corner of Musica at 11:49. I hear a bird and look to find where it is, I find it singing on a lamp post. I see how nature and city shape each other. I arrive at the street corner of the popular community centre at 11:55. Here I stop to observe for a few minutes while a participant arrives. There is the activist and founding teacher of this space chatting with a young man. In the neighbourhood café there are also several young people. There are signs for the different classes and courses that are given in this space. The policeman who is on security talks on his mobile phone. Inside you can see people taking their classes and courses. On Musica Street I see a house with volcanic rock outside on the pavement. I wait for the participant and see people walking by. A young man is talking to the policeman. The participant arrives and observation concludes.