



**CITÉ  
INVISIBLE  
CITY**

**7<sup>e</sup> MANIFESTATION INTERNATIONALE  
VIDÉO ET ART ÉLECTRONIQUE**  
MONTRÉAL, 20 SEPTEMBRE AU 1<sup>er</sup> OCTOBRE 2006  
WWW.CHAMPLIBRE.COM  
UNE PRÉSENTATION DE **champ libre**



# PRESS RELEASE

## 7TH MANIFESTATION - INVISIBLE CITY

### CHAMP LIBRE AT THE QUEBEC NATIONAL LIBRARY [GRANDE BIBLIOTHÈQUE] IN FALL 2006

**MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 6th, 2006 - CHAMP LIBRE returns with force this fall in Montreal and settles into the exceptional site of the Quebec National Library [Grande Bibliothèque] for the presentation of: INVISIBLE CITY - 7<sup>e</sup> MANIFESTATION INTERNATIONALE VIDÉO ET ART ÉLECTRONIQUE, MONTRÉAL (MIVAEM), SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 1, 2006.**

More than 30 multimedia and architectural installations will be situated throughout the site and the building, on different levels of the Library. Furthermore, the scenographic itinerary will propose poetic strolls and unique interactive artistic experiences to users, all of which will take place inside as well as in the garden, main hall, the Berri-UQAM metro and the Savoie Alley, proposing a singular in situ international event to the Montreal public. With an international symposium on the city, art and technology, and more than 100 artists from more than 30 countries who will inhabit the National Library from September 20th to October 1st, you risk embarking upon an original and memorable journey.

CHAMP LIBRE - electronic art programmer directs the diffusion of video and electronic arts in relation to architecture, public space and the latest contemporary creation for over 14 years, to provoke meetings between art and the citizen. The organisation diversifies dissemination contexts, creating rapports between avant-garde artistic content and an environment dedicated to urban transformation, to becoming. For example, past interventions include: LES FOUFOUNES ÉLECTRIQUES (1997), LES SHOPS ANGUS (1999). In 2002, CHAMP LIBRE rehabilitated the Craig Pumping Station in Montreal, for the 5th edition of the its biennial. The station had been abandoned since 40 years. In 2004, Champ Libre occupied the DES CARRIÈRES INCINERATOR, in the Rosemont-Petite-Patrie district of the city, for the 6th edition of its biennial, under the theme DESERT. With this event, Champ Libre was a finalist for an Excellence Prize in Architecture from the Quebec Order of Architects in 2005.

### THE LATEST VIDEO CREATION... FROM THE 4 CORNERS OF THE GLOBE

Champ Libre will present a program of videographic works from more than 30 countries, exploring the theme of the invisible and the city. Screenings will take place each day in the National Library's Auditorium, with a new dissemination system specially conceived for the event by Champ Libre. Works from Indonesia, Europe, Australia, Japan, Lebanon, Israel, Quebec and Canada compose the menu for this impressive and imaginative international selection, under the imaginative impulse of curator and Champ Libre's co-director, Cécile Martin. More than 600 projects were submitted for selection for the 7th Biennial.

### AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR THINKING THE CITY

An international symposium CITY - ART - TECHNOLOGY will take place in the National Library's auditorium, in collaboration with the Montreal contemporary art magazine,



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PARACHUTE. Distinguished guests include reputed sociologist, SASKIA SASSEN, who teaches at the London School of Economics; Toronto architect and artist MICHAEL AWAD who represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in 2002; Canadian artist/theoretician on new media, Commonwealth Fellow and originally from India, NARENDRA PACHKHEDE; STEFANO BOERI, architect and director of the prestigious Italian magazine on architecture, DOMUS; art critic and director of the Montreal magazine Parachute, CHANTAL PONTBRIAND; and French architect ANTOINE PICON, author of *La Ville, territoire des cyborgs*, and Professor of Architecture at the Graduate School of Architecture, Harvard [Boston].  
info: [www.champlibre.com/colloque2006](http://www.champlibre.com/colloque2006)

#### **LEBANESE ARTISTS PRESENT DURING INVISIBLE CITY**

Champ Libre is particularly touched by the presence of 2 Lebanese artists who will be present in Montreal for the 7th Biennial - Invisible City. Champ Libre will present BODY, a world premiere of the video installation by CATHERINE CATTARUZZA and VATCHE BOULGHOURJAN. The work deals with visible and invisible residues of continuous urban destruction in Lebanon and the perpetual anxiety felt by its inhabitants.

#### **FRANCE - GUEST OF HONOR IN THE INVISIBLE CITY**

Champ Libre pays honor to France during Invisible City with the participation of more than 35 artists. Amongst them, Champ Libre will present LES MONTS DE LA LUNE - grand premiere - a sound cartography on Montreal by the collective MU (11 artists) who will install themselves in 3 in situ containers in the National Library's garden. The artists invite the event's public to participate in a grand urban collective sound creation. The collective was hailed by Parisian critics as one of the sound shows not to be missed, and was one of the great successes of the last NUIT BLANCHE held in Paris in October 2005. We would also like to mention the video work of French artist MARIE MAQUAIRE - LA CHUTE - which presents vertiginous images of a building and its architecture which incessantly dislocates under our eyes.

#### **MULTIMEDIA THEATRE IN SAVOIE ALLEY**

SAVOIE ALLEY which borders the National Library will also serve as the theatre of a multimedia intervention entitled - LEVÉE DU RIDEAU [Curtain Time] - produced by French artist FRANCE DUBOIS. Satisfying the voyeuristic instincts of passers-by or neighbours of Savoie Alley, the theatrical video installation proposes an act of looking which tackles urban sensuality in what is the most voyeuristic and poetic. A stroll which risks surprising night walkers.

#### **TÉLÉPHONNE - 17 000 KM OF SOUND ARCHITECTURE BETWEEN MELBOURNE, VANCOUVER AND MONTREAL**

TÉLÉPHONNE is a sound performance where the telephone becomes a true metaphor of Arabic telephone [broken telephone] and which will take place in real time in the National Library's garden. This electronic music work is inspired from overseas communications captured along 17 000 kilometers, between Australia and Canada. The artists performing are Kim Dellavedova and Phillip Pietruschka (Melbourne) and Canadian artists Ben Wilson (Vancouver) and Kelly Churko (Montreal). The piece, inaugurated at the Melbourne Planetarium in Spring 2006, will be presented as a North-American premiere in Montreal in the context of Invisible City.

#### **VIDEO INSTALLATIONS FROM ALL HORIZONS**

Champ Libre will present original video installations by young Quebec artists, especially conceived for the National Library and the theme of Invisible City. Amongst them, GUYLAINE SÉGUIN, a young artist from Abitibi who deconstructs the National Library's architecture into a baffling and highly poetic prism. Filmmaker DOMINIC GAGNON will present a video installation which looks at the contemporary fantasies of Web surfers, urban utopias and futurist dreams.

#### **CHAMP LIBRE INVITES THE RENCONTRES PARIS-BERLIN TO MONTREAL**

A unique presence in Montreal and a panorama of 25 international videographic works on the rich and avant-garde city will also be presented by par NATHALIE HENON and JEAN-FRANÇOIS RETTIG, co-directors of the Rencontres Paris-Berlin Festival which takes place annually in the two European capitals, Paris and Berlin.



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### **A BLIND EXPERIENCE**

Spanish artist FRANCISCO LOPEZ - <http://www.franciscolopez.net/> - well known in the Montreal and international electronic music milieus, and sound artist who collaborates with Champ Libre since 2002, proposes the sound installation BLIND CITY, a sensorial experience with blind people on the topic of the city. The public is invited to register for this insitu project and to tour the city's quarters blind-folded in the company of a non-seeing person. The itinerary ends in an intimate sound installation, specially conceived by the artist for the National Library. This project has been made possible by the exceptional collaboration of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind - CNIB.

### **THE NATIONAL LIBRARY'S VERTIGO**

The scenography for Champ Libre's 7th Biennial was entrusted to Montreal architects ATELIER IN SITU - Stéphane Pratte and Annie Lebel - [www.insitu.qc.ca](http://www.insitu.qc.ca). The itinerary is inspired from the National Library like a true seeing machine. A luminous scenography will light up the Library's architecture, thus revealing certain hidden aspects of the building's exterior. A map of the invisible city will also allow the public to locate the event's installations. The event's signage - INVISIBLE MAN - was produced by Quebec designer JULIEN BERTHIER. 30 silhouettes, each 1.8 metres high, will be deployed to the different spaces of Champ Libre's interventions throughout the National Library.

### **INSPIRED AND UNIQUE SOUND ITINERARIES TO SEE MONTREAL**

Champ Libre proposes 4 audio-guided sound itineraries on the city and architecture, throughout the event. Different points of view on Montreal will be visible from the interior of the National Library. These original audio-guided routes, commissioned to Montreal artists [MATHIEU LÉVESQUE, STEVE HEIMBECKER, EMMANUEL MADAN, MILY TOPO] by Champ Libre for the Invisible City, were created to permit the public to stroll in the National Library's ambient architecture from September 20th to October 1st 2006. Amongst the artists, note the sound trajectory inspired by the 4 cardinal points of the Library by Quebec artist EMMANUEL MADAN - member of Montreal collective THE USER, who has also produced Silo no. 5. INTERIORS will be presented as a grand premiere during the event.

### **A REPUTED MIT ARTIST PRESENT AT CHAMP LIBRE'S 7TH BIENNIAL**

Also in a grand premiere, Champ Libre will present the interactive urban installation SOD OFF! by artist-researcher ANDREW SEMPERE, who will be on-site during the event and who teaches at the Media Lab of the reputed Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT] in Boston. The installation is 30 square metres of synthetic grass which groans and vibrates as soon as we walk on it. An extraordinary sensory and vibrant experience which will please children of all ages. This installation is a true party for the senses and will be permanently exhibited in the Espace Jeunes Theatre at the National Library.

### **AN AURORA BOREALIS JUST FOR THE NATIONAL LIBRARY**

The National Library's hall will be lit up in a particular fashion by Quebec scientific artist JEAN-PIERRE AUBÉ. He has conceived a robotic and interactive light installation recalling the colours of the Aurora Borealis. This installation will be visible from both the interior and exterior of the National Library during the 12 days of the Manifestation.

### **INVISIBLE CITY ON TOUR IN 3 MAISONS DE LA CULTURE, DURING MONTREAL'S JOURNÉES DE LA CULTURE**

In addition to being associated with the Journées de la Culture 2006, in the context of the 7th Manifestation, Champ Libre will present 3 evenings of satellite projections under the name of INVISIBLE CITY ON TOUR. Champ Libre will propose an original architectural and video intervention which will take place on the exterior sites of 3 Maisons de la Culture - Plateau Mont-Royal, Frontenac and the Éleanor-London Library.

September 27, 28 and 29, 8 p.m.

A presentation in collaboration with the Montreal Arts Council.



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The 7th MANIFESTATION INTERNATIONALE VIDÉO ET ART ÉLECTRONIQUE MONTREAL (MIVAEM), under the theme INVISIBLE CITY is a presentation of CHAMP LIBRE.  
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-30-

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THE EVENT AND ITS CAFE/BAR (UNDER THE CANOPY IN THE GARDEN OF THE GRANDE BIBLIOTHÈQUE) WILL BE PERMANENTLY OPENED FROM 10AM TILL 10PM FROM THE 20TH OF SEPTEMBER TILL THE 1ST OF OCTOBER WITH EXTENDED OPENING UNTIL MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS.

TICKETS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM VILLE-ART-TECHNOLOGIE THAT WILL HAPPEN ON THE 22ND AND 23RD OF SEPTEMBER 2006 WILL BE ON SALE THROUGH THE ADMISSION NETWORK – [WWW.CHAMPLIBRE.COM](http://WWW.CHAMPLIBRE.COM) OR [WWW.ADMISSION.COM](http://WWW.ADMISSION.COM)

TICKETS FOR THE VIDEO PROGRAMS OF THE 7TH MANIFESTATION INVISIBLE CITY WILL BE ON SALE AT THE WELCOME DESK OF CHAMP LIBRE FOR \$7.00 IN THE HALL OF THE GRANDE BIBLIOTHÈQUE FROM SEPTEMBER 20TH TILL OCTOBER 1ST 2006 EVERY DAY DURING THE OPENING HOURS OF THE EVENT. THE ARCHITECTURAL INSTALLATIONS AND VIDEOS, THE SOUND WALKS AS WELL AS CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE EVENT ARE FREE - INFORMATION: [WWW.CHAMPLIBRE.COM](http://WWW.CHAMPLIBRE.COM)

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