



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE DIFFUSION

Montreal, the 7th of Septembre 2004

CHAMP LIBRE is very proud to announce the artistic event **DÉSERT, 6th MANIFESTATION INTERNATIONALE VIDÉO ET ART ÉLECTRONIQUE, MONTRÉAL** (MIVAEM), biennale that will take place from the 20th till the 27th of SEPTEMBRE 2004 on the urban site in total mutation of the DES CARRIÈRES INCINERATOR, situated at 1266 des Carrières Street (East entrance) in the arrondissement Rosemont Petite-Patrie, ROSEMONT METRO. On the 20th of Septembre, Champ Libre will thus inaugurate the reopening of the des Carrières incinerator that has been abandoned for more than 10 years.

CHAMP LIBRE - electronic art diffuser - has been presenting for 12 years the diffusion of video and electronic art in relation with architecture, public spaces, sound creation and the moving image in order to provoke meeting points between art and the citizens. The organisation multiplies diffusion contexts putting in relation an artistic content and an environment devoted to urban transformation, to become. By way of example one may recall that in September 2002 CHAMP LIBRE rehabilitated the pumping station CRAIG in Montréal at the time of the 5th edition of the MIVAEM. The pumping station had been abandoned during more than 40 years.

Videos, installations, sound art, electronic music, conferences, slideshows, web art, creation workshops, guided tours, activities for children and for adults, performances et electronic poetry, will be at the rendezvous of the 6th edition of this international biennale. The program comprises close to **125 artists from 20 different countries**. The electronic artworks explore, question the thematic of the DESERT and will decline themselves under all the most current artistic disciplinary forms in order to lay 125 different looks on the relation existing between the des Carrières incinerator and the Desert.

Champ Libre, since its creation 12 years ago, **accompanies the transformation of the field of new technologies and video**. Champ Libre while confronting the technological art world to a theme and a given site, creates a definite and restricted framework at the heart of which **artists are forced to reflect and position themselves as for the value of their intervention in the framework of an international event, addressing a public of specialists as well as of newcomers**. Several renown lecturers coming from France, Germany, from Philadelphia, Toronto and London, will be present to animate round tables around these problematics to which will be present many international artists as well as the 40 Quebecois and Canadian artists participating to the 6th MIVAEM.

Champ Libre received for this event close to 500 submissions of projects to a call launched during the Fall of 2003 that constitute the general programming of the event: **the desert as extreme experience of the body, the desert seen for children, the desert as urban aesthetic, the desert as territorial openness to explore, the desert as setup for extreme behaviours, the desert as meditation space...** are the themes under which these works naturally assembled themselves into a program.

Champ Libre has also invited **SIX CURATORS** to conceive special electronic art programs inspired by the space-time reality of the Desert. These are : **YAN BREULEUX (Montreal)** proposing the installation program of Montreal artists (Re)génération; **FABRICE MONTAL (Quebec)** and his installation program of artists from Quebec city, Le Désert et la Répétition; **LISA STELLE & KIM TOMCZAK (Toronto)**, directors of one of the biggest centers of video diffusion and distribution in Canada, V-Tape, and their Canadian video program Deserted Streets at Middy; **CÉCILE MARTIN (Montreal)** and **GRACIELA TAQUINI (Argentina)** responsible of the Quebec and Argentinean sections of the Horizons program.

GRACIELA TAQUINI considered as the biggest specialist of video in Argentina, will be present in Montreal for the 6th MIVAEM. She proceeded to a commission of works unseen on the theme of the Desert from Argentinean artists that will be presented within the framework of the HORIZONS program. The desert is a symbolic rich of meaning for humanity. **ARGENTINA**, country that knows the experience of the desert under all its declinations has been chosen by CHAMP LIBRE as **invited country** for the 6th edition of the Manifestation Internationale Vidéo et Art Électronique, Montréal (MIVAEM).

Champ Libre will also present a video tryptique of the exceptional American artist BILL VIOLA, a video art pioneer and one of the most influential contemporary artists of the world electronic art scene. These 3 pieces in relation with the DESERT thematic transcend the technology in a troubling manner and



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make us penetrate a millennium poetical universe. The installations and videos of this artist have received an international recognition among all public and distinguish themselves by their virtuoso mastering of the technology.

The Quebecois video artist and photographer **ISABELLE HAYEUR** has been invited by Champ Libre in order to create **the leading installation of the event**. She will invest the sediments exit of the des Carrières incinerator for a commissioned big scale unseen and in situ artwork entitled EXIT. This interactive video installation gives an account with much sensibility and an inspired vision of the barren landscape that dwells within the Western contemporary imaginary.

For the event Desert, **CHAMP LIBRE is associated with the WESTERN FESTIVAL OF ST-TITE** and invites the artistic duo Remco Schuurbiens (The Netherlands) and Bijan Dawallu (Germany) to give us an account of the aesthetic that releases itself from the biggest cowboy appointment of the East of North America. After having explored the St-Tite festival, they will propose a new version of their at once social, interactive, artistic and playful video installation entitled PINGPONGCOUNTRY. This multimedia installation presents an intriguing dynamic using the game of ping pong, while bathed in an atmosphere of images and of electronic country music. Let us remind that Remco Schuurbiens is the official curator and co-founder of one of the most influential electronic music festivals in Europe, the CLUB TRANSMEDIALE in Berlin.

CHAMP LIBRE will present **two video installations** of the Montreal artists ÉRIC RAYMOND and CÉSAR SAEZ at the **Rosemont metro station** within the **VISIONS UNDERGROUND** section of the event. These installations will be continuously presented from the 20th till the 27th of September 2004. Please note that Champ Libre has already presented VISIONS UNDERGROUND in the metros of Montreal (1998), Paris (1999) and Lisbon (2000).

PAUL LAURENDEAU, PRIX D'EXCELLENCE DE L'ORDRE DES ARCHITECTES DU QUÉBEC (2003) conceived the scenography of this international event. The poetic approach of this young Quebec architect tames the site of the des Carrières incinerator through a guided tour exterior/interior adjoined to a multitude of movable containers that reminds us thus in this beginning of XXIst century the nomadic caravans of the desert. A lighting setup will come equally to envelop the industrial site of the incinerator inviting the Montreal audience to discover the electronic arts of the night.

The event DÉSSERT 6th MIVAEM will be under the **présidence d'honneur** of French **PIERRE BONGIOVANNI**. Numerical artist, curator and founder and director until July 2004 of the CICV Pierre Schaeffer centre (one of the most important European numerical art centres that recently ceased its activities), Pierre Bongiovanni remains an influential figure of the French and International numeric culture. He embodies an ethic of contemporary technological poetry, sensitive to the approach of Champ Libre. In addition to the presentation of a video work during the Manifestation entitled NEXT TO NOTHING, he will animate a numerical creation workshop with video artists on the theme of splendour will also present a conference on today's numeric art entitled LES SUR/VIVANTS.

CHAMP LIBRE is associated to the **JOURNÉES DE LA CULTURE 2004** organizing at the time of the event DESERT 6th MIVAEM free guided visits of the site of the des Carrières incinerator as well as workshops of sound spatialisation for young and for adults. These guided journeys will take place on Friday the 25th, Saturday the 26th and Sunday September the 27th, 2004 from 2PM till 5PM.

CHAMP LIBRE will award during the **closing evening** of DESERT - 6th MIVAEM **September the 27th** the OFQ-CHAMP LIBRE-LE FRESNOY PRICE for the best Quebec electronic artwork work to an artist having proposed the best work on the thematic of the desert. This price will allow the promoted artist to stay in a research residence for three weeks in France at the numerical creation studio THE FRESNOY and this during the year 2005.

The nomadic organisation Champ Libre crosses on its way another traveler, the Montreal dweller of **Mauritanian** origin **Atigh** who will propose food to the public throughout the event, **cooking typically inspired by the desert**.

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PRESS RELATIONS: SYLVIE DESLAURIERS - 514-522- 8424 - E-MAIL : cinecom@ca.inter.net
INFO CHAMP LIBRE: 514-393 3937 - WWW.CHAMPLIBRE.COM



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