

Press release

Thursday 22 March 2007

## The poetic telephone box: an exhibition of digital poetry from Quebec

*As part of the des poesiefestival berlin from 24 June to 22 July 2007, the Literaturwerkstatt Berlin will be presenting the "AVATAR. Digital Poetry" exhibition at Tesla at Podewils Palais.*

Pianos that turn random letters into notes and loudspeakers that translate images in sound choreography. At the AVATAR exhibition from 24 June to 22 July, the Literaturwerkstatt Berlin will present digital poetry from Quebec, including installations from Jocelyn Robert, Christof Migone, Émile Morin and Sabica Senez. The exhibition at Tesla at Podewils Palais is taking place as part of the poesiefestival berlin, which this year is focusing on poetry from Canada and Quebec. Pierre-André Arcand will be performing at the opening event.

Digital poetry works on the one hand with hybrid texts involving word, image and sound, on the other with the symbolic language of computers and the Internet. The "AVATAR. Digital Poetry" exhibition will present poetry against the background of the digitalisation of artistic production and communication.

The "Leçon de Piano" ("Piano Lesson") installation by Jocelyn Robert and Émile Morin fuses language and musical melody together. Text fragments of Jane Campion movie and book "The piano", together with texts written by Robert and Morin, will be projected onto a piano keyboard that will play notes corresponding to the letters.

In a special project for this exhibition, Sabica Senez is working on a new multi-channel sound installation – in a telephone box. Using telephone receivers and loudspeakers, the visitor will dial into a vocal performance.

For the "L'origine des espèces" ("The origin of species") installation, Jocelyn Robert has developed an installation involving 48 loudspeakers. The digitalised image of a mechanical typewriter is converted into audio signals so the "languages" lying behind this image are rendered audible. The AVATAR artistic center was founded by Jocelyn Robert and a group of artists and is known in media art for experimental language and communication. It is the group's first visit to Berlin.

The eighth poesiefestival berlin will take place from 23 June to 1 July 2007. The "AVATAR. Digital Poetry" exhibition is taking place in co-operation with TESLA Media > Art < Laboratory.

The poet and artist Pierre-André Arcand (\*1942) works in the areas of performance, poetry, experimental music, sound art and new technologies. He has already carried out early experimentation with the "Macchina Ricordi", a modified recording machine that makes work with voice and spoken language possible. His works combine visual poetry, text, sound poetry, performance, installations, objects and publications. Since the end of the 90s, he has been working with media art and with real-time audio and video technology. His recent performances have also incorporated video images, video noise and visual and concrete poetry. Arcand lives in Saint-Roch-de-Richelieu and Quebec.

Christof Migone is an artist and author. The combination of language and sound forms the creative basis of his works, which investigate the body, voice, psychopathology, and performance. He co-edited "Writing Aloud: The Sonics of Language" (2001), a book and a CD for Errant Bodies Press. He



L'origine des espèces

has released, among other works, 6 solo CDs and has been the curator for a number of sound and radio art events. He lives in Montreal and teaches at Concordia University.

Émile Morin is, among other things, co-artistic director for Avatar. He is a multidisciplinary artist, whose work is developed around complex and profound integration of multiple artistic languages. His installation and performance works give an important place to the definition of space and its potential dramatic content. Among those are "la salle de noeuds" (installation, 2000), "Boite noire" (installation, 2005) and "Un paysage/Eine Landschaft/A landscape", a multidisciplinary performance based on Heiner Müllers "Bildbeschreibung". He is also co-artistic director of the Mois Multi, an annual festival for multidisciplinary and electronic art in Québec.

Jocelyn Robert is a composer, media artist and author. For more than 20 years, he has been working with sound art installations, compositions, interactive art, performances, video and literature. He has produced some 15 solo CDs and has contributed to more than 20 others, all of which have been released on the Ohm Éditions label. His works have already been presented in the USA, Mexico, Poland, Austria, Germany, France and Canada. He has received numerous prizes for his work, including first prize at the 2002 transmediale art festival in Berlin. In 1993, he founded AVATAR, an arts centre for sound and electronic art in Quebec and of which he is the co-director. He teaches at the École des arts visuels et médiatiques at the University of Quebec in Montreal. Jocelyn Robert lives in Quebec and Montreal.

Sabica Senez (\*1970) is an author and artist. Since turning twenty, she published several short stories, one of which has been awarded in 1997 by the Agence Québec Wallonie Bruxelles pour la jeunesse. Her first novel, *Nulle part ailleurs*, was launched in Spring 2004 and shortlisted for three literature prizes. In 2006, she created her first audio work, *Sans les mains*, as part of the Avatar's Excavation Sonore program. In 2007, she participated to *Covers*, a collective audio work published by Ohm Editions.

The basis of her audio work is literary. The "rereading" of texts by artificial voices becomes the first raw material that she mutilates to tell new stories.

**Sunday 24 June to Sunday 22 July 2007**

**AVATAR. Digital Poetry**

**Opening event: Sunday 24 June 2007, 5 pm**

**with a performance from Pierre-André Arcand**

Open: Tues to Sun 4-10pm

Tesla Media > Art < Laboratory

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