



FONDATION
FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER

L'OSOSPHERE

PRESS KIT

28 OCTOBER 2018 - 13 JANUARY 2019

TESTING THE WATERS

FOUNTAINS, TANKS, FLOWS, TURBULENCE...

DIGITAL ART

Herman Kolgen • Stéphane Kozik • Pe Lang
Joanie Lemercier • Tristan Ménez • Jacques Perconte
Laurent Pernot • Étienne Rey • Gaëtan Robillard
Urbrain • Pierce Warnecke

Contemporary art center
Fondation François Schneider
Wed. - Sat. [11am > 5pm]

27 rue de la Première Armée
68700 Wattwiller
fondationfrancoisschneider.org

TESTING THE WATERS

(FOUNTAINS, TANKS, FLOWS, TURBULENCE...)

From 28 October 2018 to 13 January 2019

Preview : Saturday 27th October 2018 at 5.pm

In co-production with Quatre 4.0 / L'Ososphère

Artistic Director: Thierry Danet

The François Schneider Foundation invites L'Ososphère to create a fluid harmonic interplay between digital technology and water.

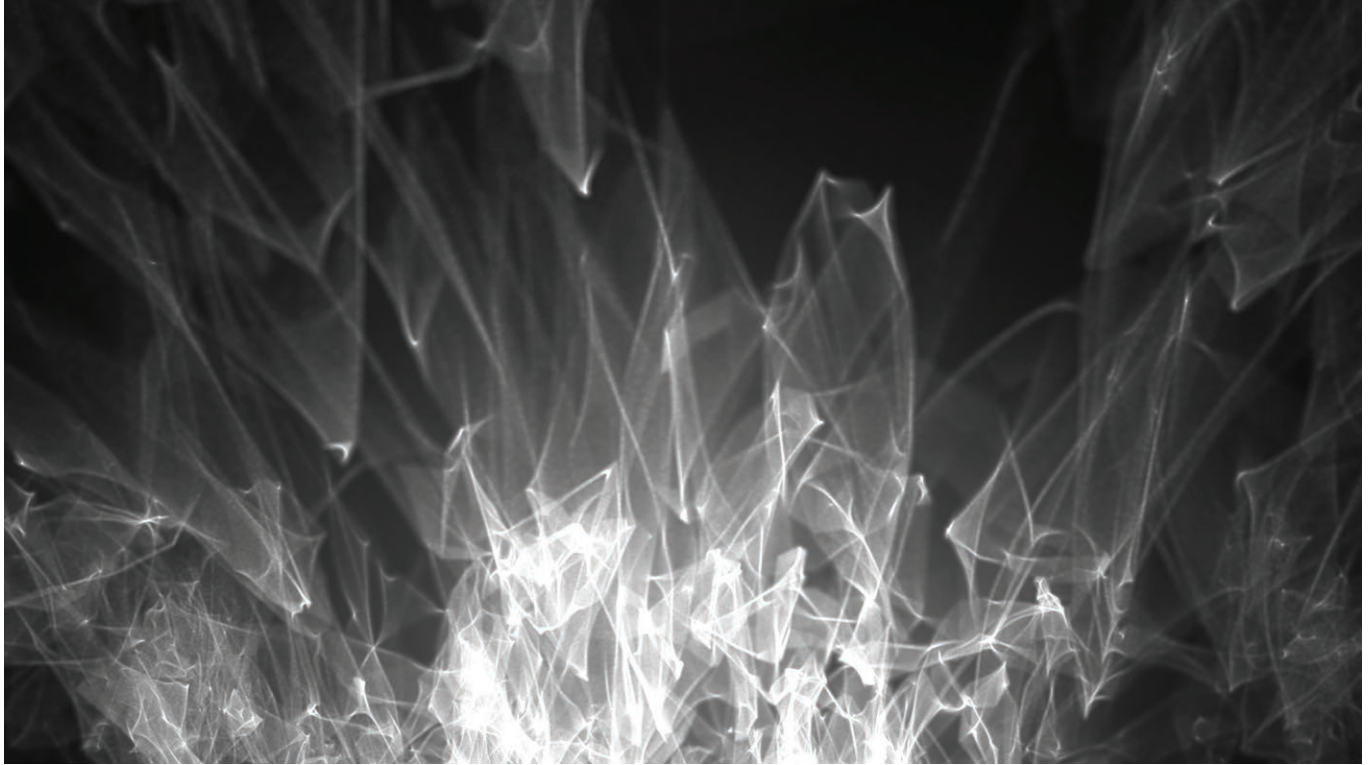
Immersed in an artistic world nestled in a land of water in the foothills of the Vosges mountains, the experience abounds in connections between water and digital media as well as showcasing our common causes through a harmonious relationship with the outside world. The works on show take on the form of a fountain or basin, and then moments later transform into other objects constructed from water, redolent of the age we are living in.

Beyond its symbolism, water here is occasionally used to tell a story, and at other times is harnessed for its shape-shifting properties, sometimes even constituting an entire work in itself. In confrontation with water, digital technology explores its instability and evaporation, its flows and stagnations, studies the formation of waves and droplets, and holds up a double-sided mirror to the infinite array of possibilities at our fingertips.

The work which sparked this exhibition, *Turbulences* by Étienne Rey, was created for the François Schneider Foundation as part of a long-term project, supported by the Région Grand Est and taken on by L'Ososphère of which the artist is a member. This work exploits "turbulence and flow as an 'engine' of a dynamic system, generating movement within the installation which relies on the principles of fluid mechanics and plays with their unpredictable nature".

Artist list : Herman Kolgen, Stéphane Kozik, Pe Lang, Joanie Lemercier, Tristan Ménez, Jacques Perconte, Laurent Pernot, Étienne Rey, Gaëtan Robillard, Urbrain, Pierce Warnecke.

ÉTIENNE REY



© Étienne Rey, ADAGP, Paris, 2018.

Étienne Rey, *Turbulences*, 2018.

A huge quantity of liquid towers over us – what appears to be a large mass of water is suspended in space. The figure takes on a ghostly quality due to its almost ephemeral nature. Restricted in its movement, it is agitating from within, manifested through the characteristic effects of light in contact with moving water - turbulence, instability and commotion.

In *Turbulences*, Étienne Rey uses storytelling as part of his artistic expression. Like an increasingly improbable science fiction film, it uses digital writing and machinery to recreate a universal poetic experience, intimate and suspended, encouraging the viewer to give in to the interplay of the light on the water. It is a gentle yet desperate attempt by the artist to hold onto an emotion which at any moment could disappear with evaporation in the natural conditions surrounding us.

Original creation by the François Schneider Foundation

Sound composition : Wilfried Wendling, in partnership with La Muse en Circuit, CNCM (National center of musical creation)

With the support of and in partnership with François Schneider Foundation, and the support of the Région Grand Est.

Artistic direction, production, distribution: Quatre 4.0/L'Ososphère.

BIOGRAPHY

Étienne Rey's work explores the idea of space itself. The challenge lies in changing the viewer's perception. The notions of place and surroundings - of location and architecture – contribute to the discovery of spatial structures by moving and multiplying viewpoints.

The common ground shared by all the installations is their creation of experiences, which blend the material with the immaterial. Combinations of energy and attraction bring physical phenomena into play through the fundamental medium of light. Instinctive transformations take place between each person's individual perception and their awareness of the impact their own presence can have. His aim is to produce different experiences of space and his works reveal how space is structured. With ethereal installations consisting of mist and light and others using materials with different optical properties, all the works filter our perception of the environment, leading us to question our relationship with what is real.

Artist's website : ondesparalleles.org

HERMAN KOLGEN



DR

Herman Kolgen, *Liquid Memory*.

Liquid Memory is a photographic installation where the photos are presented partly suspended in space and partly placed in basins. Here time plays a role in the artwork – when the images come into contact with the water they transform, the paper dissolves back to pulp and breaks up. Just as memories dissolve and transform with time, the photos – themselves a snippet of the past – subtly absorb the length of the exhibition in their material selves. These images are accompanied by sounds which plunge us into unknown territories, places we all hold within ourselves. Memory acts as a common thread running through this choral composition of humanity in confrontation with water.

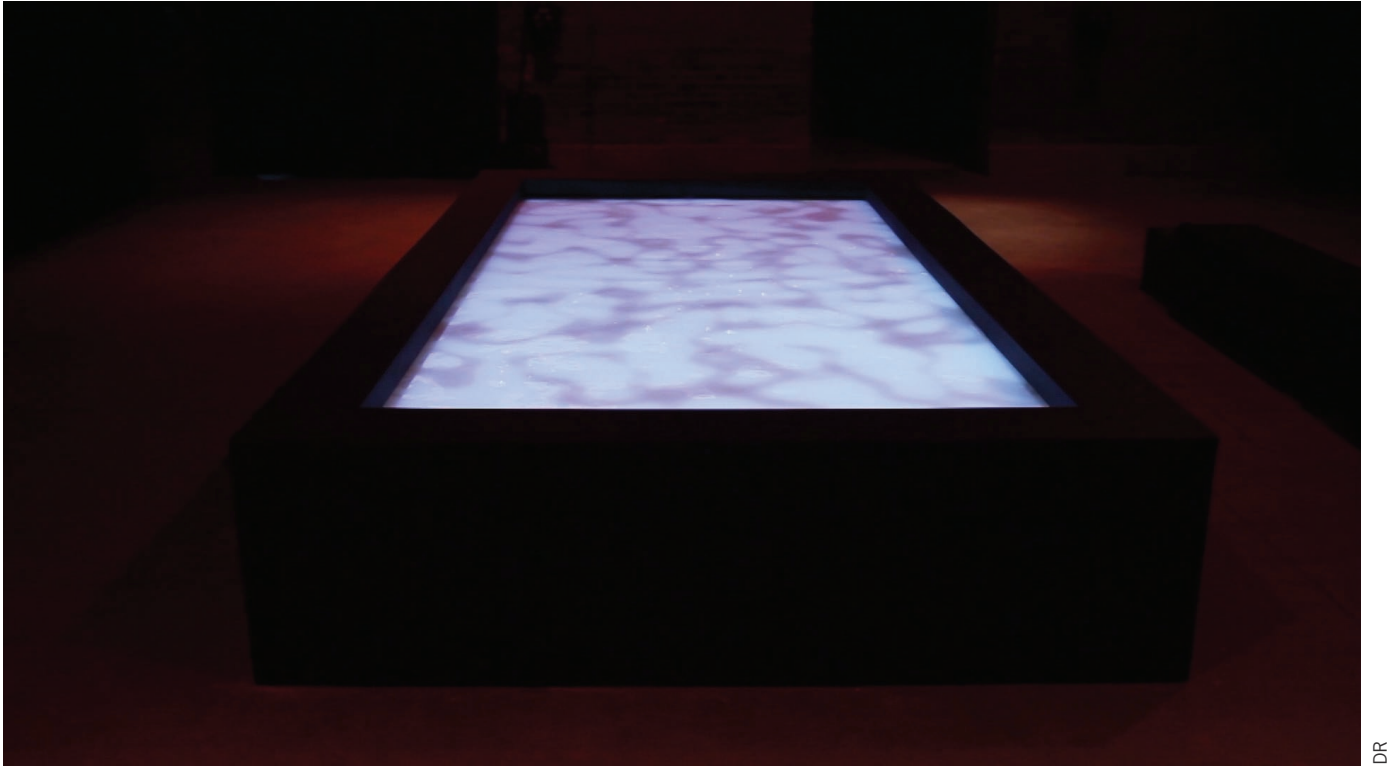
BIOGRAPHY

A multidisciplinary artist acknowledged for over 20 years of media art creations, Herman Kolgen lives and works in Montreal. A highly skilled audio-visual sculptor, he draws inspiration from the intimate relationship between sounds and images. Kolgen strives to create objects which take on the form of installations, videos and films, performances and sound sculptures. Relentlessly exploring, he works at the crossroads between different media, creating a new and unique technical language and aesthetic.

The works of Herman Kolgen have been displayed at the Venice Biennale, Ars Electronica, the Transmediale in Berlin, ISEA at the Georges Pompidou Centre, Cimatics, Dissonanze, Mutek, Elektra, Sonar, Tapei Digital Arts and Shanghai E-Arts, to name but a few. He has also performed with the Paris Ensemble Intercontemporain and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Herman Kolgen has received a number of prestigious awards, including Ars Electronica, Quartz, and Best Experimental Film Award from the New York and Los Angeles Independent Film Festival. Between 1996 and 2008, he devoted most of his time to the duo skoltz_kolgen.

Artist's website : kolgen.net

STÉPHANE KOZIK



Stéphane Kozik, *Water from Comets*, 2014.

In this installation, water, agitated in a cloud of white paint, becomes a screen on which a video of moving liquid is projected. At the bottom of the tank, motors and pumps churn the water to create life-like behaviour which interacts with the sound composition played through six loudspeakers. The various parts of the work are synchronised to create a new material from the water, both living and surreal, a sort of bubbling, rumbling and smouldering primordial soup.

The tank therefore acts as both the screen and the container in an artistic device based around water which looks to find something metaphysical within it to produce an open-ended narrative.

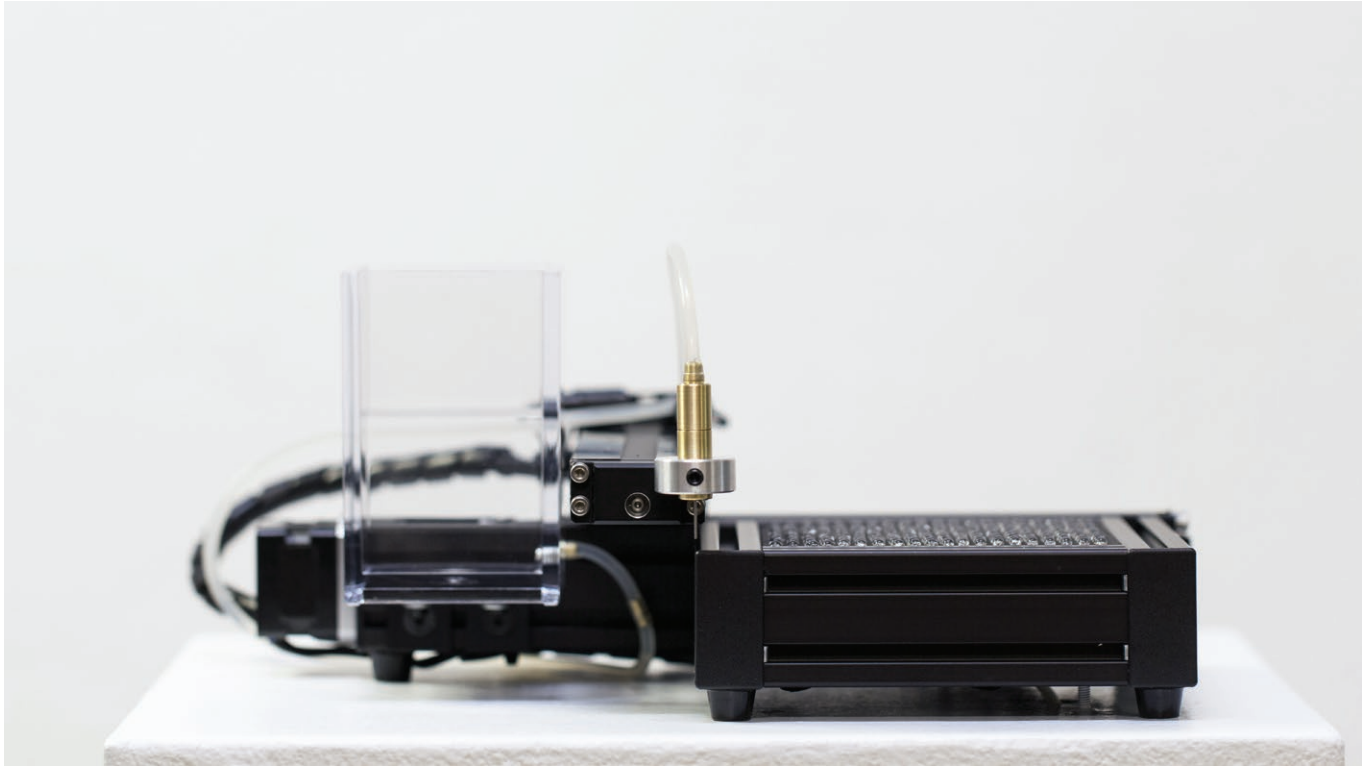
Video technique: Stéphane Kozik, Mediafaz

Water from Comets is the recipient of the 'projet ESH' in partnership with le Phénix, transcultures and Art Zoyd

BIOGRAPHY

A visual sound artist and musician who graduated from ARTS2, l'école supérieure des arts visuels de Mons (Belgium), Stéphane Kozik mainly works on interactive installations, audio-visual and musical performance and short films. He adopts a multidisciplinary, sensitive, sensory, poetic and playful approach. His works showcase the real in a supernatural way, often subjecting it to vibration, resonance, harmony, dissonance and rhythm. Regardless of the type of performance, installation or film, he transforms space in order to question our relationship with the world.

Artist's website : stephanekozik.be



DR

Pe Lang, *Positioning systems VI*, 2013.

Motionless despite the appearance of its moving parts, the work only springs into life once or twice a day, when the water droplets align perfectly on a hydrophobic surface.

Tiny spheres awaiting their inevitable evaporation, the droplets lie at the heart of a process at the end of which nothing remains and which only a scientific photographer would be able to capture.

Taken out of the context of its industrial environment which may justify its creation, the system uses water as a kind of poetic timekeeper, establishing by its very nature an elastic relationship with time in a digital world drunk on its own synchronised precision.

BIOGRAPHY

Pe Lang was born in 1974 in Switzerland where, having spent several years in Berlin, he returned to set up his workshop close to Zürich. Having been trained in electronics and IT programming, he naturally incorporates technology into his work. He is one of the most promising and accomplished proponents of the new generation of constructive abstraction artists.

Often considered as a rising star of a specific Swiss approach to art which prizes perfect geometric construction and impeccable execution, Pe Lang has built an exemplary body of artistic work, ranging from experimental music to the creation of cinematic works which explore physical phenomena – the attraction and repulsion of magnetism, the diffraction of light, the domino effects of gravity, the friction and collision of different elements – with an unfailingly mysterious and captivating elegance.

Over the last 15 years, the various distinctions earned by his sound installations and performances at festivals in Europe, the USA and Asia, the artistic prizes and awards he has received and the exhibitions which contemporary art institutions have devoted to him all attest to the unanimous international recognition with which his work has begun to be greeted.

Artist's website : pelang.ch

JOANIE LEMERCIER



DR

Joanie Lemerrier, *Fuji*, 2014.

Joanie Lemerrier creates a pattern which he then combines with a space in a design centred around physical, geometric, organic, natural or landscape structures.

Created in Takamatsu, Japan in August 2014, *Fuji* is inspired by *The Tale of the Princess Kaguya* (*Kaguya-hime no monogatari*) and is part of a series based on volcanoes. The landscape of Mount Fujiyama is depicted in very large format on which a light projection guides our perception of reality, playing with dramatic intensity with an interplay of vertical and fluid lines interspersed by tempestuous outbreaks.

Design and visuals: Joanie Lemerrier

Original music: Paul Jebanasam

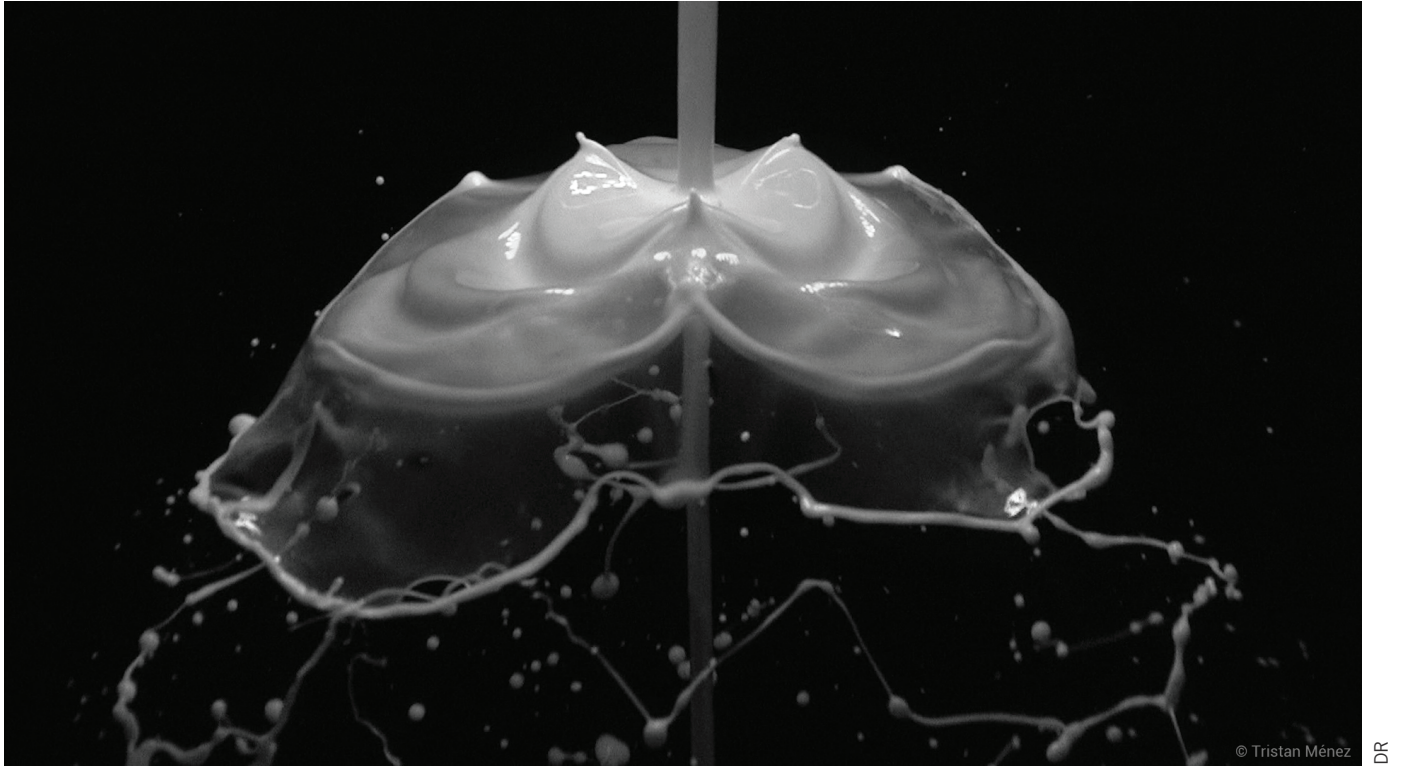
Production: Juliette Bibasse

BIOGRAPHY

Joanie Lemerrier is a French artist whose work explores the influence of projected light on our visual perception. His artistic universe is built around minimal geometric shapes, patterns and compositions. Joanie Lemerrier has been working with projection since 2006 and co-founded the visuel AntiVJ label in 2008. In 2013, he founded his own studio where he creates installations, works and experiments using light.

Artist's website : joanielemerrier.com

TRISTAN MÉNEZ



Tristan Menez, *Bloom*, 2018.

Vibrations are sent through the water using a loudspeaker emitting infra-bass sounds. Linked up to a stroboscopic system, the installation frames the flow of water in a sculptural dynamic which mirrors the hypnotic effects of a fountain.

With suspended water droplets, slow motion effects and other optical phenomena, *Bloom* makes unreal movements perceptible in a visual experience which plays with our fascination for the shapes water makes. What the viewer sees is intimately linked to what they hear. The modulations of sound frequency and amplitude lead to changes in the moving water sculpture.

Co-production: Le Bon Accueil – Lieu d'arts sonores - Rennes
This project received a support grant from Rennes Métropole

BIOGRAPHY

Visual artist, coder and composer of electronic music, Tristan Menez lives and works in Rennes.

JACQUES PERCONTE



Jacques Perconte, *Fécamp-Fagnet (Haute-Normandie)*, 2017.

Fécamp-Fagnet is a never-ending film, part of the series focusing on the remarkable land of water that is Haute-Normandie. This generative video is a succession of dancing compressions of video data assembled on the fly. The emotion of the expression pours out from the medium which is showing it and, adopting the approach of a painter, uses pointillist pixels to alter the image and evoke the glorious memory of a sun-dappled sea. The viewer's gaze sinks beneath the waves, moved to discover a reawakened emotion through water which arises out of the contemplation and perception, in painting and cinema, of our relationship with nature and the digital universe.

BIOGRAPHY

A leading figure in the French digital art and avant-garde cinematography scene since the late 90s, Jacques Perconte defines himself as a visual artist. His work focuses on landscape, rejecting a linear approach to film in favour of generative cinema and film in exhibitions, audio-visual performances, photography and installations. His work seeks to reinterpret nature, especially in light of the cultural and technical relationship which we are now establishing with it.

Jacques Perconte's works navigate their way between cinemas and showrooms. As well as the annual exhibitions at la Galerie Charlot in Paris, two large individual exhibitions were also held in 2014, at the Prieuré Saint-Pierre in Pont-Saint-Esprit and the Collège des Bernardins in Paris, which allowed a large audience to discover his video installation work. In 2013, his works headlined the Côté Court festival, which retraced his filmography through 26 pieces. David Lynch's very select private club, le Silencio in Paris, put on a programme featuring a dozen of his films in April 2014. Having given him two carte blanches in 2011, the Cinémathèque française showcased his work in its avant-garde series from December 2014 to February 2015 under the title "Soleils". In 2015, for its 25th edition, the programme of the Mostra Invideo exhibition in Milan was dedicated to his body of work.

Artist's website : jacquesperconte.com

LAURENT PERNOT



© Laurent Pernot, ADAPG - Paris.

Laurent Pernot, *Tenir La Mer*, 2015.

As its title suggests, "Tenir La Mer" (Holding the sea) is a sculpture we can leave to future generations since we are unable to pass on the truly poetic nature of its subject which we ourselves inherited.

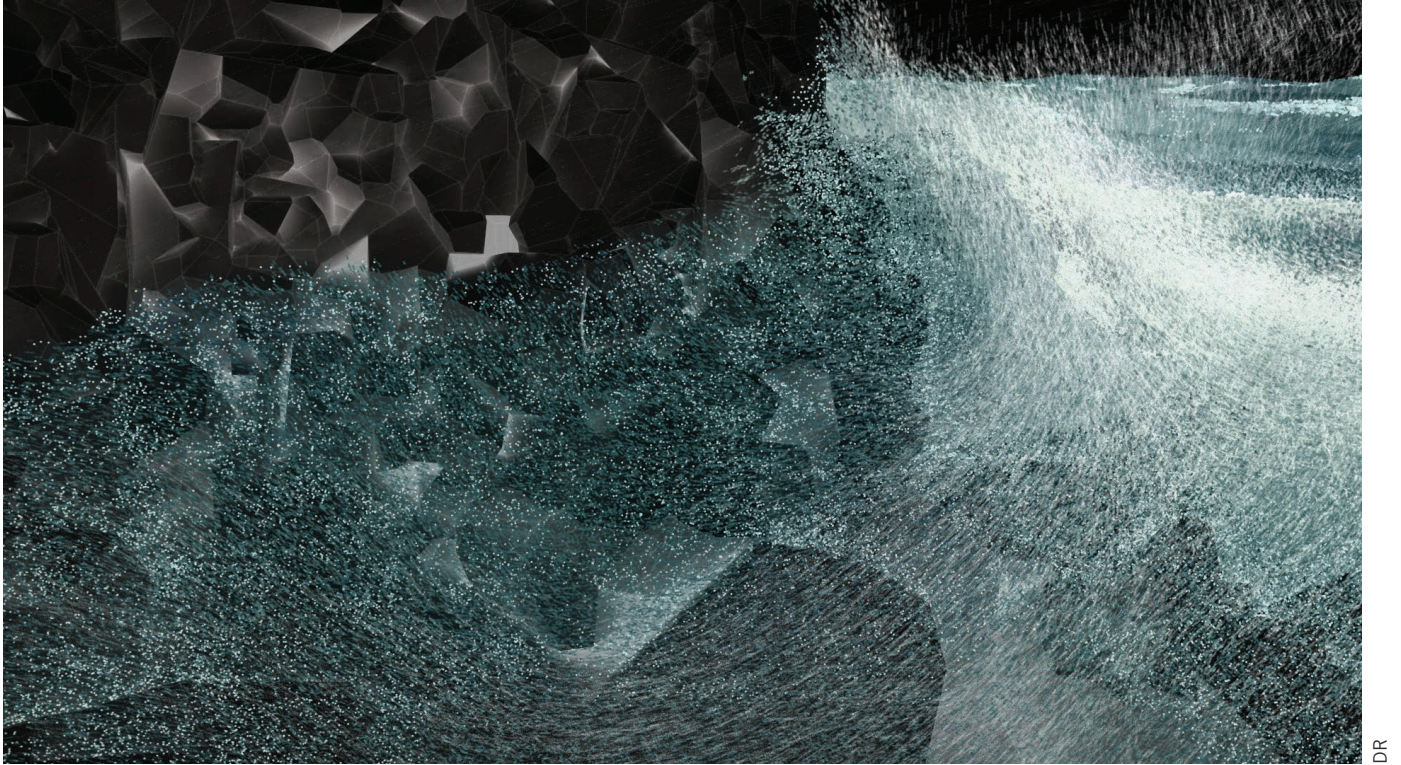
BIOGRAPHY

Since graduating from Paris VIII University and du Fresnoy, Laurent Pernot has spent the last ten years building a polymorphous body of work using a range of different media: videos, installations, photography, light and sculpture.

His poetic approach explores memory through the perception of the passing of time, the impermanence of things, the visible and the invisible made discernible by the skilful use of materials, light, images and movement. Both familiar and misleading in their appearance, his works are often situated in suspended time, far removed from timelines and chronologies, evoking stories and representations of the world which transcend space and span centuries, focusing on the interactions between man and nature. Marked by a melancholic sweetness which reveals the potential for loss or disappearance, his work also evokes the feeling of a floating world whose very fragility puts us in danger.

Artist's website : laurentpernot.net/fr

GAËTAN ROBILLARD



DR

Gaëtan Robillard, *En recherchant la vague*, 2013.

This installation depicts the shoreline of an island at the heart of the exhibition and recounts the story of a wave which Gaëtan Robillard attempts to retell here using digital technology. At its centre, a mathematical ocean is projected crashing against the rocks. The area is made up of millions of particles whose movement is calculated image by image using a software process. The camera tracks the geometry of the island. Later, a voice can be heard studying the landscape, surveying the movement and shape of the wave. Residual objects and equations reappear on the wall. While the sequence is made up of the natural setting and the digital calculations, other interactions with the pattern follow the film. Here, the models in Gaëtan Robillard's work are faced with the mathematicisation of the world and the quest for freedom which this single insular situation embodies.

Production: Le Fresnoy

Partners: Paul Painlevé, Laboratory of Mathematics, Université Lille 1, and EPI SIMPAF Inria Lille Nord Europe

BIOGRAPHY

Having graduated from Le Fresnoy – the national studio for contemporary arts, Gaëtan Robillard is a PhD researcher at Paris 8 University and a member of the Laboratoire des Intuitions at ESBA TALM Tours. In his artistic approach, he is particularly interested in the language of algorithms and the creation of scenarios, images and installations in which the experience of space plays a key role. In his works, industrial science and techniques act as starting points for reflections on history and the environment. He founded Tabouret Studio, through which he produces animation films along with other artists and directors.

Artist's website : mobitool.free.fr



DR

Urbrain, *Image Latente*, 2015.

Through his art, Urbrain is pursuing his very own quest : to separate the image itself from its media, whether it is a computer screen, a video projection or a slideshow. This led him to discover the research of LABo des Fées, led by Erik Lorré, which also explores different media through real time visual and sound programming synchronised with physical actions controlled by a computer. By combining their respective research and different backgrounds, in this work the two artists examine the technique of projecting images onto droplets of water.

In *Image Latente*, water lends a tangible lyricism to an immersive and interactive environment to create an object made out of light in a fluctuating and occasionally surreal levitation.

Alexandre Urbrain in collaboration with Erik Lorré

Music: Ôtanô

Co-Producer: Urbrain / Fées D'hiver

Winner of the Digital Visual Arts Prize # 10 - International Digital Arts Biennial of Enghien-les-Bains

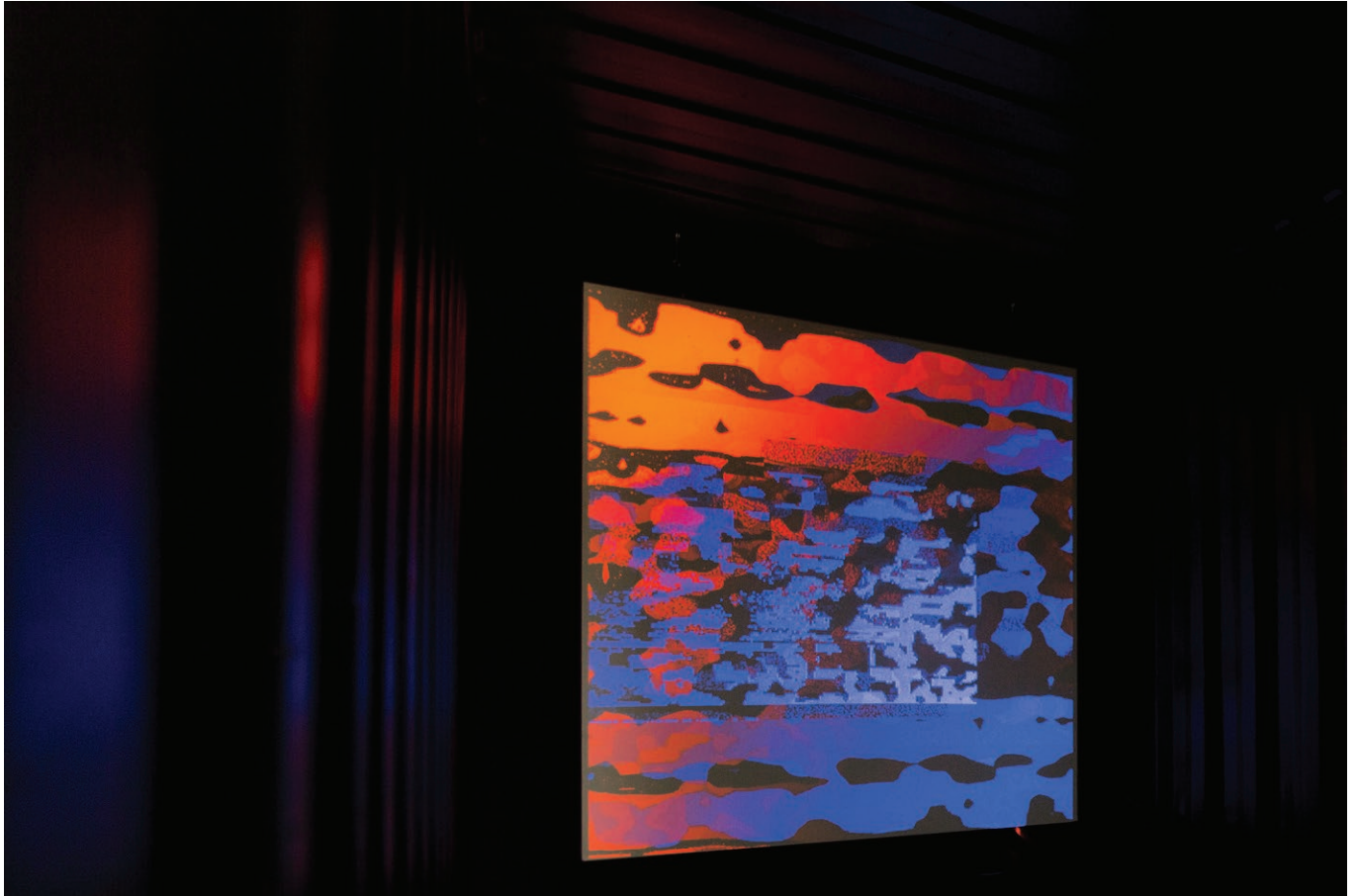


BIOGRAPHY

For a number of years, Urbrain has been creating pop-up video installations in a range of scenic configurations. During the glory days of raves, he projects a mixture of images in various clearings, abandoned hangars and catacombs. His installations have gradually made their way into galleries (Arslonga, Paris), prestigious showrooms (Passementerie Declercq, Paris), important French heritage sites (Crypte carolingienne de Flavigny sur Ozerain) and audio-visual festivals (Vision'R, Paris – Plages Électroniques, Cannes – Souterrain porte VI, Nancy). Accompanied by Philô, Urbrain presented the Cocon project, a dome filled with visual, aural, olfactory and mechanical stimulations where viewers are invited to lie back and take it in. He displays his visual creations in real time, revealing a stripped-back, sombre and remarkably contemporary graphic style.

Artist's website : labo.feesdhiver.fr

PIERCE WARNECKE



© Philippe Groslier

Pierce Warnecke, *Data Decay*, 2009 (revised 2018).

Data Decay is an audio-visual data visualisation installation. Using databases connected to water and its nearby sources, the simplest possible sounds and geometric shapes are automatically created. No external audio or video track is used, everything is generated by the data.

In this version, Pierce Warnecke mines the fluid reserves of Open Data to provide a visual and audio account of how the presence of water in the world's processes can be represented by data.

BIOGRAPHY

Pierce Warnecke is a Franco-American multidisciplinary and transmedia artist. Through art video and music, his work explores the combinations between synthetic sounds, electronic interference and manipulated objects.

Artist's website : piercewarnecke.com

THE FOUNDATION FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER

Philanthropic foundation, established in 2000 and recognized as a body acting in the public interest in 2005, the Fondation François Schneider, works in the twin fields of culture and education. The Foundation enables secondary school pupils to access higher education by offering them grants and assists contemporary artists by supporting the diffusion of their work.

The Foundation, directed by Marie Terrieux, encourages creative activity through various initiatives devoted to the theme of water, including an international competition, the acquisition of works for its collection and the organisation of themed exhibitions in its contemporary art centre and sculpture garden. This work is complemented by publications, loans, travelling exhibitions and a residency programme for young artists from art schools along the Rhine.

Located beside the Rhine, which runs from Switzerland to the Netherlands by way of France and Germany, the Fondation François Schneider places interculturality at the heart of its programming, helping to bring about fruitful contacts between artists and the local populations of these different areas.

The big dates of the Foundation :

- 2000 Creation of the Foundation
- 2005 Recognizing as a body acting in the public interest
- 2011 Creation of the competition Contemporary Talents
- 2013 Inauguration of the Art Center of 4.500 m²
- 2018 Launch of the art residencies KunstArt

THE CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER OF THE FOUNDATION CELEBRATE ITS FIVE YEARS

Set in an exceptional natural landscape at the foot of the Vosges mountains in the village of Wattwiller in Alsace, the contemporary art center of the Fondation François Schneider presents an annual programme of cultural events and exhibitions dedicated to the theme of the water. The site, which was inaugurated in 2013 in an extended and transformed former bottling plant, offers 4,500 m² of space.

With its architecture based around light and transparency, the building contains three exhibition rooms with a surface area of 1,200 m². An adjoining sculpture garden allows visitors to stroll amongst artworks from the permanent collection dating from the 20th and 21st centuries. Water cascades from the monumental Nana figure in Niki de Saint-Phalle's *Star Fountain* and trickles from Ilana Isehayek's *Toupiés d'eau* before following the Vosges mountain ridges evoked by Sylvie de Meurville's installation and sparkling across the surface of Pol Bury's steel spheres. In the large pool created by Renaud Auguste-Dormeuil for his work *From Here to There*, the water reflects the movement of the clouds before being channelled to the far side of the Pacific through an imaginary tunnel.

Visitors can also enjoy a bookshop and a restaurant serving a menu based on local produce mainly derived from organic and fair-trade sources.

L'OSOSPHERE

L'Ososphère is a programme of events focusing on digital culture and the renewal of the city held over time in various urban spaces of Strasbourg with electronic evenings, exhibitions, art trails, projections, concerts, sound cruises, workshops, conversations and radio shows. Quatre 4.0 is also a platform for the production of artistic projects which are then showcased as part of L'Ososphère.

Since 2011, L'Ososphère offers Pop Up District and Coffee Academies, activating places and situations. A platform for creation and production is led by L'Ososphère, as part of its public times.

THIERRY DANET, artistic director

Born on 16 June 1967 in Montargis (FR)

Lives, works in and from Strasbourg (FR)

Thierry Danet decided to base himself in Strasbourg and set about creating projects to contribute to the growth and the development of the city and the territories – scales of synchronization for the lines of force at that time.

He is a founder and director of Artefact PRL which manages La Laiterie – one of the most significant modern music venues in Europe – and organises the Artefacts festival. In 1989, he created Radio En Construction, a radio station devoted to new ideas and discoveries which has developed an approach based around pop-up internet radio shows as well as broadcasting over an FM wavelength. From 1997, as part of his Quatre 4.0 association, he founded L'Ososphère.

Thierry Danet gave leadership of the artistic direction of many projects, in particular the contemporary art biennial of Sélestat in 2015.

He is a musician for the band Le Plus Simple Appareil of which is one of the co-founder.

About

Media and communication contact

L'art en plus

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Opening and price

Contemporary Art Center and Coffee Shop are open from Wednesday to Sunday 10 am - 6 pm.

Guided tours on request

Full price 5€

Reduced price 3€ : (Cezam Card, unemployed visitors, 12-18 y.o, teachers, students, group of 10 max, disabled visitors, seniors (+65 y.o)

Free admission : lcom Card, 0-12 y.o, Museums Pass-Musées

Found us

Fondation François Schneider

27 rue de la Première Armée

68700 Wattwiller – France

From Paris :

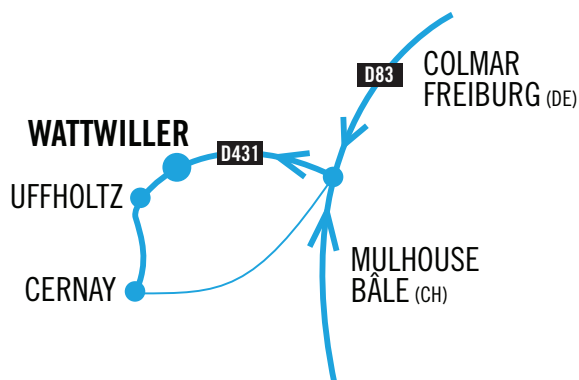
Direct train between Paris Gare de Lyon et Gare de Mulhouse

Direct train between Paris Gare de l'Est et Gare de Colmar

Train Station of Colmar and Mulhouse are 30 min from the Fondation by car

Basel / Mulhouse International Airport is 45 minutes from the Fondation by car

Taxi service available



fondationfrancoisschneider.org



Fondation's team

Marie Terrieux - Director

Elodie Graff - Operations Manager

Sylvaine Bahls - Accounts and administrative assistant

Raoul Ermel - Registrar

Lucie Strohm - Production coordinator and communication assistant

Gwenaël D'Anna - Receptionist and communications & registrar assistant

Halima El Hamdi - Front of house and administrative assistant

Candice Felder - Graphic and digital communication assistant

Caroline Giugni - Intern

L'Ososphère

L'Ososphère, by its team and ecosystem, develops tasks planning, coordination, communication, cultural mediation and technical management on this project.

Coffee shop - Le Bistr'eau

Stéphanie Blaser offers you delicious home cooking, created with fresh local produce, mainly from organic and fair-trade sources.

Come and have lunch, take in an exhibition and enjoy a pastry, or relax with a tea on our panoramic terrace.

s.blaser@lebistreau.org

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