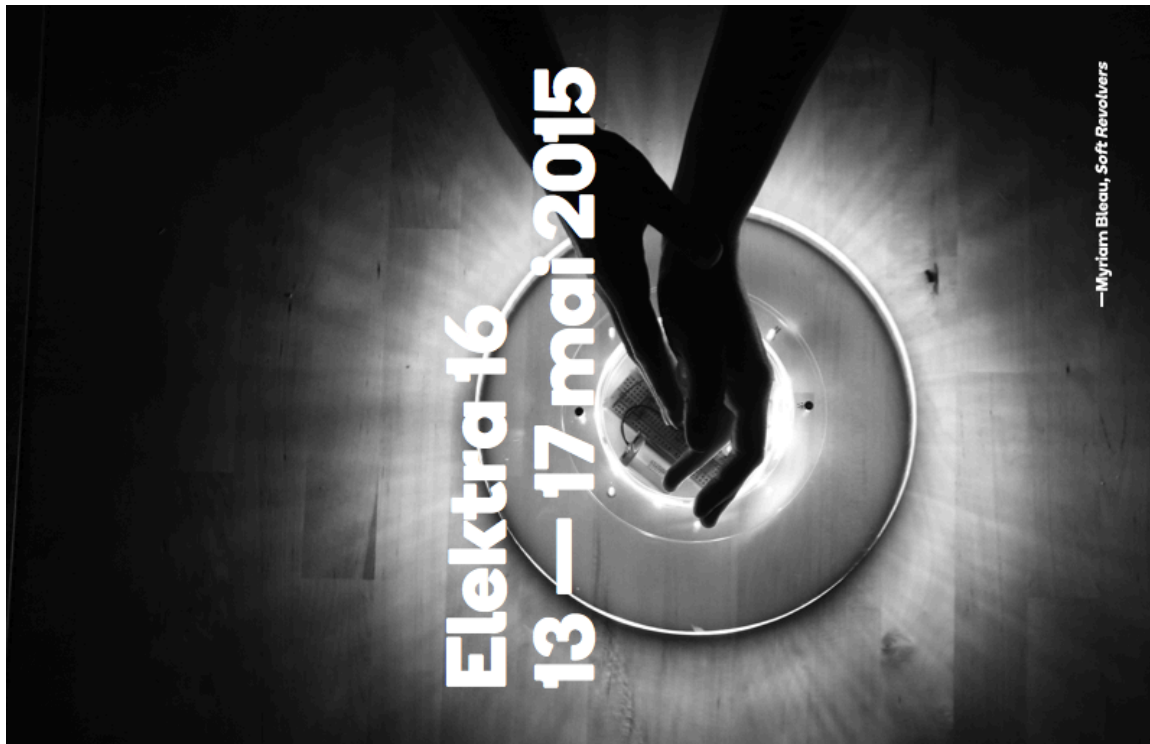


## INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL ARTS FESTIVAL ELEKTRA 16 - POST AUDIO BACK AT USINE C!



**Montreal, Thursday, February 12, 2015** — 2014 was a busy year of celebration, with the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ELEKTRA festival marked by a unique event, EM15, and the second edition of the International Digital Arts Biennial. 2015 should be just as exciting with the **16<sup>th</sup> edition of ELEKTRA running from May 13 to 17, 2015** in Montréal at the festival's long-time base of operations **USINE C**, an incredible venue. Usine C will host three evenings of performances that promise to be an extraordinary experience for audiences. ELEKTRA will also continue to expand its programming throughout the city, through cultural partners and major centres of contemporary creation.

With **the power of sound as the theme – captured by the title POST-AUDIO**, in the sense of “beyond audio” or beyond what we know about sound – ELEKTRA will offer audiovisual and sound programming that explores the influence of sound on our psyche and the phenomenon of listening.

This edition promises to be a showcase for local, national and international creations for fans of digital art and culture. **For the first time in Canada and the United States, audiences will have the chance to discover *DIAMOND VERSION***, the German duo made up of **Carsten Nicolai (aka alva noto) and Olaf Bender (aka byetone)**. An unusual project for the two co-founders of the Berlin label **raster-noton**, *DIAMOND VERSION* opened Depeche Mode's Eastern European tour in 2013.

**Only one date is scheduled for the east coast of North America:** Saturday, May 16, 2015, at USINE C.

This 16<sup>th</sup> edition of ELEKTRA will also be the 9<sup>th</sup> **edition of the IMDA (International Marketplace for Digital Arts)**, the festival's professional stream. For two days, Quebec artists and organizations will meet professionals from the international scene (producers, agents, presenters, curators, journalists and event organizers) with a view to presenting their work around the world.

*"The ELEKTRA festival is transdisciplinary: it creates amalgams of different artistic disciplines, such as music, video, film, performing arts, design, gaming, and sound and interactive installation using the latest digital technologies."*

Alain Thibault, artistic director for ELEKTRA.

Between now and the festival, ELEKTRA will present the event **DIGITAL QUÉBEC** in London in partnership with MUTEK and BFI Southbank. On **March 12 and 13, 2015**, Québec artists will be featured in eight audiovisual performances and projections and through the IMDA (International Marketplace for Digital Arts). Instrumental in initiatives like the *Québec numérique* events presented in Paris in 2011 and in Brussels in 2013, ELEKTRA continues in its role as an international ambassador and exporter of Quebec talent.

ELEKTRA and the Conseil des arts de Montréal on tour present ***De choses et d'autres (bis)* by Samuel Saint Aubin**, an exhibit featuring a series of kinetic sculptures, underlining the playful aspect of everyday things. Selected objects and materials will be put to the test through exercises in balance, strength and randomness that reveal the poetic side of things that surround us and that often go unnoticed. The exhibition runs **February 21 to April 5, 2015** at the Maison de la culture Pointe-aux-Trembles.

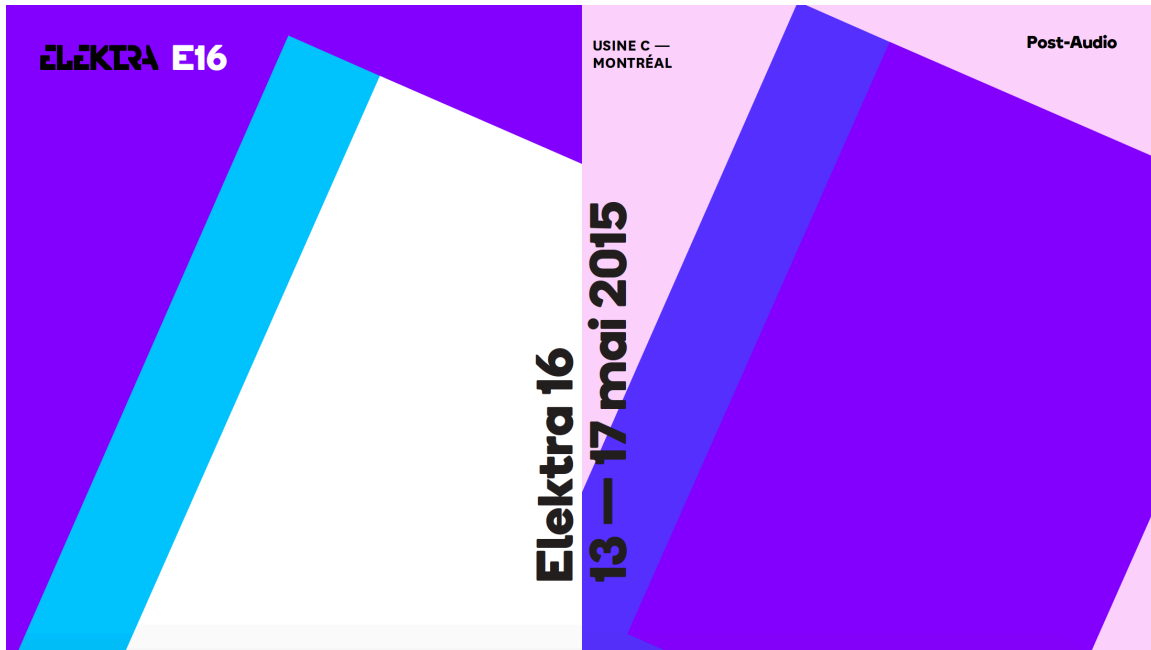
ELEKTRA<sup>16</sup> tickets for the May 16 evening will go on sale on Saturday, February 14, 2015.  
The rest of the ELEKTRA<sup>16</sup> programming will be unveiled in March 2015.

To follow our news:  
[elektramontreal.ca](http://elektramontreal.ca)

*L'ACREQ / ELEKTRA wishes to thank the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, Canadian Heritage, the ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, the Ville de Montréal's Festivals and Cultural Events Office, the ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the city of Montréal with l'Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal, Pro Helvetia, the Institut Français, the Goethe-Institut Montréal and Filaction, for their financial support.*

*ELEKTRA thanks their collaborators, Usine C, the Cinémathèque québécoise, Baillat, the Nemo Festival, Arcadi - agence culturelle d'Île-de-France, the PHI Centre, the Centre des arts actuels SKOL, Hexagram-Concordia, Eastern Bloc, the Société des arts Technologiques, la vitrine, Neural Magazine, the Magazine MCD-Musiques & cultures digitales, esse arts+opinions, Digitalarti, Infopresse, ETC Média, the magazine Inter, Québec en saison, ArtsVox, DOTS Digital Art Magazine, Qui-fait-quoi, Ciel Variable, Galeries Montréal, RCAAQ, the printemps numérique, Hotel ZERO1, the Hyatt Regency, Motto, ELEKTRATEK et MOOG Audio.*

## INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL ARTS FESTIVAL ELEKTRA 16 / POST-AUDIO FIRST ARTISTS UNVEILED!



**Montreal, Tuesday, March 17, 2015** – The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the **ELEKTRA** International Digital Art Festival will be held **May 13 to 17, 2015**, at **USINE C**, which will be hosting three evenings of performances, promising the public an extraordinary experience. With **the power of sound as the theme** – captured by the title **POST-AUDIO**, in the sense of “beyond audio” or beyond what we know about sound – ELEKTRA will offer audiovisual and sound programming that explores the influence of sound on our psyche and the phenomenon of listening.

The ELEKTRA festival is pleased to launch its 16<sup>th</sup> edition at the **Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal**. The museum hosted the festival and the International Digital Arts Biennial in 2014. Beginning May 13, ELEKTRA presents the installation *Nyloid*, an impressive sound structure by the Swiss duo Cod.Act.

*“ELEKTRA 16 will be a showcase of local, national and international creation for digital arts and culture lovers, with its return to the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal and the Saturday evening event with the label raster-noton.”*

Alain Thibault, artistic director for ELEKTRA.

### **EVENINGS OF PERFORMANCES AT USINE C**

The long-time festival headquarters, USINE C will host three evenings of audiovisual performances on Thursday, May 14, Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16.

For avid listeners in search of solid AV experiences: ELEKTRA 16 presents **For the first time in Canada and the United States, audiences will have the chance to discover *DIAMOND VERSION***, the German duo made up of **Carsten Nicolai (aka alvanoto) and Olaf Bender (aka byetone)**. An unusual project for the two co-founders of the Berlin label *raster-noton*, *DIAMOND VERSION* opened Depeche Mode’s Eastern European tour in 2013. **Only one date is scheduled for the east coast of North America: Saturday, May 16, 2015, at USINE C.**

Also on Saturday, May 16, the ELEKTRA audience can enjoy internationally renowned Japanese artist **Ueno Masaaki**, presenting his latest EP **Vortices**, his first release on the legendary label raster-noton.

Artists **Frank Bretschneider** and **Pierce Warnecke** present **SINN + FORM**, an audiovisual performance that captures the dynamics and energy of spontaneous improvisation in reaction to a complex world in permanent crisis.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that **Myriam Bleau** will be part of the festival, the Quebec artist acclaimed at many international events this past year – including DIGITAL QUEBEC in London, held by ELEKTRA on March 12 and 13. She can be seen at USINE C with her audiovisual performance **Soft Revolvers**.

### **PROGRAMMING ACROSS THE CITY**

ELEKTRA will also continue to expand its programming throughout the city, through cultural partners and major centres of contemporary creation such as **the Cinémathèque Québécoise** presenting **Topologies by the artist Quayola**, an audiovisual installation where emblematic paintings from art history are transformed into complex digital structures.

This 16<sup>th</sup> edition of ELEKTRA will also be the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the **IMDA (International Marketplace for Digital Arts)**, the festival's professional stream. For two days, Quebec artists and organizations will meet professionals from the international scene (producers, agents, presenters, curators, journalists and event organizers) with a view to presenting their work around the world.

ELEKTRA and the Conseil des arts de Montréal on tour present **De choses et d'autres (bis) by Samuel St-Aubin**, an exhibit featuring a series of kinetic sculptures, underlining the playful aspect of everyday things. Selected objects and materials will be put to the test through exercises in balance, strength and randomness that reveal the poetic side of things that surround us and that often go unnoticed. During ELEKTRA, the exhibition will be presented from **April 30 to June 14, 2015** at the Maison de la culture de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (consult the Conseil des arts en tournée website for the current presentation of the Samuel St-Aubin exhibition: <http://www.artsmontreal.org/fr/tournee>).

USINE C passports and tickets for the evening of May 16 currently on sale.  
Complete programming for ELEKTRA<sup>16</sup> will be unveiled in April 2015.

Pour suivre notre actualité :  
[elektramontreal.ca](http://elektramontreal.ca)

*L'ACREQ / ELEKTRA wishes to thank the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, Canadian Heritage, the ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, the Ville de Montréal's Festivals and Cultural Events Office, the Service de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle du Consulat Général de France à Québec, the ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the city of Montréal with l'Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal, Pro Helvetia, the Institut Français, the Goethe-Institut Montréal and Filaction, for their financial support.*

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## ELEKTRA 16 A FESTIVAL BEYOND AUDIO



Montreal, Thursday, April 16, 2015 – The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the ELEKTRA International Digital Art Festival is taking place **May 13 to 17, 2015 at USINE C**. With this year's theme **POST-AUDIO**, ELEKTRA presents unique programming that looks at the influence of sound on our psyche and explores phenomena of listening.

**A true forum, the festival presents over 30 of the most innovative local and international digital artists.** The public can attend a wide range of audiovisual, sound and immersive performances, concerts, installations, openings and launches, along with the International Marketplace for Digital Art (IMDA – 9<sup>th</sup> edition).

### THREE EVENINGS OF PERFORMANCES AT USINE C

USINE C is the festival's unofficial headquarters, presenting over ten audiovisual performances on Thursday, May 14, Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, 2015.

For the first evening of performances on Thursday, May 14, ELEKTRA 16 gets off to a strong start presenting two big names in Quebec digital art, **Martin Messier** and **Myriam Bleau**. They will be followed by **Paul Prudence**, a London artist presenting his breathtaking audiovisual works.

**Martin Messier** will present ***Projectors***, a surgical work that uses 8 mm projectors to take the audience outside time; this will be followed by **Myriam Bleau's** ***Soft Revolvers***, an unusual musical performance the artist took on international tour in 2014-2015. The four luminous tops created specially for the piece become musical instruments, pushing back the limits of performance and digital art. Finally **Paul Prudence** will close the first evening with ***Cyclotone II***, an audiovisual performance that offers the public a true sensory experience.

On Friday, May 15, ELEKTRA 16 presents an evening program with French artists **Alex Augier** and **Julien Bayle**, the Canadian **Clinker** and the final audiovisual performance from **Frank Bretschneider** and **Pierce Warnecke**.

**Alex Augier** opens the evening on Friday, **May 15** with his performance ***oqpo\_oooo*** which, through the technique of mapping, offers an audiovisual experience beyond traditional projection. This will be followed by the artist **Gary James Joynes (aka Clinker)** with ***Soundbursting***. Audiences will then have the chance to discover artists **Frank Bretschneider** and **Pierce Warnecke** with their audiovisual performance ***SINN + FORM***, which captures the dynamics and energy of spontaneous improvisation in reaction to a complex world in permanent crisis. The evening will end with

France's **Julien Bayle** and his performance **ALPHA**, exploring the relationship between sound and image while breaking down barriers between these two fields of creation.

Saturday, May 16 will be the highlight of the 16<sup>th</sup> edition. ELEKTRA will present, for the first time on Canadian or American soil, **DIAMOND VERSION**, the German duo made up of **Carsten Nicolai (aka alva noto)** and **Olaf Bender (aka byetone)**, an unusual project for the co-founders of the Berlin label *raster-noton*. **DIAMOND VERSION** opened Depeche Mode's Eastern European tour in 2013. Don't miss the only date scheduled for the east coast of North America!

**May 16** will also showcase Japan with an audiovisual performance from **DUB Russell** and **Yasuyuki Yoshida: BRDG**, followed by the internationally renowned artist **Ueno Masaaki** presenting *»vortices«*, his first release on the legendary raster-noton label.

### **PROGRAMMING ACROSS THE CITY**

The ELEKTRA festival is expanding its programming with **many cultural partners and leaders in contemporary creation** such as the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Phi Centre, the Cinémathèque québécoise, the Society for Arts and Technology, Hexagram's Black Box, the Centre des arts actuels Skol, OBORO and others.

On **May 13**, the **Society for Arts and Technology** will offer a program featuring **Paul Prudence** and the collective **OUCHHH**. **Paul Prudence** will present *Lumophore II*, an audiovisual performance in the Satosphere, to be followed by **OUCHHH**, a collective of six Turkish artists for two performances: *H O M E O M O R P H I S M* and *Solenoid*.

The **Cinémathèque québécoise** will present *Topologies* by Italian-British artist **Quayola**, an audiovisual installation in which iconic paintings from art history are transformed into complex digital structures. May 14 to June 28, 2015. Free admission.

Finally, the **9<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Marketplace for Digital Art (IMDA)**, ELEKTRA's professional stream, will take place at the Phi Centre on **May 14 and 15, 2015** in the afternoon. Free admission.

### **1<sup>st</sup> EDITION OF THE BIAS – INTERNATIONAL SOUND ART BIENNIAL**

The ELEKTRA festival is also pleased to present the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the BIAS, the International Sound Art Biennial, beginning **May 13, 2015**, with the installation *Nyloid*, from the Swiss duo **Cod.Act**, at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal.

*"With sound art thriving as it is, in Montreal and around the world, it was clear that we had to give local audiences the chance to enjoy it by presenting a major event that reflects the scope and diversity of this artistic practice."*

- Alain Thibault, Artistic Director for ELEKTRA

As part of the BIAS, artist **Nicolas Maigret** is presenting **RESONANT ARCHITECTURE** at Hexagram's Black Box, a video installation that sets unusual pieces of architecture vibrating, in an immersive documentary format that the collective Art of Failure has been presenting since 2006. Nicolas Maigret will also discuss **RESONANT ARCHITECTURE** on **May 15** from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

ELEKTRA audiences will have the chance to enjoy many works, installations and sound performances during the BIAS at USINE C: **Matthew Biederman** and **Pierce Warnecke** with their performance *Perspection*,<sup>2</sup> Montreal multidisciplinary artist **Maxime Damecour** and his installation *Temporeal*, as well as artist **Mrghosty (aka Skot Deeming)**, a key Canadian figure in "game art", who will present *Songs for Errant MicroOrganisms*.

**Complete programming for the BIAS will be the subject of a dedicated press release.**

Passports and individual tickets for USINE C are on sale now.

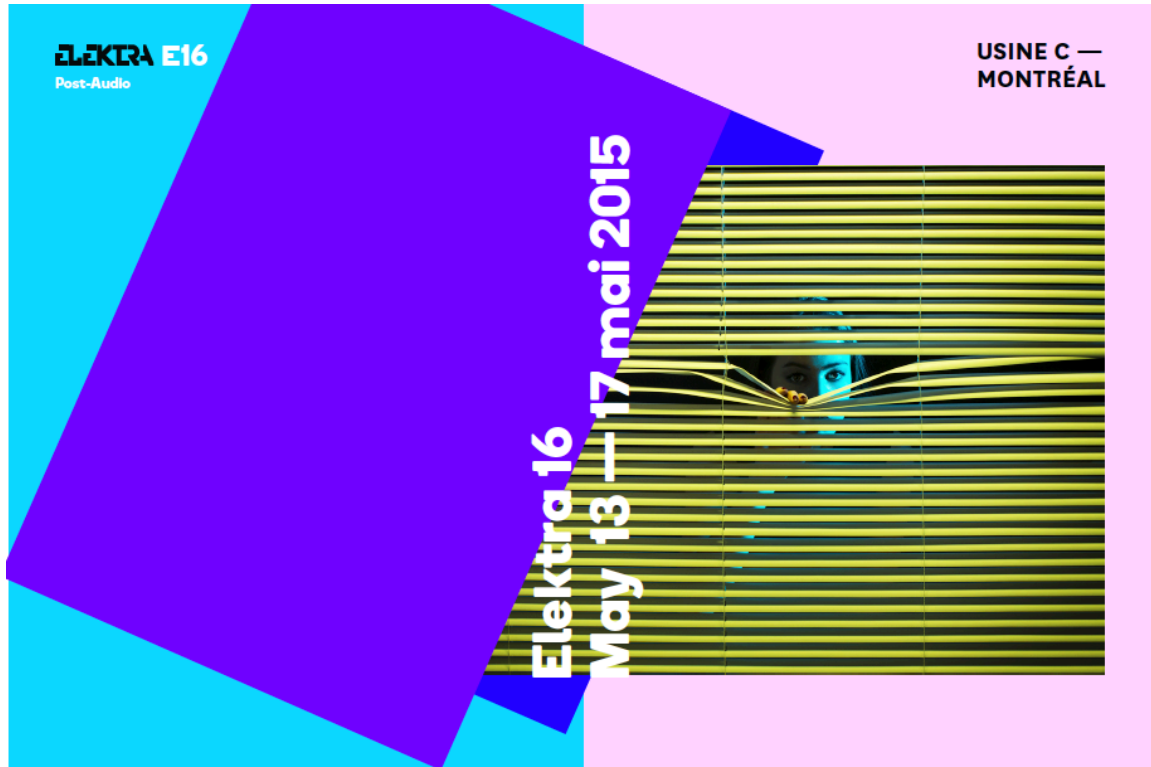
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## ELEKTRA 16 Post-Audio begins May 13, 2015



Montreal, Tuesday, May 12, 2015 – **The ELEKTRA festival, the event that marks spring in Montreal, starts tomorrow!** The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of ELEKTRA runs **May 13 to 17**, featuring some 50 of the most innovative local and international digital artists. For five days, Montreal will be captivated by A/V and sound performances, immersive A/V experiences, concerts, installations, openings, launches and much more. **The first edition of the International Sound Art Biennial (BIAS)**, also with the theme Post-Audio, will present a program of exhibitions, performances and satellite activities. Inaugurated on May 13 at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the BIAS will continue until June.

### THREE EVENINGS OF AUDIOVISUAL PERFORMANCES AT USINE C

Thursday, May 14, Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, 2015, USINE C will present more than 10 A/V performances, including North American premieres and international-calibre artists.

The opening evening on Thursday, May 14 will feature two incredible creations by Quebec artists with a gift for repurposing objects considered obsolete. First off, with his surgical work **Projectors**, **Martin Messier** takes the spectator to a timeless universe where 8 mm projectors become musical and visual instruments. Then **Myriam Bleau**, with her luminous tops exploring the limits of musical real time, presents **Soft Revolvers**, a performance that puts her in constant danger. Finally **Paul Prudence**, a London artist known for his work in which sound design meets geometry and abstraction, presents **Cyclotone II**, an audiovisual performance inspired by cyclotrons (particle accelerators).  
USINE C, 9 p.m., \$15 students/\$20 regular.

Friday, May 15, from 8 p.m., the artist **Mrghosty (alias Skot Deeming)**, a major Canadian figure in game art, will present **Songs for Errant MicroOrganisms**.  
USINE C, 8 p.m., \$8 students/\$10 regular.

Beginning at 9 p.m., the evening will feature two French artists. **Alex Augier** will present his latest A/V experience



**oqpo\_oooo**, combining mapping and razor-sharp rhythms, and **Julien Bayle**, an artist working at the crossroads of sound and image, will present **ALPHA**. Also on May 15, **SINN + FORM**, the new project from **Frank Bretschneider of the Berlin label raster-noton** and **Pierce Warnecke**, revisits the memorable hallucinatory device *The Dreamachine* created by American artist Brion Gysin and writer William Burroughs. And Friday evening will be a chance to discover Albertan **Clinker** (Gary James Joynes) and his Moog analogue synthesizer with his new cymatic animation of sound waves **Soundbursting**.

USINE C, 9 p.m., \$15 students/\$20 regular.

**Saturday, May 16**, from 8 p.m., ELEKTRA audiences can discover **Matthew Biederman** and **Pierce Warnecke** with their performance **Perspection<sup>2</sup>**, a series of audiovisual explorations that look at the limits of sound and visual perception.

USINE C, 8 p.m., \$8 students/\$10 regular.

**The closing evening, Saturday, May 16**, will be the highlight of the 16<sup>th</sup> edition with **DIAMOND VERSION**, a singular project from the co-founders of the Berlin label *raster-noton*, **Carsten Nicolai (alias alvanoto)** and **Olaf Bender (alias byetone)**. It will be a major event, as only one date is scheduled for the East Coast of North America with their third freelance member, Japanese artist Atsuhiko Ito. ELEKTRA 16 will also showcase Japan, with **Bosozoku**, the audiovisual performance by **DUB Russell and Yasuyuki Yoshida**, and world-renowned artist **Ueno Masaaki** with **vortices**, his first release on the legendary label raster-noton.

USINE C, 9 p.m., \$20 students/\$25 regular.

In addition to the three evenings of performances at USINE C, ELEKTRA 16 presents a wide range of activities across the city. **From May 13 to 15**, the **SAT – Society of Arts and Technology** – will be the location for a program featuring two creations: **Paul Prudence** with **Lumophore II** and the performances **H OM E OMOR PH IS M** and **Solenoid** from the collective OUCHHH.

\$18.

**Cinémathèque québécoise** presents **Topologies** by the Italian British artist **Quayola**, a magnificent audiovisual installation based on vector decompositions of Renaissance paintings, from May 14 to June 28, 2015.

Opening May 14 at 5:30 p.m. Free admission.

Two publications will be launched during ELEKTRA 16, **[The User] – Instruments 1997-2008**, at **Cinémathèque québécoise** on May 14 at 5:30 p.m., and **Alien Agency: Experimental Encounters with Art in the Making**, a book by **Chris Salter**, at the **Phi Centre** on May 15 at 5 p.m.

Free admission.

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the **International Marketplace for Digital Art (IMDA)**, the professional stream of ELEKTRA, will also take place at the **Phi Centre**, the afternoon of May 14 and 15.

Free admission.

**The Place des arts' Cinquième Salle** will present **Écosystèmes numériques**, an educational artistic project in which students age 8 to 16 collaborate with artists **Herman Kolgen** and **Mickaël Lafontaine** to create chemical, light and sound ecosystems.

May 16 at 6 p.m. Free admission.

Finally **Samuel St-Aubin's** exhibition, **De choses et d'autres (bis)**, presented by ELEKTRA and the Conseil des arts de Montréal on tour, features a series of kinetic sculptures showing the playful aspect of everyday things.

Maison de la culture de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce until June 14. Free admission.

## **1<sup>st</sup> EDITION OF THE BIAS – INTERNATIONAL SOUND ART BIENNIAL FULL PROGRAM**

The ELEKTRA festival kicks off the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the BIAS, the International Sound Art Biennial, beginning May 13, with the imposing sound sculpture **Nyloïd** by the Swiss duo **Cod.Act**, at the **Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal**.

Opening May 13 at 5:30 p.m.

For the launch of the book **[The User] – Instruments 1997-2008**, the first edition of BIAS will present a roundtable with the artists **[The User] – Emmanuel Madan** and **Thomas Macintosh** – and Quebec authors **Nicole Gingras**, **Daniel Cauty** and **Tim Dallet**. Moderated by **Hélène Prévost**, the BIAS panel discussion will address issues of obsolescence, deflection, the design of systems as a means of composition and a “post-software” approach to sound creation.

May 13, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Hexagram-Concordia. Free admission.

May 13 to 16 at **Concordia University's Black Box**, audiences will have a chance to discover **RESONANT ARCHITECTURE**, by French artists **Nicolas Maigret**, **Jeremy Gravayat** and **Nicolas Montgermont**, a video installation in documentary and immersive form featuring unusual pieces of architecture vibrating. Nicolas Maigret will also present a conference on May 15 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.  
Opening May 13 at 4 p.m. Free admission.

During the BIAS, **ELEKTRA** will present the **GALERIE ELEKTRA** at Complexe de Gaspé featuring two exhibitions. From May 16 to 30, **GALERIE ELEKTRA** presents **Frequencies (Friction)** by **Nicolas Bernier**, in which listeners explore the friction between two oscillations, between electronic and acoustic and between different historical periods of sound research.  
Opening May 16 at 4 p.m. Free admission.

This exhibition will be followed by **Coincidence Engine One: Universal People's Republic Time**, an installation of 1200 identical clocks arranged in concentric arcs by **[THE USER] – Emmanuel Madan** and **Thomas Macintosh**, showing at the **GALERIE ELEKTRA**. June 6 to 27.  
Opening June 6 at 4 p.m. Free admission.

At USINE C, ELEKTRA audiences can explore the work of multidisciplinary Montreal artist **Maxime Damecour** with his installation **Temporeal**, as part of the BIAS.  
May 13 to 16, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free admission.

As part of the Electrochoc concert series, the **Conservatoire de musique de Montréal (CMM)** presents **Nouvelle musique numérique**. Through the presentation of multi-channel surround music and visual music, Louis Dufort's and Martin Bédard's composition students perform a concert that places the listener at the centre of the sound.  
May 14 at 7 p.m. \$7 students/\$12 regular.

The **Centre des arts actuels Skol** presents the **Journée Paroles et Manoeuvres: Sound Art, War and the Arab World**, curated by **Mirna Boyadjian**, with the sound piece by **Mazen Kerbaj**, **Starry Night**, the performance **Une nuit** by **Mirna Boyadjian** and **Raïa Haïdar**, a musical performance by **Radwan Ghazi**, short films by **Abounaddara** and conferences and discussions with **Samir Saul**, **Monia Abdallah** and **Serge Cardinal**.  
May 16 at 2 p.m. Free admission.

**OBORO** hosts **Immersion**, a concert philosophy presented in two evenings, initiated in 2011 by France Jobin. For the 7<sup>th</sup> edition, zaffutons will be set out to allow 26 people to lie down in the darkness to listen to new sound works by two Montreal artists, **Herman Kolgen** and **Nicolas Bernier**, as well as American artist **John Duncan** and Finnish artist **Mika Vainio**.  
June 4 and 5 at 6 p.m. \$10.

And to close out the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of ELEKTRA and the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the BIAS, we will present – in cooperation with **Eastern Bloc**, **MSHR** – a collaborative project based in Portland, Oregon by Birch Cooper and Brenna Murphy. Audiences can see their performance series **Resonant Hyper Scape Modulator**.  
June 26 at 8 p.m. Free admission.

Passports and individual tickets for USINE C are on sale now.

Follow our activities:  
[elektrafestival.ca](http://elektrafestival.ca)

*L'ACREQ / ELEKTRA wishes to thank the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts de Montréal, Canadian Heritage, ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, Bureau des festivals et des événements culturels de la ville de Montréal, Service de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle du Consulat Général de France à Québec, the ministère de la Culture et des Communications et de la ville de Montréal dans le cadre de l'Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal, Pro Helvetia, Mondriaan Fondation, Institut Français, Goethe-Institut and Filaction, for their financial support.*

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## ELEKTRA 16 Post-Audio: a look back at a memorable edition

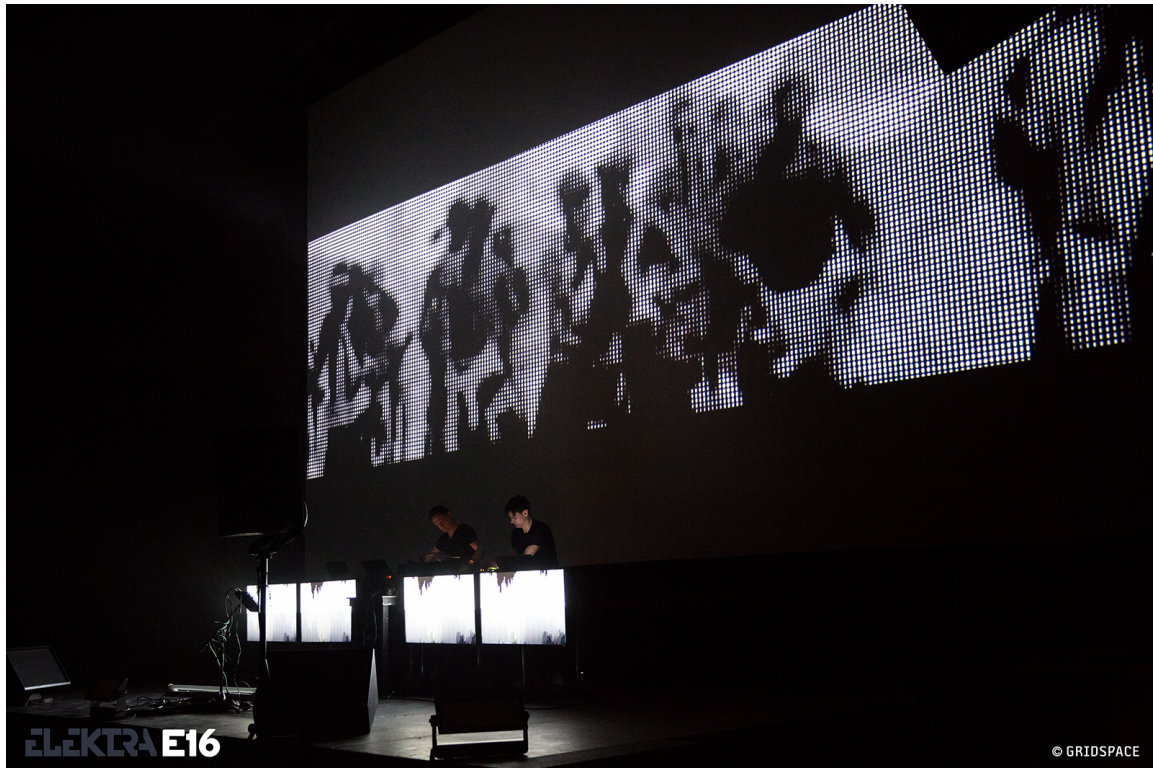


Photo: Diamond Version, Saturday, May 16 at USINE C. Photo ©Gridspace

Montreal, Thursday, May 28, 2015 – **With a 16<sup>th</sup> edition that was ELEKTRA at its finest**, the festival's latest presentation cycle was a chance for new and more experienced audiences to explore **the many facets of digital art**. From May 13 to 17, Montreal played host to over 50 **local and international artists** with A/V and sound performances, concerts, installations, openings, launches, conferences and learning activities.

### **A WEEK OF DIGITAL ART**

The official opening of the ELEKTRA festival took place Thursday, May 14 at USINE C.

Multidisciplinary Montreal artist **Maxime Damecour** presented his installation **Temporeal** in the lobby of USINE C starting at 6 p.m. The installation was on display throughout the festival.

Guest artists performed in front of a full house. **Martin Messier**, spokesperson for Montreal Digital Spring, opened the evening with **Projectors**, a performance where 8 mm projectors become musical and visual instruments. **Myriam Bleau** then lit up the evening with her luminous tops in **Soft Revolvers**, which was warmly received by spectators and critics alike. Finally, **Paul Prudence** entranced spectators with **Cyclotone II**, a piece where sound design meets geometry and abstraction.

On Friday, May 15, ELEKTRA presented five performances exploring different aspects of digital technology starting at 8 p.m. with **Mrghosty (aka Skot Deeming)** and **Songs for Errant MicroOrganisms**. The evening also featured the A/V performance by **Alex Augier** and his mapped cube in **oqpo\_oooo**, followed by **Clinker** with his new cymatic animation of sound waves in **Soundbursting**. **Frank Bretschneider** from the Berlin label **raster-noton** and visual artist **Pierce Warnecke** then presented their latest project, **SINN+FORM**. The intense evening full of discovery ended with **Julien Bayle's** minimal, syncopated performance **ALPHA**.

High-calibre performances made up the closing evening of ELEKTRA on Saturday, May 16. Spectators kicked off the evening with the performance *Perspection*<sup>2</sup> by **Matthew Biederman** and **Pierce Warnecke** in the small room at USINE C. Japanese artist Ueno Masaaki presented »*vortices*«, his latest EP on the raster-noton label, setting the large room at USINE C pulsating. The intensity only increased as the evening went on with the much anticipated performance *C/* by **Diamond Version** (**Carsten Nicolai**, aka *alva noto*, and **Olaf Bender**, aka *byetone*), accompanied by Japanese musician **Atsuhiko Ito** and his incredible Optron, an instrument that uses modified fluorescent tubes as a sound source. Finally, Japanese artists **DUB-Russell** and **Yasuyuki Yoshida** ended the evening on Saturday with an incredible series of untamed visuals, sound and rhythms.

In addition to the three evenings of performances at USINE C, ELEKTRA 16 travelled to cultural venues across the city, including the **SAT – Society for Arts and Technology** – from May 13 to 15 with a program in the dome featuring **Paul Prudence** with *Lumophore II* and the performances *H OM E OMOR PH ISM* and *Solenoid* by the Istanbul collective **OUCHHH**.

Two book launches organized by ELEKTRA were also well attended: *[The User] – Instruments 1997-2008*, at the **Cinémathèque québécoise**, and *Alien Agency: Experimental Encounters with Art in the Making*, a book by **Chris Salter**, at the **Phi Centre**.

Finally, *Écosystèmes numériques*, an educational arts project with artists **Herman Kolgen** and **Mickaël Lafontaine**, presented chemical, light and sound ecosystems at the **Cinquième Salle at Place des Arts**.

### **IMDA: A QUALITY AUDIENCE AND PRESENTATIONS**

On May 14 and 15, the **Phi Centre** hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the **International Marketplace for Digital Arts (IMDA)**. France, Croatia, the Netherlands, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, the U.S. and Hong Kong gathered for two days of professional networking, giving international guests a chance to discover Canadian and Quebec artists. This valuable time allows artists, producers and presenters to talk about their activities and build ties with different partners.

### **1<sup>st</sup> EDITION OF THE BIAS – INTERNATIONAL SOUND ART BIENNIAL**

Montrealers turned out in force for the official start of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the **International Sound Art Biennial (BIAS)** with the opening for the installation *Nyloïd*, by the Swiss duo **Cod.Act**, at the **Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal** on Wednesday, May 13. Audience could catch a number of performances by the two artists until May 17 to take in the imposing sound sculpture and feel the emotions, tension and effort generated by its contortions and vocalizations.

The first edition of the **International Sound Art Biennial** also featured a round table with artists **[The User] – Emmanuel Madan** and **Thomas Macintosh** and Quebec authors **Nicole Gingras**, **Daniel Canty**, **Tim Dallet**, moderated by **Hélène Prévost**. The BIAS round table was followed by the opening of the poetic video installation *RESONANT ARCHITECTURE* by French artists **Nicolas Maigret**, **Jeremy Gravayat** and **Nicolas Montgermont** at **Concordia University's Black Box**. On May 15, **Nicolas Maigret** gave a talk about this installation in documentary and immersive form featuring unusual pieces of architecture vibrating.

Finally, the BIAS featured special events such as a concert as part of the **Electrochoc** series, this year called **Nouvelle musique numérique**, at the **Conservatoire de musique de Montréal (CMM)** on May 14.

### **THE BIAS CONTINUES!**

The **ELEKTRA** festival ended on May 17, but a number of BIAS exhibitions are still under way or are coming up.

Until May 30, the **GALERIE ELEKTRA**, at **Complexe de Gaspé**, hosts *Frequencies (Friction)* by **Nicolas Bernier**, in which listeners explore the friction between two oscillations, between electronic and acoustic and between different historical periods of sound research. Free admission.

Then from June 6 to 27, the **GALERIE ELEKTRA** presents *Coincidence Engine One: Universal People's Republic Time*, an installation with twelve hundred identical clocks laid out in concentric arcs by **[The User] – Emmanuel Madan** and **Thomas Macintosh**. Opening June 6, 4 p.m. Free admission.

For those who did not get the chance to visit *Topologies* by the Italian British artist **Quayola** during ELEKTRA, the **Cinémathèque québécoise** offers this magnificent audiovisual installation based on vector-based decompositions of Renaissance paintings until June 28, 2015. And **Samuel St-Aubin's** exhibition, *De choses et d'autres (bis)*, presented by ELEKTRA and the **Conseil des arts de Montréal** on tour, can be seen at the **Maison de la culture de Notre-Dame-de-**

Grâce until June 14. Free admission.

**OBORO** will host ***Immerson***, a philosophical concert presented in two evenings, initiated in 2011 by France Jobin. This 7<sup>th</sup> edition features new sound pieces by Montreal artists **Herman Kolgen** and **Nicolas Bernier**, as well as by American artist **John Duncan** and Finnish artist **Mika Vainio**.

June 4 and 5 at 6 p.m. \$10.

Finally, in cooperation with **Eastern Bloc**, **ELEKTRA** presents **MSHR**, a collaborative project based in Portland, Oregon, made up of Birch Cooper and Brenna Murphy. The audience will have a chance to discover their series of performances, ***Resonant Hyper Scape Modulator***. June 26 at 8 p.m. Free admission.

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*L'ACREQ / ELEKTRA wishes to thank the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts de Montréal, Canadian Heritage, ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, Bureau des festivals et des événements culturels de la ville de Montréal, Service de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle du Consulat Général de France à Québec, the ministère de la Culture et des Communications et de la ville de Montréal dans le cadre de l'Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal, Pro Helvetia, Mondriaan Fondation, Institut Français, Goethe-Institut and Filaction, for their financial support.*

*ELEKTRA also thanks Usine C, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Cinémathèque québécoise, Baillat, Nemo Festival, Arcadi - agence culturelle d'Île-de-France, Phi Centre, Centre des arts actuels SKOL, Hexagram's Black Box, Eastern Bloc, Society of Arts and Technology, OBORO, 5e Salle of Place des Arts, Conservatoire de musique de Montréal, Akousma, Immerson, La Vitrine, Neural, MCD-Musiques & cultures digitales, esse arts+opinions, Digitalarti, Infopresse, ETC Média, Inter art actuel, Québec en saison, ArtsVox, DOTS Digital Art Magazine, Qui-fait-quoi, Ciel Variable, Galeries Montréal, RCAAQ, IX Symposium, Printemps numérique, Border Crossings, CISM, CHOQ, EX-SITU, Hotel ZERO1, Hyatt Regency, l'auberge Alternative, l'Auberge du Carré St-Louis, Motto, Gridspace, OplinePrize, Global Réservation, ELEKTRATEK and MOOG Audio.*