



**FIRST ARTISTS UNVEILED
SING THE BODY ELECTRIC - AUTOMATA 2018
INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL ART BIENNIAL (BIAN)
ELEKTRA FESTIVAL**



Montreal, May 29, 2018 – For its 4th edition, the International Digital Art Biennial (BIAN) will stage a **series of events entirely dedicated to contemporary digital art**. The main exhibition will take place from **June 29 to August 5, 2018 at Arsenal Contemporary Art in Montreal**.

The theme of this edition, **AUTOMATA – Sing the Body Electric**, concludes the AUTOMATA cycle initiated in 2016. The guest curator is **Peter Weibel**, director of the ZKM, Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe (DE) thus providing a spotlight on **Germany**. The 19th edition of the ELEKTRA festival opens with a series of exclusive performances taking place from **June 26 to July 1, 2018**.

**GLOBAL AND NORTH-AMERICAN PREMIERE PERFORMANCES FOR THE ELEKTRA FESTIVAL,
JUNE 26 – JULY 1, 2018**

For its 19th edition, ELEKTRA offers a **series of unique audiovisual performances**. Audiences will have the exclusive opportunity to discover from **26 to 30 June**, the performances by **Alex Augier (FR) & Alba G. Corral (ES) - end(O)**, and **Chikashi Miyama (JP) - Trajectories** in the dome of the **Société des Arts Technologique (SAT)**.

In the run-up to ELEKTRA's 20th birthday, the 19th edition of the festival opens on **June 29 with an evening of performances in North-American premiere at Arsenal Contemporary Art** with French artists:

Tattoo Hacking by **NSDOS (FR)** examines the link between the actions of the tattoo artist, the technology used, and its relationship with the body.

Some Songs by **Anne-James Chaton (FR)**. With *Some Songs*, Anne-James Chaton takes as a starting point the songs played in public spaces, cafes, restaurants, supermarkets, and waiting rooms, paying special attention to the flow of the lyrics. He then samples and reinterprets the lyrics in sound and image through visual writing based on Morse code, the precursor for digital communication.

«*uncanny valley*» (*uncanny valley*) by **Freka Tet (FR)**. Tet's performance is a satirical live performance presented as a musical & visual multifaceted's project focused on finding an instinctive and radical audio language generated by the intermediary of sensors, DIY Softwares, Game Engines, Face-tracking, & Internet browsing/borrowing.



Πton - COD.ACT ©Alain Ziegler

To open the evening's events, ELEKTRA – with a continual eye on the Swiss art scene – presents the duo **COD.ACT (CH)** with the **North American debut of their new performance Πton**, an intriguing sound installation.

AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL ART BIENNIAL (BIAN), JUNE 29 TO AUGUST 5, 2018

This year, the BIAN presents its major exhibition AUTOMATA – Sing the Body Electric at Arsenal Contemporary Art from **June 29 to August 5, 2018**. The program features an eclectic selection of works by Canadian and international artists.

«We consider it essential to offer to the public this type of cultural meeting of international level. This unprecedented event aims to create an unequalled momentum for all contemporary art actors as well as for an audience increasingly interested in the arts and technology.»

Alain Thibault, artistic and general director, ELEKTRA.

PREVIEW SHOWING OF A KOREAN CREATION

The Biennial will be an opportunity for the public to discover a new Korean creation at its world premiere: *Over the Air* from **TeamVoid & Youngkak Cho (KR)**.

WORLD-RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS

Artist **Addie Wagenknecht (US)** also uses robots to highlight the inconsistencies of our era. In the *Optimization of Parenting, p.II* she explores the idea of motherhood as full-time work through the use of a robotic arm designed to optimize the parenting process.

Even more dreamlike is *Portrait on the Fly* by **Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau (AT-FR)** which offers the viewer an interactive experience. A swarm of thousands of virtual flies continually constructs and reconstructs the portrait of the person standing in front of the screen.



Two interactive works by **Daniel Rozin (US/IL)** *Wooden Mirror* and *Darwinian Rotating Lines Mirror*.

The video *Robot (Resistance series)* – *School (Resistance series)* – *Clerk – Brain Surgeon (Obstructions series)* – **Ali Kazma (TK)**.

SATELLITE EXHIBITION PROGRAM

As well as its major exhibition of contemporary digital art at Arsenal Contemporary Art, ELEKTRA is also **collaborating on a number of satellite exhibitions** around the city of Montreal:

- **VOX** presents *Étant données* in collaboration with the research-creation program “Au-delà des images opératoires” from **April 26 to June 30**.

- **ELLEPHANT** presents *All We'd Ever Need is One Another* by Adam Basanta, from **May 4 to June 2**.

- **PERTE DE SIGNAL** presents *DRONE[s] – Résonances sympathiques et autres exercices de translation* by Emile Morin, from **June 14 to June 27**.

- **GALERIE TROIS POINTS** presents *Suis-moi je te fais, fais-moi je te suis* from **June 15 to August 25**.

- **EASTERN BLOC** presents Jane Tingley's *anyWare* from **June 30 to July 4**.

- **CENTRE LETHBRIDGE** presents Samuel St-Aubin from **September 7 to November 4**.

- **OBORO** presents Émilie Payeur's residence *I ounce Thought Trees Could Sing but it was all in my head* from **June 28 to 29** at the **International Marketplace for Digital Art - MIAN**

12TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE FOR DIGITAL ART

The **12th edition of the International Marketplace for Digital Art (MIAN)** will also take place as part of the ELEKTRA festival on **June 28-29 at Centre Phi**. This year, the MIAN will propose an innovative format with a series of round tables dealing with current themes of contemporary digital arts:

- Exhibiting Contemporary Digital Arts

As part of the MIAN, participants of the round-table will be invited to give an overview of their cultural environment and of their respective organizations and networks; at the same time evaluating the networks' concrete impacts at the present time.

- Producing Contemporary Digital Arts

In the past ten years, exhibitors and other cultural organizations have played a crucial role in supporting artistic creation by aiding artists in new productions. How can this support for creation be not only continued but improved?

- Art and Science

In the Anthropocene era, where the impact of human activity on nature is no longer in doubt, more and more artists are using technology as a medium to question the impacts of human activity on the planet.



- Digital Creation and Contemporary Art: “L’art numérique n’existe pas”?

What is the meaning of “digital art” in 2018? What is its position vis-à-vis contemporary art? Is digital art –whether evolutive, generative, or virtual – a true interrogation of the status of the artwork? What issues are raised by works with digital components when we choose to place these works in museums or collections?

- Contemporary art and economic strategies

Contemporary art poses new questions while continuing to subvert the codes and values of the art world. Much like other genres of artwork, such as conceptual art and land art, digital works have caused the art market to rethink its strategies.

In partnership with international exhibitors, curators, and producers: Gilles Alvarez (Biennale NEMO - FR), Sylvia Andriantsimahavandy (thecamp - FR), Maria Luisa Angulo (Trias Culture - SE), Samuel Bianchini (EnsadLab - FR), Luc Brou (Festival Interstice - FR), Doo Eun Choi (Independent curator - KR), Alex Czetwertynski (Festival Day For Night - US), Christophe De Jaeger (Gluon et Bozart - BE), Shauna Jean Doherty (InterAccess - CA), David Dronet (Festival Interstice - FR), Bernard Gilbert (Le Diamant - QC-CA), José Manuel Gonçalves (Centquatre - FR), Cédric Huchet (Scopitone - FR), Yvan Le Bras (Elektroni-k - FR), Kate Mondloch (Auteure - US), Irini Papadimitriou (V&A Digital Design Weekend - UK), Valentina Peri (Galerie Charlot - FR), Margit Rosen (ZKM - DE), Jean-Emmanuel Rosnet (Mirage Festival - FR), Frank Testaert (Papa’s Production - FR), Mathieu Vabre (Seconde Nature - FR), Anne-Cécile Worms (Art Jaws - FR), Maxence Grugier (Journalist, critic and independent curator - FR), Dominique Moulon (Journalist, critic and independent curator - FR), Annie Quenneville (VICE Magazine - CA), Greg J. Smith (Editor, HOLO / CreativeApplications.Net - CA)

ELEKTRA’S MEDIATION PROJECT

ELEKTRA INVITES

For the first time, and as part of the 4th edition of the BIAN, ELEKTRA will this year be presenting a new project designed both to raise cultural awareness and to develop and solidify new audiences.

Présence- The Robotic Performance Aiding Mediation

What if you could visit an exhibition without leaving your house; without leaving your screen? What if you could experience a work of art through the eyes of a robot? These are the questions raised by the *Présence* project. **Compagnie générale des André Girard Inc. (QC-CA)** offers the public a playful and immersive experience by giving them access to exhibitions, among other things, through remotely guided robots, and the chance to partake in cultural events without physically being there.

Links

[Website](#)

[Promo video](#)

Press kit

<http://bit.ly/elektra2018-press>



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