ELECTROPIXEL #9

"ELECTRONIC BODIES AND THE ABSTRACT MORPHOLOGY OF THE REAL"

NANTES/PARIS | LONDON/NORWICH | BERLIN | BRUSSELS

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ELECTROPIXEL INTERNATIONAL

Events across several cities

Electropixel International represents a series of events forming a network of action over a relatively long period (2 months), which proposes to engage different places across European cities, to present artistic forms in movement.

For this 9th edition, Apo33 plans to create an extended version of the festival in Nantes and elsewhere.

Our desire today is to build a new approach to the festival in relation to the problems of our time :

• to participate in a greater decentralization of gallery spaces and arts venues
• to think and formalize new forms of propagation of artistic works.
• to transform the identified spaces into multiple nodal network for the diffusion of arts.
• to create new openings and crossroads for the artistic communities within which we work,
• to transcending geographical, technical and artistic boundaries.

Electronic bodies and the abstract MORPHOLOGY OF THE REAL

At the heart of the contemporary world and its issues, the question of the body and its development, its improvement, its enhancement through electronics and digital means, poses many questions to both the thinkers, artists and society as a whole. When we imagine "electronic bodies" we immediately think of ideas of the cyborg and the increasing possibilities of evolving the body through technology.

Donna Haraway tells us that "*A cyborg is a cybernetic organism, a hybrid of machine and organism, a creature of social reality as well as a creature of fiction. Social reality is lived social relations, our most important political construction, a world-changing fiction.*"

It would be both a fiction but also a social relationship and a way of seeing the living from the perspective of the cybernetic. We believe that there may be other relationships between body and machine that are not only those of Norbert Wiener's cybernetics, but perhaps something more distant.
We are not all cyborgs in the making, the relationship to the machine is still external: smartphones and laptops are still the tools we use and they are not integrated or connected to our bodies. Whilst, in some cases these links are stronger, such as chips embedded under the skin that send out radio signals to communicate with machines, the future seems uncertain, the approaches multiple and open to varying points of view.

How do artists deal with this problematic?

What interests us for the festival this year is to submit this issue to artists: they draw the pathways, set the standards, transform the ideas - or not - through their art practices and research. Many artists are already raising questions on the presence or absence of the body and its relation to the machine, in their research. For all the artists we wish to invite for this new edition, they are exploring ways to deal with this relationship between the body and technology that are specific to each: from sound poetry using the computer interfaces to transformation of the voice (Joerg Piringer, Jaap Blonk, Joachim Montessuis ...) or visual mapping on bodies in motion (Antoine Schmitt, Hortense Gauthier), to 3D body images revealing new sexuality and genders (Lucas Seguy Shu Lea Cheang), but also abstract bodies that are de-realized, absent, traces or ghosts (Jean Grimault, Coralie Fontanel, Electronic Spectral Research).

Abstract transformation of the real

In connection with the theme of electronic body, we wanted to extend the problem to the study of the morphology of reality: the idea is to achieve a mapping of our surroundings through artistic forms or primarily abstract representations. All these relationships to the body that we encounter, live and discover through the proposed artworks entail a transformation of the environment in which they are situated. They also allow us to change our perspectives or our perceptions of everyday reality.

The curation focuses on works and artists that take into account these correlations between the representation of new forms of corporeality and the transformation of our vision of space, context and environment that are engendered each day.
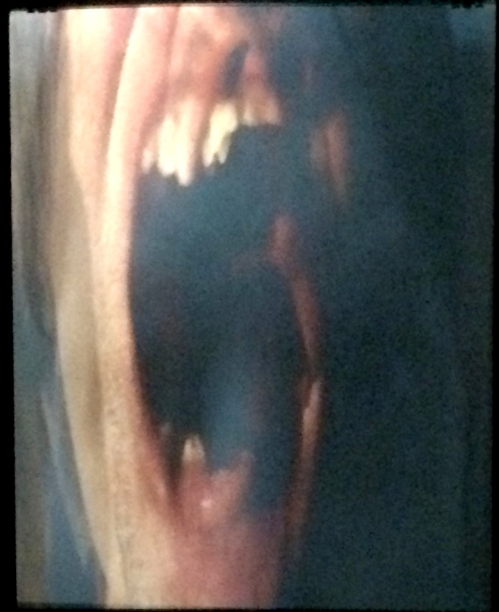
Electropixel Festival

Electropixel Festival is a digital art festival centered around experimental transversal and emergent practices, as well as the relationship between avant-garde codes and art. Electropixel is aimed towards becoming an international festival that offers a space of exchange, experimentation and development for both programmers, inventors of all stripes and artists (audio, visual, music, art, interactive) using new technologies in their creations.

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