

Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève



FROM CONCRETE TO LIQUID TO SPOKEN WORLDS TO THE WORD

31.05– 27.08.2017

Opening May 30th, 2017, 18-21h

Conceived by Andrea Bellini in collaboration with Mathieu Copeland and Karl Holmqvist, with the assistance of Ambroise Barras, Vincent Barras, Gigiotto Del Vecchio, Carla Demierre, Invernemuto, Ceel Mogami de Haas (one gee in fog) and Steve Roggenbuck.

Featuring Henri Chopin, Karl Holmqvist, D.A. Levy, Dom Sylvester Houédard, as well as Tomomi Adachi, Marc Adrian, Pierre Alferi, Mary Boo Anderson, Fia Backström, Walter Davis, Danielle Dean, Alli Simone DeFeo, Sebastian Dicenaire, Pancho Espinosa, Giovanni Fontana, Gilles Furtwängler, Jérôme Game, James Ganas, Michel Giroud, Mira Gonzalez, @Horse_Ebooks, Sophia Le Fraga, Anne Le Troter, Elizabeth Lebon, Patricia Lockwood, Chris Mann, Andrea Marioni, Memeoji, Becket Mingwen, Joachim Montessuis, @RealAvocadoFact, Cia Rinne, Sébastien Roux, Marie-Luce Ruffieux, Julie Sas, Lucy K Shaw, Orion Scohy, August Smith, Cally Spooner, Rain Terranova (Gangster Popeye), Jamey Strathman, Nora Turato, Laura Vazquez.

From Concrete to Liquid to Spoken Worlds to the Word explores the emancipation of language through historical and contemporary positions, from the earliest typographic and sound works of concrete poets to poetic experiments in the digital era. This diverse exhibition is accompanied by a series of readings, performances and screenings that reveal the porosity between art and poetry.

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is pleased to present a major project dedicated to contemporary poetry and its various modes of dialogue within the visual culture of our era. The goal of this complex exhibition program is to highlight how in recent years, contemporary art has begun to show a revived and growing interest in the world of poetry and the written and spoken word. Poetry readings and recitals in museums, performances centered on the importance of the text and its recitation, videos where poetic language takes on a role that rivals the visual component: the art of our time appears to be deeply and intimately rooted in words. Just when its fate seemed sealed for good in this chaotic and (seemingly) aphonic civilization of images, the word has returned to the fore among young artists and the viewing public.

The Centre's program, while tracing this link between word and image to the concrete poetry of the 1960s and '70s, will try on the one hand to examine this renewed artistic interest in the word, and on the other to show how the web and social media are introducing new ways of making poetry. The underlying aim is to explore how art and poetry shape each other in an increasingly interconnected world, through ongoing, rhapsodic communication. The "poetic acts" we will be exploring do not even seem like "works of poetry" in the classic sense, since they include a mosaic of texts drawn from videos, performances, and songs, as well as quotes and phrases from the web and its social networks. Social media are turning even the poetic experience into a widespread, everyday social activity that is fragmentary and non-hierarchical. In conclusion, we will look at how younger artists are showing a fresh interest in bringing words back from their digital, liquid dimension and giving them a more concrete, tangible form. With this in mind, Karl Holmqvist has been invited to conceive a platform/space in which words will function like a vast stage set.

Henri Chopin, D.A. Levy and Dom Sylvester Houédard

The exhibition program includes a retrospective, on the third floor, of a key neo-avant-garde figure and pioneer of sound poetry and concrete poetry, Henri Chopin (1922-2008); it will feature more than 80 works, including *dactylopoèmes*, two films, and a sizeable collection of archival documents. Chopin was a poet, painter, filmmaker, independent publisher, and cultural organizer who in the 1950s began using early recording systems to produce a wide range of works based on the manipulation of the human voice, some of which will be shown on the fourth floor.

The Centre is very happy to present, on this same floor, the first exhibition in Europe centered on D.A. Levy (1942-1968), one of the most mysterious, unconventional characters in American culture, who committed suicide at the age of 26. A radical figure, impossible to pin down, Levy can be considered a book artist: he always wrote poetry with the book-as-object in mind, to the degree that his works are considered forerunners of zines, that is, self-produced publications printed using an ordinary photocopier and circulated on a small scale.

The third historical show focuses on another legendary name in concrete poetry, Dom Sylvester Houédard (1924-1992). A Benedictine priest, theologian, and spy for the British army, "dsh" was not just an extraordinary concrete poet, but envisioned a new approach to spirituality, philosophy, and art. His many collaborative undertakings include projects with Gustav Metzger, Yoko Ono, and John Cage.

***Spoken Worlds to the Word* and *Word Squares*, a solo show by Karl Holmqvist**

While the third and fourth floors are dedicated to concrete poetry, that is, poetry that creates typographical effects on the page, the second floor of the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève will host a project titled *Spoken Worlds to the Word* and a solo exhibition by Karl Holmqvist called *Word Squares*. A considerable portion of this exhibition will be dedicated to performances and readings of poetry and literary texts, featuring artists like Karl Holmqvist himself, Cally Spooner, Giovanni Fontana, Vincent Barras, Elizabeth Lebon, Orion Scohy, Laura Vazquez, Sebastain Dicenaire, Anne Le Troter, Cia Rinne, Tomomi Adachi or Chris Mann.

On the second floor, the duo Invernomuto will also present a musical overview – *I Lick Chopin* – of authors whose lyrics give a prime role to the spoken word and the recorded word, aware or not aware of Chopin's research into the "new word". The program will include a variety of artists including Ben Patterson, King Tubby, Rp Boo, Dennis Tyfus, Halim El-Dabh, Rammelzee, Napalm Death, PNL and many more.

Cinema Dynamo

What happens when a poet starts making YouTube videos or animated GIFs? The Internet provides its own equivalents to traditional poetic forms such as sonnets and the haiku—Twitter's 140 characters of text, Instagram's square images and short video clips, and the impermanent "stories" made popular by Snapchat and later added to other platforms. This new selection of Internet-based poetry, curated by Steve Roggenbuck, reminds us that just as language is everywhere, poetry can be everywhere. Various projects brought together by Carla Demierre and Ceel Mogami de Haas (one gee in fog) will be screened parallel to this selection.

This ambitious exhibition is accompanied by a series of readings and performances and will take over all of the Centre's spaces, from the exhibition rooms to the Cinema Dynamo, from the staff offices to the bookshop, which will host a selection of books on concrete, conceptual and post-internet poetry from Abstract Editions, Black Ocean, Canarium Books, Contrat Maint, Futurepoem Books and Héros Limite.

The project *From Concrete to Liquid to Spoken Worlds to The Word* is produced by Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève and based on a concept by Andrea Bellini, who will curate the exhibitions on Henri Chopin, D. A. Levy and Dom Sylvester Houédard, and co-curate the second-floor project and parallel programming in collaboration with Mathieu Copeland.

Interventions Program

Tuesday 30 May 2017

From Concrete to Liquid to Spoken Worlds to the Word

Henri Chopin, Karl Holmqvist, D. A. Levy et Dom Sylvester Houédard

18.00-21.00

Vernissage of the exhibition, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève

19.00

Performance by Karl Holmqvist, 2nd floor

23.00-04.00

La Gravière : Party with Palm Wine, Jim C Nedd, Pit, Gigiotto del Vecchio

Friday 2, Saturday 3 & Friday 9 June 2017

3+1

Proposed by Carla Demierre and Vincent Barras

3+1 evenings to explore practices around the word at the crossroads of art, poetry and music. Conceived as a micro festival of readings and performances, the evenings of 3 + 1 will propose two programs, designed respectively by Carla Demierre and Vincent Barras. As a festival in two stages, the 3 + 1 evenings produce in stereophony a sensitive landscape of textual and linguistic practices after Chopin and will bring together several generations of artists, poets and musicians. This program will continue during a 4th evening at @PTT (147, Route de Chêne, Chêne-Bougeries) with readings, poetic and sound proposals by Cléa Chopard, Rudy Decelière Carla Demierre, Berclaz de Sierre, Jérémie Gindre, Noemi Lapzeson, Louis Schild and Thibault Walter.

Friday 2 June, 19.00

Interventions by Sebastian Dicenaire, Andrea Marioni, Elizabeth Noble, Cia Rinne

Saturday 3 June, 19.00

Interventions by Gilles Furtwängler, Anne Le Troter, Marie-Luce Ruffieux, Orion Scohy, Laura Vazquez

Friday 9 June, 19.00

Interventions by Tomomo Adashi, Vincent Barras, Giovanni Fontana, Chris Mann

Friday 16 June 2017

Action-poésie

Proposed by Michel Giroud in collaboration with Joachim Montessus

Close to Henri Chopin, all-rounder writer (oral painter and cutter in zigzags and performer of gestures, voices, sounds, words, drawings, images, photos and videos). Michel Giroud (aka Gerwulf and el coyote) offers a two-act conference and performance/action.

19.00 Conference action in two acts in homage to Henri Chopin
Actionvoixélectronique by Joachim Montessus
Transe collective IAM by Montessus/Gerwulf

Friday 30 June 2017

Poésie Liquide

Conference by Ambroise Barras, Infolipo

Ambroise Barras, theorist in literature and digital media, and founder of the site of arts and digital literature, Infolipo, will explore liquid poetry as a mean of thinking of mobile, hazardous, forms of hybridization of the word and its devices of demonstration.

19.00 Conference

Friday 7 July 2017

Proposed by Ceel Mogami de Haas (one gee in fog) at the Cinema Dynamo

Exploring the transversality of visual arts and in contemporary artistic practices, this program will try to grasp how poetry takes over the dominant discourse of technocratic rhetoric and authoritarian demands through the interventions of two publishers.

19.00 *Lecture écrans performés* by Pascal Poyet and Françoise Gorja, Contrat Maint
Presentation of the work of David Quiles Guilló, Abstract Editions

Thursday 24 August 2017

From Concrete to Liquid to spoken Worlds to the Word

Finissage of the exhibition

With interventions by Cally Spooner, Fia Backström, Hannah Black, Sofia Le Fraga, Eileen Myles, Steve Roggenbuck and Nora Turato

This program shall be subject to changes. Please see the full updated program on our website. www.centre.ch

The Centre would like to express its deepest gratitude to the HEAD – Genève for its precious help in the video documentation of this exhibition.