Digital Québec

Digital arts are one of the fastest growing, game-changing, and most exciting of today’s cultural fields. Drawing on cutting-edge advances in communication and information technologies (whether computer, electronic, digital, sound, interactive or web) to create artworks symbolic of our times, they demand a whole new perspective on how we appreciate art.

Québec, a global front-runner in this domain, has been the birthplace of many of digital arts key innovations and practitioners.

Digital centres
Québec is home to approximately 20 digital arts centres, as well as renowned digital arts festivals and collectives. La Société des arts technologiques (SAT) in Montreal is one of them and serves as a performance space and permanent laboratory. It houses the Satosphère dome, a 360-degree spherical projection screen, 18m in diameter by 11.5-13m in height, which can welcome up to 350 spectators. It constitutes the world’s first permanent immersive environment dedicated to activities surrounding artistic creation and visualisation.

Digital cities
Québec’s cities engage with digital arts and serve as both studio and canvas for its artists.

Amongst other things, Montreal has eight permanent projection sites in the heart of the city where every year le Quartier des Spectacles Partnership showcases the works of talented digital artists. This year, they projected video works paying tribute to Norman McLaren’s artistic heritage, commemorating the centenary of the Scottish-born, Québec filmmaker’s birth.

Moment Factory, the famous new media and entertainment studio, has also recently created Forêsta Lumina in Parc de la Gorge, for the city of Coaticook. This forest trail has been transformed into an enchanted, mythical wonderland through the clever use of LED lighting, video mapping and multimedia projections.

Did you know?
Presented until 2013, Robert Lepage’s Moulin à images (Image Mill) in Québec City was the largest architectural projection in the world, with some 40 minutes of animated projections presented on grain elevators 600m wide and 30m high. Created for the 400th anniversary celebrations of Québec city in 2008, the 2011 edition integrated 3D.

Québec and the UK: a digital relationship
• The Foundation for Art and Creative Technology (FACT) in Liverpool has frequently presented the work of established Québec artists, including Martin Messier and John Rafman. It has also recently collaborated with SAT on a digital drawing project.

• A regular contributor in the UK, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer’s installation The Year’s Midnight is being presented as part of the Barbican’s Digital Revolution exhibition until 14 September. His first permanent UK commission will be at London’s Science Museum from 25 October (see page 9).

• This October, the Kinetica Art Fair in London will present Digital Québec @ Kinetica, works by a selection of artists from Perte de Signal, a Montreal-based digital arts centre (see page 8).

• As part of a collaboration with the British Film Institute (BFI), MUTEK and Elektra, two globally renowned Montreal festivals, will showcase the most vibrant developments in electronic music and new technologies at the International Marketplace for Digital Arts (IMDA) in early 2015.
Québec on TV5Monde

**L’été indien (Indian Summer)**
Starts 6 September at 8pm

*L’été indien (Indian Summer)* is a not-to-be-missed Franco-Québécois entertainment show hosted by Québec’s Julie Snyder and France’s Michel Drucker. Filmed in some of the most beautiful parts of Québec, this programme will present insightful interviews with an exciting array of guests including Céline Dion and Xavier Dolan.

**Unité 9 (Unit 9)**
Starts 23 September at 8pm

*Unité 9 (Unit 9)* is a hard-hitting, award-winning Québec series which follows the life of a convicted murderer who lands herself in Unit 9 at a federal penitentiary for women. With a cast of gritty characters, and love, loss and hardship part of daily life, this series has been hailed a darker, edgier version of the top US prison drama *Orange is the New Black*.

On TV5Monde in the UK via Sky 796 and Virgin 825 with English subtitles

www.tv5monde.co.uk

Steven Woloshen

24 – 26 October
London International Animation Festival
Barbican Centre, London

This October, the London International Animation Festival (LIAF) will screen a retrospective of films by award-winning, Montreal-based, camera-less animator Steven Woloshen.

During the festival, Woloshen will also conduct a workshop exploring the multiple techniques of camera-less filmmaking, and as an expert on the work of Norman McLaren, will introduce a special screening of the Scottish/Québec animator’s work.

LIAF is the UK’s largest international animation festival and runs from October 24 to November 2 at the Barbican and other venues.

www.liaf.org.uk

CIRCUS

**Séquence 8**
**Les 7 Doigts de la Main**

16 September – 4 October
Peacock Theatre, Sadler’s Wells
London

Tony Award-winning Les 7 Doigts de la Main are one of the world’s best-loved and most inventive contemporary circus companies, weaving together theatrical narratives and physical skill with breathtaking results. After tremendous acclaim for their previous shows *Traces* and *Psy*, the company return to the Peacock Theatre in London for the first time since 2010.

Their latest work *Séquence 8* explores how relationships can be represented through acrobatics, explosive circus skills and astonishing aerial stunts. A fantastic show for the whole family, it features incredible original music and beautifully constructed sets.

www.7doigts.com | www.sadlerswells.com

**Timber!**
**Cirque Alfonse**

21 – 31 December
Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre
London

‘Makes you want to run away and join the circus’ (The Daily Telegraph)

Leaping into the festive season, and following the success of their run last year, Québec’s family of lumberjack performers, Cirque Alfonse, return to the Southbank Centre after wowing audiences around the world with their smash-hit, log-balancing, wood-chucking, axe-juggling expertise.

A show for all the family, *Timber!* brings together circus, theatre, dance, live traditional music and the folklore of Québec. It is a wild ride of gravity-defying acrobatics and thrilling tricks with metal saws, axes and logs from the Alfonse’s family farm. Featuring phenomenal feats of agility and strength, *Timber!* stars the whole family from 66-year-old granddad Alain right down to three-year-old grandson Arthur.

www.cirquealfonse.com | www.southbankcentre.co.uk
**Death Lines – A Memento Mori Collection**

Sylvain Émard, Cold Specks

2 September
Aarhus Festival
AroS
Aarhus, Denmark

In *Death Lines – A Memento Mori Collection*, five short performances in five cities around the world will be relayed to form one live event, a dialogue between poetry, music and dance in New York, London, Montreal, Melbourne and Aarhus. Each international performance will be filmed and projected live on a big screen in the AroS museum.

Critically acclaimed Québec choreographer Sylvain Émard will perform live in a studio at McGill University while Montreal singer-songwriter Cold Specks will perform from a studio at Bournemouth University. The Aarhus writer Peter Laugesen will intertwine the different parts.

Cold Specks (solo dates)
18 September – 1 October
Various venues in Denmark & the UK

(Please see listings pages 16 – 17 or visit www.coldspecks.com)

Cold Specks, under the sobriquet Al Spx, has been a byword for rare talent and depth of feeling since her arrival on the music scene in late 2011. In November of that year, in the afterglow of her first single *Holland*, she performed *Lay Me Down*, and *Old Stepstone* on BBC’s *Later with Jools Holland*. Her first album 2012’s *I Predict a Graceful Expulsion* was hailed as a masterful and wholly original debut. Her second album *Neuroplasticity* was released in the UK at the end of August, while her new single *Bodies at Bay* is to be released on 1 September.


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**Vertical Influences**

Le Patin Libre

28 – 31 October
Dance Umbrella Festival
Alexandra Palace Ice Rink
London

‘The anti-Dancing on Ice’ (Time Out)

Fresh from an extensive run at the Edinburgh Fringe, iconoclastic Québec ice skaters Le Patin Libre have been commissioned to perform at the world-renowned Dance Umbrella festival this October. This five-strong, prize-winning collective of skaters are creating a new kind of ice dancing, far beyond the confines of traditional figure skating, having started out performing on frozen ponds and canals in their hometown of Montreal.

In a double bill, Le Patin Libre will share their signature mix of movement, wit, speed and grace. Dance Umbrella’s annual festival celebrating 21st century choreography takes place 14-31 October.

www.lepatinlibre.com | www.danceumbrella.co.uk

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**DANCE**

Daniel Léveillé Danse

Dana Michel
10 September – 7 November
Various venues in Norway, Sweden, UK, Finland

(Dana Michel)

Choreographer and performer Dana Michel has been making waves on the North American dance scene for many years, earning several awards for her work. Her newest solo, *Yellow Towel*, premiered at the 2013 Festival TransAmériques in Montreal to critical acclaim. Inhabiting both traditional and non-traditional spaces is a key component in the creation of her work.

Internationally renowned choreographer Daniel Léveillé takes us by the hand and leads us (ever so painlessly) through the difficult emotional states of our human condition. This is the thread that intertwines all his work. In the critically-acclaimed *The Modesty of Icebergs*, he delves even deeper into this familiar terrain.

www.danielleveilledanse.org | www.dansenshus.se

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**SEPT – DEC 2014**

Photo © Jacques Grenier

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Image courtesy of Artistic Director of the Dance Umbrella festival

Photo © Rolline Laporte

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Photo © Maxyme G. Delisle

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Photo © Jacques Grenier

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Image courtesy of Artistic Director of the Dance Umbrella festival
The Peculiar Life of a Lonely Postman
Denis Thériault

Published on 12 September in the UK, Montreal award-winning author and screenwriter Denis Thériault’s second novel, The Peculiar Life of a Lonely Postman, is Hesperus Press’ lead title for the autumn.

Bilodo lives a solitary daily life, routinely completing his post round every day and returning to his empty Montreal apartment. However, he has taken to stealing people’s post, steaming open the envelopes and reading the letters inside. Ségolène corresponds with the master poet Gaston, and their letters are composed of only haiku. The simplicity and elegance of their poems move Bilodo and he begins to fall in love with her. One day Gaston dies after being hit by a car. Faced with the prospect of continuing a life without his beloved’s poetry, Bilodo decides to impersonate Gaston and continue to write to Ségolène himself. But how long can such a deception endure?

Enter the code QUEBEC25 to receive a 25% discount on the book when ordered from the website: www.hesperuspress.com

Mãn
Kim Thúy

Published on 21 August in the UK by Profile Books, Mãn, a novel by multi award-winning Québec author Kim Thúy, is full of indelible images of beauty, delicacy and quiet power, and begs to be savoured for its language, its sensuousness and its love of life.

Mãn has three mothers; the one who gives birth to her in wartime, the nun who plucks her from a vegetable garden, and her beloved Maman, who becomes a spy to survive. Seeking security for her grown daughter, Maman finds Mãn a husband, a lonely Vietnamese restaurateur who lives in Montreal. Thrown into a new world, Mãn discovers her natural talent as a chef. But when she encounters another married chef in Paris, everything changes in the instant of a fleeting touch and Mãn discovers the all-encompassing obsession and ever-present dangers of a love affair.

Thúy’s novel Ru was published in the UK in 2012 and was chosen as the BBC Radio 4 Book at Bedtime.

www.profilebooks.com
Digital Québec @ Kinetica

Patrick Harrop, Maxime Damecour, Samuel St-Aubin

Kinetica Art Fair
16 – 19 October
Old Truman Brewery
London

Kinetica Art Fair will this year welcome a selection of exhibiting Québec artists from Perte de Signal, a Montreal-based digital arts centre. Digital Québec @ Kinetica will include works by the artists Patrick Harrop, Maxime Damecour and Samuel St-Aubin.

From audio performances to video projections, and mechanical/robotics installations to public interventions, the Perte de Signal membership works in a variety of mediums while exploring a wide array of artistic and formal approaches.

Patrick Harrop is an artist, architect, researcher and teacher with a particular interest in augmented reality and the modulation of intangible phenomena such as light and sound by material forces. His work has been presented in Montreal, Shanghai, Berlin and Winnipeg.

Maxime Damecour is a multidisciplinary artist and co-founder of Foulab, an organisation which provides its members with the environment and resources to exchange knowledge/ideas and to explore new technologies. A technological DIY enthusiast, he promotes the use of ‘open source’ technology.

Since 2003, Samuel St-Aubin has been involved in various electronic and sound art projects, working with different new technologies such as wireless sensors, micro-processing and real-time data processing.

Kinetica Art Fair provides a global platform for galleries, curatorial groups, design studios and artists working in the realm of interdisciplinary new media art. It is an ideal place for collectors, curators, architects, industry leaders and the public to view and purchase artworks in this thriving and advancing field.

www.perte-de-signal.org | www.kinetica-artfair.com

Fiducial Voice Beacons

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer

Opens 25 October
Information Age: Six Networks that Changed our World
Science Museum
London

Information Age at the Science Museum will be the first museum gallery in the UK dedicated to the history of communication and information technology and will feature a specially-commissioned, interactive light installation by BAFTA award-winning, Québec-based artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer. Fiducial Voice Beacons will feature a series of glimmering light fixtures on the ceiling of the gallery. Visitors will be encouraged to interact with the artwork by downloading a free app which allows them to listen to pre-recorded and historic audio (one for each light fixture) from technological pioneers such as Tommy Flowers and Claude Shannon, and then record and store their own voice message. The work is Lozano-Hemmer’s first permanent commission in the UK. He has previously exhibited at the Science Museum in 2003 and 2008.

www.lozano-hemmer.com | www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/informationage

Delay

Florian Grond

24 – 30 October
Gallery KIT, Trondheim Academy of Fine Art
Norwegian University of Science & Technology
Trondheim, Norway

What if you could hear a painting? The answer to that question is Delay, a multimedia installation by the Québec sound artist Florian Grond and the American visual artist Mary Sherman. In this work, the artists propose a new definition of painting, one in which the visual, audio, tactile and experiential all coalesce. Employing geophysical advances, medical imaging and digital computation, the artists scanned a painting’s surface and transcribed that data into sound. The installation then takes these results and translates them into a kinetic artwork and surrounding soundscape, where the audience can listen to the painting’s ‘voice’.

www.grond.at | www.kit.ntnu.no
Rufus Wainwright

Affectionately referred to by Elton John as “the greatest songwriter on the planet” and praised by *The New York Times* for his ‘genuine originality’, Montreal’s Rufus Wainwright has established himself as one of the great male vocalists and songwriters of his generation. His live album *Rufus Does Judy at Carnegie Hall* was nominated for a Grammy in 2009. Musically, he has collaborated with artists including Elton John, David Byrne, Boy George, Joni Mitchell, Pet Shop Boys and producer Mark Ronson among others.

In 2014, Universal Records released *Vibrate: The Best of Rufus Wainwright*, a new career-spanning collection that features eighteen standout songs defining one of music’s most innovative talents.

www.stavanger-konserthus.no | www.warwickartscentre.co.uk

Marc-André Hamelin

Marc-André Hamelin is celebrated for his integrity, intellectual rigour and stupendous technique. His recitals reflect the Québec pianist’s famous sense of musical adventure and ability to create engrossing imaginary landscapes.

In September, he will join the Danish National Symphony Orchestra for Brahms: *Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor*, while in his return to Wigmore Hall, Hamelin will contrast the reflective moods of Schubert’s *Impromptus D935* with the febrile atmosphere, emotional intensity and technical wizardry of Leopold Godowsky’s Chopin transcriptions for left hand alone.

His Birmingham Town Hall programme will be a searching musical journey into the very roots of Romanticism. Poetic miniatures by Field and Liszt take their place alongside Haydn and Debussy, and Hamelin’s own phenomenal tribute to the virtuoso spirit: his *Paganini Variations*.


De Temps Antan

Formed at a time when all three were members of La Bottine Souriante, Éric Beaudry, André Brunet and Pierre-Luc Dupuis have been exploring and performing time-honoured melodies from the stomping grounds of Québec’s musical past since 2003. Using fiddle, accordion, harmonica, guitar, bouzouki and a number of other instruments, De Temps Antan blend boundless energy with the unmistakable *joie de vivre* which traditional Québec music is famous for.

www.detempsantan.qc.ca
Bon Débarras

13 – 28 November
Various venues across the UK
(See listings pages 16 – 17 or visit www.bondebarras.ca)

Bon Débarras unites the worlds of music, dance and poetry through a collaboration between Montreal artists Dominic Desrochers, Jean-François Dumas and Cédric Dind-Lavoie. These performers bring together a fusion of Québécois folk music, traditional step-dancing and global influences for a show that is full of fun and inventive energy.

At the intersection of various traditions, their folk music is deeply rooted in the memory of French-speaking America while their energy taps into the rhythms of today. On guitar, banjo, mandolin, accordion, washboard and harmonica, the trio creates musical atmospheres that transcend boundaries and ages.

www.bondebarras.ca

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin

19 November
Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre
London

Internationally-acclaimed Yannick Nézet-Séguin has been Principal Guest Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra since 2008. His honours include a prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award in the UK, Canada’s highly coveted National Arts Centre Award and the Prix Denise-Pelletier, the highest distinction for the arts in Québec.

In this concert he will conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra in Strauss’s swaggering Don Juan, Schubert’s famous Unfinished Symphony and Brahms’s strangely intimate yet wholly magisterial Piano Concerto No. 2, viewed by some as his ultimate musical summation of human civilisation.

www.yannicknezetseguin.com | www.lpo.org.uk

Quatuor Bozzini, Nicole Lizée, Pierre Alexandre Tremblay, Jimmie LeBlanc, Luke Nickel

26 & 28 November
Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (hcmf//)
Huddersfield, UK

Quatuor Bozzini (Bozzini Quartet) return to hcmf// this November for an all-star concert on 26 November. Featured artists will include Québec’s Nicole Lizée, who walks the tightrope between genres and cultures and who will be performing the UK premiere of her piece Hitchcock Études.

On the same date Pierre Alexandre Tremblay will perform the world premiere of his piece Still, Again.

Québec’s Jimmie LeBlanc and Luke Nickel, emerging composers who participated in Quatuor Bozzini’s Composer’s Kitchen of workshops, laboratories and masterclasses in Montreal in June, will also conduct outcome performances of their work on 26 and 28 November respectively.

hcmf// is the UK’s largest international festival of new and experimental music and runs from 21 to 30 November.

www.quatuorbozzini.ca | www.pierrealexandretremblay.com | www.hcmf.co.uk
2Fik Does Strongbow
(& Aoife)

5 September
Tiger Dublin Fringe
George’s Dock
Dublin, Ireland

Montreal-based photography and performance artist 2Fik questions identity, religion, gender and history. In his reinterpretation of the Daniel Maclise painting, The Marriage of Strongbow and Aoife, he will perform more than 80 characters to create a modern version of this famous artwork. Posing as men, women and teenagers, his appearance evolves over the seven-hour performance. The final result will be revealed on 12 September.

Tiger Dublin Fringe is Ireland’s leading multidisciplinary arts festival featuring, at up to 650 events, the new and next in performance, music, theatre, live art, comedy, dance, circus, and visual art.

www.2fikornot2fik.com | www.fringefest.com

Edie Dorsey Raff: Travels

A retrospective exhibition on the Québec Government Office territories explored by professional Montreal/London photographer Edie Raff

18 September – 18 October
Québec Government Office London

Following her earlier career as a photojournalist, Edie Raff began to focus less on people - still a great passion - and more on her fascination with water, snow, fog, ice and mist and the potential of the weather to transform nature and ordinary landscapes into something extraordinary. Her aim, always, was to be true to what she saw.

www.edieraff.com
www.quebec.org.uk

Festivals & Events in Québec 2014

See below a selection of the 400 festivals and events Québec hosts each year. They all welcome international delegates and industry professionals.
TV5MONDE - the largest French-language cinema in the world!

ENGLISH-SUBTITLED FILMS AND DRAMA 7 DAYS A WEEK
SKY 796 AND VIRGIN 825

See inside for Québec programmes starting in September