

Laurent Mignonneau & Christa Sommerer 'The Artwork as a Living System' @ ZKM Karlsruhe

07 mai - 31 juillet 2022

The exhibition 'The Artwork as a Living System' provides an overview of the work of the Austrian-French artist duo Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau since the early 1990s. Moving between the subject areas of natural science, technology and art, Sommerer and Mignonneau pioneered the 'Art of Interface', in which innovative technical interfaces enable physical interaction between simulative visual worlds and the world of natural sensory organs. Very early on, they also used algorithms to represent not only the forms of the living, but also their evolution and growth. In fourteen installations, which are created only through the actions of the audience, man-made artificial systems are shown that exhibit behavior like natural living organisms.

The exhibition is a co-production of ZKM | Karlsruhe, OÖ Landes-Kultur GmbH, Linz and iMal, Brussels. The exhibition is accompanied by a scholarly publication in English edited by Karin Ohlenschläger, Peter Weibel and Alfred Weidinger in the Leonardo Book Series in collaboration with MIT Press.



L'exposition «The Artwork as a Living System» donne un aperçu du travail du duo d'artistes franco-autrichien Christa Sommerer et Laurent Mignonneau depuis le début des années 1990. Entre les domaines des sciences naturelles, de la technologie et de l'art, Sommerer et Mignonneau ont été les pionniers de «l'art de l'interface», dans lequel des interfaces techniques innovantes permettent une interaction physique entre des mondes visuels simulés et le monde des organes sensoriels naturels. Très tôt, ils ont également utilisé des algorithmes pour représenter non seulement les formes du vivant, mais aussi leur évolution et leur croissance. Dans quatorze installations, qui ne sont créées que par les actions du public, sont montrés des systèmes artificiels fabriqués par l'homme. Ces systèmes présentent un comportement semblable à celui des organismes vivants naturels.

L'exposition est une coproduction de ZKM | Karlsruhe, OÖ Landes-Kultur GmbH, Linz et iMal, Bruxelles. L'exposition est accompagnée d'une publication scientifique en anglais éditée par Karin Ohlenschläger, Peter Weibel et Alfred Weidinger dans la série Leonardo Book en collaboration avec MIT Press.



[Watch the video / Regarder la vidéo](#)

'Their works are technologically inventive, scientifically instructive, and artistically imaginative. As a result, visitors inside leave their works richer for aesthetic, ludic, and cognitive experiences and insights. Sommerer and Mignonneau's exhibition is more than a cabinet of curiosities, more than a terrarium, more than an aquarium; it shows mythical creatures, artificial creatures, a so far unseen panorama of imagination and technical ingenuity'.

«Leurs œuvres sont technologiquement inventives, scientifiquement instructives et artistiquement imaginatives. En conséquence, les visiteurs à l'intérieur quittent leurs œuvres plus riches d'expériences et d'intuitions esthétiques, ludiques et cognitives. L'exposition de Sommerer et Mignonneau est plus qu'un cabinet de curiosités, plus qu'un terrarium, plus qu'un aquarium ; elle montre des créatures mythiques, des créatures artificielles, un panorama jusqu'ici inédit d'imagination et d'ingéniosité technique».

-Peter Weibel



[Watch the video / Regarder la vidéo](#)

Laurent Mignonneau & Christa Sommerer



Biographie

Artistes et chercheurs reconnus au niveau international, Laurent Mignonneau et Christa Sommerer sont des pionniers de l'art interactif.

Laurent Mignonneau est diplômé de l'Académie des Beaux Arts d'Angoulême en art vidéo.

Christa Sommerer a fait ses études en botanique et anthropologie à l'Université de Vienne, puis en sculpture à l'Université des Beaux-Arts de Vienne.

Ils se sont rencontrés en 1991 à l'Institute for Media, dirigé par Peter Weibel, pionnier de l'art digital et aujourd'hui président du ZKM de Karlsruhe.

Après une résidence artistique au NCSA (National Center for Supercomputing Application), Beckman Institute, Urbana, IL USA et au NTT-ICC (Inter Communication Center), Tokyo Japon, ils ont travaillé comme chercheurs au ATR (Advanced Telecommunications Research Laboratories) à Kyoto et au IAMAS (Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences) à Ogaki, Japon.

Ils sont diplômés du CAiiA-STAR à l'University of Wales College of Art, UK (avec Roy Ascott) et de l'Université de Kobe au Japon.

Actuellement Mignonneau & Sommerer enseignent et dirigent le département «Cultures des interfaces» à l'University of Art and Design de Linz, Autriche.

Leur collaboration les a amené à la création de 20 oeuvres interactives, grâce auxquelles ils ont reçu de nombreux prix comme :

- «Japan Media Arts Festival 2013», Tokyo, Japon
- «Wu Guanzhong Art and Science Innovation Prize» (pour «Escape») par le Ministre de la Culture de la République populaire chinoise en 2012
- «Golden Nica Prix Ars Electronica»
- «Ovation Award» de l'Interactive Media Festival Los Angeles
- «Multi Media Award'95» de la Multimedia Association, Japon
- «World Technology Award - Finalist» à The Arts of the World Technology Network, UK
- «PRIZE 2008 - uni:invent Award» prix du Ministère de la science et de la recherche en Autriche.

Leurs installations interactives sont symbole d'une époque («epoch making» - Toshiharu Itoh, NTT-ICC museum Tokyo) pour avoir su développer des interfaces naturelles et intuitives et appliquer des principes scientifiques comme l'intelligence artificielle, la complexité et les systèmes génératifs à leurs interfaces innovatrices. Leur travail a été exposé au cours de plus de 200 expositions internationales. Leurs oeuvres font partie de collections publiques et privées dans le monde.

Mignonneau et Sommerer ont publié quatre ouvrages :

- Gerfried Stocker, Christa Sommerer, Laurent Mignonneau (Eds.), Christa Sommerer & Laurent Mignonneau - Interactive Art Research, 2009. Springer Verlag Vienna/New York;
- Christa Sommerer, Lakhmi C. Jain, Laurent Mignonneau, (Eds.) The Art and Science of Interface and Interaction Design, 2008. Springer Verlag, XIV, 190 p. 69 illus. Hardcover Studies in Computational Intelligence;
- Christa Sommerer, Laurent Mignonneau, Dorothee King (eds.) Interface Cultures Artistic Aspects of Interaction August 2008, Transcript Verlag;
- C. Sommerer and L. Mignonneau, Art @ Science, Vienna/New York: Springer Verlag, 1998



Laurent Mignonneau & Christa Sommerer

Life writer, 2006

Machine à écrire, table, programme spécifique, ordinateur, vidéoprojecteur / Typewriter, table, specific program, computer, video-projector

VIDEO

Biography

Laurent Mignonneau and Christa Sommerer are internationally renowned media artists and researchers and pioneers of interactive art.

Laurent Mignonneau studied video art at the Academy of Fine Arts Angouleme, France. Christa Sommerer studied botany and anthropology at the University of Vienna and sculpture at the University of Fine Arts Vienna. They met at the Institute for Media run by media pioneer Peter Weibel in 1991. After an artist-in-residency at the NCSA National Center for Supercomputing Application, Beckman Institute, Urbana, IL USA and at the NTT-ICC Inter Communication Center, Tokyo Japan they worked as researchers at the ATR Advanced Telecommunications Research Laboratories in Kyoto and at the IAMAS Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences in Ogaki, Japan. They studied at CAiiA-STAR at University of Wales College of Art, UK (with Prof. Roy Ascott) and at Kobe University, Japan.

Currently Mignonneau & Sommerer are professors and heads of the department for Interface Cultures at the University of Art and Design in Linz, Austria. Mignonneau and Sommerer have jointly created around 20 interactive artworks, for which they received numerous awards such the 2012 Wu Guanzhong Art and Science Innovation Prize (for «Escape») awarded by Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, the Golden Nica Prix Ars Electronica, the Ovation Award of the Interactive Media Festival Los Angeles, the Multi Media Award'95 of the Multimedia Association, Japan, the World Technology Award - Finalist in The Arts of the World Technology Network, UK and the PRIZE 2008 - uni:invent Award by Ministry of Science and Research in Austria.

Their interactive art installations have been called «epoch making» (Toshiharu Itoh, NTT-ICC museum Tokyo) for developing natural and intuitive interfaces and for often applying scientific principles such as artificial life, complexity and generative systems to their innovative interface designs. Their art works have been shown in around 200 international exhibitions and are part of museums and collections around the world.

Mignonneau and Sommerer have published four books:

- Gerfried Stocker, Christa Sommerer, Laurent Mignonneau (Eds.), Christa Sommerer & Laurent Mignonneau - Interactive Art Research, 2009. Springer Verlag Vienna/New York;*
- Christa Sommerer, Lakhmi C. Jain, Laurent Mignonneau, (Eds.) The Art and Science of Interface and Interaction Design, 2008. Springer Verlag, XIV, 190 p. 69 illus. Hardcover Studies in Computational Intelligence;*
- Christa Sommerer, Laurent Mignonneau, Dorothee King (eds.) Interface Cultures Artistic Aspects of Interaction August 2008, Transcript Verlag;*
- C. Sommerer and L. Mignonneau, Art @ Science, Vienna/New York: Springer Verlag, 1998*

- 2022 KINETISMUS: 100 Years of Electricity in Art, Kunsthalle Prague, Czech Republic
 «World Machine Art and Science» OÖ Landeskultur GmbH, OK Center Linz, Austria
- 2021 «Bio Medien», ZKM Karlsruhe, Germany
 ANTopolis, Leopoldmuseum at MQ Museumquartier, Vienna, Austria
- 2020 Immaterial/Re-Material: A Brief History of Computing Art, UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
 Sapporo Art Biennale, Curators: Taro Amano and Agnieszka Kubicka-Dzieduszycka, Sapporo, Japan
 «100 Ways to Spend a Minute Project», Pushkin Museum, Moscow, Russia
 «Currency», New Media Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
 Parallel Worlds: Art, Science & Fiction, Kunstmuseum Celle, Celle, Germany
- 2019 Deus Ex Machina, LABORal Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial Gijón, Spain
 «Illusionary Nature», Museum Sinclair Haus, Bad Homburg, Germany
 THE VIEW, Salenstein, Switzerland
 «Writing the History of the Future», ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany
 «Growing», ZHI Art Museum, Chengdu, China
 «The Universal Sea», Museum of Contemporary Art Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia
 «Sound Vibes», Galerie Charlot, Paris, France
 «FLÜGELSCHLAG Insekten in der zeitgenössischen Kunst», Museum Sinclair-Haus, Bad Homburg, Germany
 Es Baluard Museu d'Art Modern i Contemporani de Palma and Colección BEEP, Palma de Mallorca
 Thoma Art Foundation, Art House Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
 New York Live Arts Center, New York, USA
 Wood Street Gallery, Pittsburgh, USA
 Solo Show at BEALL Art Center, Irvine, CA, USA
 «La Fabrique du Vivant», Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
 «Animals», University Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
 Ars Electronica, Linz, Austria
 Art in Motion. 100 Masterpieces with and through Media - An Operative Canon, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany
 Arsenal Contemporary Art Museum, Montreal, Canada
- 2018 Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie Charlot, Grand Palais, Paris, France
 Artistes et Robots, Grand Palais, Paris, Curators: Miguel Chevalier, Jerome Neutres
 Archeonauts, Galerie Charlot, Curator: Valentina Peri, Tel Aviv, Israel
 Fête du code créatif, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
 Collection, Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon, France
- 2017 Aesthetics of change, MAK Vienna, Curators: Peter Weibel, Gerald Bast...
 «Languages Machines», Fondation Vasarely, Aix en Provence, France
 Ars Electronica Festival 2017, Galerie Charlot, Linz, Austria
 The View Contemporary Art Spce, Salenstein, Switzerland
 «Cybernetic Consciousness», ITAU Cultural, Sao Paulo, Brazil
 30 year Collection at the OCA Pavilion, ITAU Cultural, Sao Paulo, Brazil
 Archéonautes, Galerie Charlot, Curator: Valentina Peri, Paris, France
 Iconomania (Maif Social Club, Paris, France)
- 2016 Design Biennial Wenzhou (Hao Museum, Wenzhou, China)
 Gallery GPL Contemporary Vienna (Vienna, Austria)
 Digital Now - Tekniska Museet Stockholm (Stockholm, Sweden)
 CODE_n_festival, Zentrum für Kunst und Medien, Karlsruhe, Germany
 Tsinghua University Art Museum, Beijing, China
 European Forum Alpbach 2016 - Art Tech - Best of Art and Science, Alpbach, Austria
 Electra Festival Art Numérique, Montreal, Canada
 On the fly, solo show, Galerie Charlot, Paris, FR
 Pushkin Museum, Moscow, Russia
 ISEA Hong Kong, China
 Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie Charlot, Paris, FR
 Art Central Hong Kong, China
 ARCO Madrid, Spain
 Art Futura, Es Baluard Museum, Palma, Mallorca
 HeK House of Electronic Arts, Basel, Switzerland
- 2015 ISMAR Data Body as Artefact, Fukuoka City Museum, Curator: Julian Staddon, Fukuoka, Japan
 Globale - Infosphere at ZKM Karlsruhe, Curator: Peter Weibel, Karlsruhe, Germany
 Ars Electronica 2015, Ars Electronica Center, Curator: Gerfried Stocker, Linz, Austria
 MOT Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Curator: Tomoe Moriyama, Tokyo Japan
 THE VIEW Contemporary Art Collection, Salenstein, Switzerland

ISEA International Symposium of Electronic Arts, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Media Art Futures (15.-17. April 2015), Curator : Pau Waelder, Murcia, Spain
L'Art et le Numérique en Résonance 1/3, Maison Pop, Curator: Dominique Moulon, Montreuil

Prix / Awards

2021 Digitalos Pioneer Award
2021 Austrian Art Prize, Media category
2016 Arco Madrid/BEEP (for «Portrait On The Fly»)
2012 Wu Guanzhong Art and Science Innovation Prize (for «Escape») awarded by Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China
2008 uni:invent Award, Ministry of Science and Research, Austria
2001 World Technology Award - Finalist in The Arts of the World Technology Network, UK
1995 Ovation Award of the Interactive Media Festival Los Angeles
1995 Multi Media Award'95 of the Multimedia Association, Japan
1994 Golden Nica Prix Ars Electronica

Collections

Hermès, Paris, France : «Entre les lignes»
Thoma Art Foundation : «People on the Fly»
Energie AG Art Collection, Linz, Austria : «The Value of Art (Adrienne´s Garden)»
ZKM Karlsruhe, Germany : «Life Writer»
Borusan Collection, Istanbul, Turkey : «Portrait on the Fly»
AP Collection, Germany : «Portrait on the Fly»
BEEP Collection, Barcelona, Spain : «Portrait on the Fly»
The View Contemporary Art Space, Salenstein, Switzerland : «Interactive Plant Growing»
Braunschweig "City of Science 2007", Braunschweig, Ger : linteractive media facade «Wissensgewaechs»
Itau Cultural Collection, Sao Paulo, Brasil : «Life Writer».
Medien Museum of the ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany : «Nano Scape»
Cite des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Paris, France : «A-Volve»
Bo01 - City of Tomorrow, Malmoe, Sweden : «The Living Room»
City of Arts and Sciences, Valencia, Spain : «Life Spacies II»
Miramon, Museum of Science and Technology, San Sebastian, Spain : «A-Volve»
Ars Electronica Center, Linz, Austria : «Life Spacies II»
Martin Gropius Bau Berlin, Berlin, Germany : «PICO_SCAN»
Millennium Dome London, London, England : «Phototropy II»
Cartier Foundation, Paris, France : «VERBARIUM»
Shiseido, Tokyo, Japan : «Eau de Jardin»
Medien Museum of the ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany : «Interactive Plant Growing»
InterCommunication Museum - ICC-NTT Japan, Tokyo, Japan : «Life Spacies»
Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan : «Trans Plant» and «Trans Plant II»
Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, France : «Intro Act»
Shiroishi Multimedia Art Center, Shiroishi, Japan : «Phototropy»
Ars Electronica Center, Linz, Austria : « GENMA-Genetic Manipulator»
NTT Tokei - NHK, Nagoya, Japan : «A-Volve»