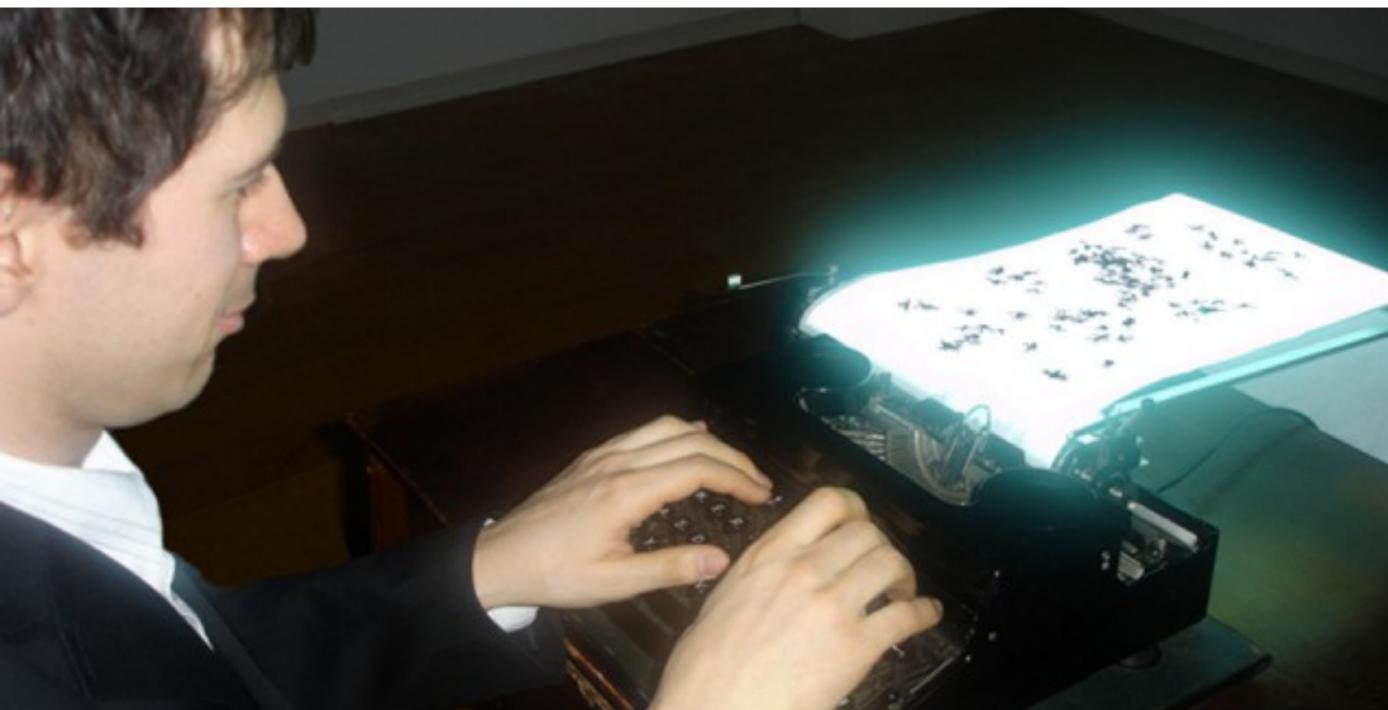


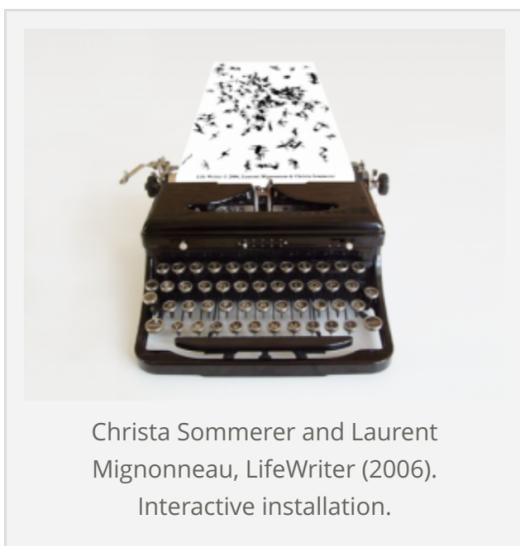


## Sommerer and Mignonneau: art and artificial life in Paris



Posted by VIDA on Jan 30, 2014 in News | 0 comments

The artists [Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau](#) (award winners in [VIDA 3.0](#)) present their recent work in an individual exhibition at the [Galerie Charlot](#) in Paris. Internationally renowned for their pioneering work in the field of interactive art, the artists have selected four installations in which they explore different facets of artificial life by giving the spectator the role of the protagonist in the development of each piece.



Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau, LifeWriter (2006).  
Interactive installation.

*LifeWriter* (2006) consists of an old typewriter, from which a large sheet of paper is emerging, onto which computer-generated creatures are projected. When the spectator types a text on the machine, it becomes the foundation for various forms of artificial life, which are evolved using a genetic algorithm. Similarly, *Phototropy* (2004) is a colony of artificial creatures that are "fed" by the light projected by the spectator using a torch. By interacting with

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the piece, each person thereby determines the evolution of the colony. In *Escape* (2012), an old hand-cranked film projector lets the user create a fragment from Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis* by collecting flies on a screen. Finally, in *Eau de Jardin* (2004), contact with a variety of living plants alters an artificial ecosystem projected on a wall of the room. In this way, the artists create different ways of interacting with simulated life forms through simple actions that question the barriers between what is natural and what is artificial. The exhibition can be visited until 27th February.



Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau, *Phototropy* (2004). Interactive installation.



Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau, *Eau de Jardin* (2004). Interactive installation.



Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau, *Escape* (2012). Interactive installation.