



[Some books to come] Des livres à venir ¹

Partner 4: Université Paris-Est Créteil, France > Christophe Le François



1. Project concept

COP 1 : re-interpretation of writing and reading because of using new technologies.

COP 2 : participation and activation ; in the same time artworks chosen are workshops; visitors are active participants, they can use computers or traditional tools, they can produce different objets and show them. The exhibition constantly evolves, visitor productions mix with artworks

Between 1988 and 2002, we worked on the question of archives and on visitor activation ; with new technologies and Internet (University Paris Pantheon Sorbonne research group : [ART-RESEAUX](#), 1988-1994 ; [INFEST](#), 1991-92 ; [ARTCHIVAGE](#), 2001). These experiences helped us to develop new approaches to the problem of activation and participation.

¹ <http://pdiclf.free.fr/edition/spip.php?article233>

Des livres à venir (some books to come) is an experimental exhibition about artists' books where we explore two kinds of questions:

- How new technologies are changing the practices of artists producing limited editions (books, flyer, sticker...)? What are these new practices?
- How to enable people, away from major art institutions, to observe these practices? How to enable visitors to effectively explore these questions?

To try to answer to these questions, we developed different éléments to create an interactive situation between works and visitors:

2. Visitors Approach - Activation/Participation

(i) The works are conventional, or use new technology, or the practices are interactive (with computer or like «social activations»). With all these differences, spectators try to understand one part of history of art, and how artists work today, with these technical possible choices. A technical choice defines some formal possibilities. An artistic choice entails the use of some techniques and some materials. The matter of these choice partly determines the meaning that the artist seeks.

(ii) The exhibition is constructed with the partners who know the visitors. They help us to understand what they need. Together, we try to find publics who do not go to the exhibitions of contemporary art. We adjust the project and the scenography with their advices.

The exhibition is nomad. We install it in different towns and in various institutions : gallery, school, multimedia library. The workshops and the artistic proposals are associated. Some chosen artistic proposals are developed as workshops. The persons who work with visitors in the exhibition learn how to help them.

Each visitor receive a document where he can find informations about the artists and their proposals (texts and pictures), and where he can write and draw when he takes part in a workshop.

For the pupils, the students and all the groups, this document is a useful trace when they leave, because with it, they will be able to discuss and broaden their researches.

The teachers have a specific document with some information, pedagogical toolkits and links with the educational objectives. This way, they can structure and enrich their project.



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3. Conclusion: The project Des livres à venir in respect to the COP1 and COP2

The guiding principle of this exhibition, *Des livres à venir* (some books to come) is based on **reinterpretation** (What is an edition? An artist edition? A digital edition? A manual edition?), **participation** (many workshops) and **activation** (interactive proposals, didactic anticipation, some pedagogic tool kits).



«The words are gracefully available to you »



Students (young teachers) of UPEC-ESPE are testing different interactive works in the exhibition : „Des livres à venir“ (Some books to come), 2005.

RDV, murmures de quartier - Conseil Général du Val d'Oise - Rectorat de Versailles - Château d'Auvers-sur-Oise - Villes d'Auvers-sur-Oise, d'Argenteuil, d'Enghien-les-bains et de Taverny.

Works of Fabien Hommet. Photo : Christophe Le François.
Courtesy Fabien Hommet and Christophe Le François.



Culture

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Works of Jean-François Demeure. Photo : Christophe Le François. Courtesy Fabien Demeure and Christophe Le François.



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Works on computer, David Boeno, Karen O'Rourke. Photo : Christophe Le François. Courtesy David Boeno, Karen O'Rourke, Christophe Le François.



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Photo : Christophe Le François. Courtesy Christophe Le François.

² RDV, *Murmures de quartier* (rendezvous, murmur of neighbourhood) is an association of artists created by Patricia d'Isola and Christophe Le François ; [link](#)



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