

**The Galerie de l'UQAM, with support from the CALQ, is presenting the artist Jean-Pierre Aubé at the Venice Biennale and in Rome**

Montreal, February 4, 2015 – On the invitation of the [Galerie de l'UQAM](#) and the curator Louise Déry, the Quebec artist **Jean-Pierre Aubé** will carry out a series of live interventions during the preview days of the [Venice Biennale](#) (May 6 to 8), followed by an exhibition at one of Rome's most prestigious institutions, [Radio Arte Mobile](#), as of May 14. This double international project is produced by the Galerie de l'UQAM and supported by the [Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec](#) (CALQ). The event will allow Jean-Pierre Aubé to showcase a singular artistic practice, going back twenty years, which explores various subjects such as auroral choruses, electromagnetic pollution, cyber-surveillance and radio astronomy.

“For an artist, participating in the Venice Biennale is a distinction of the highest order,” states **Stéphan La Roche**, the executive director of the CALQ. “The CALQ's substantial support is consistent with its strategic guidelines and reflects its wish to accompany Quebec artists in their international development. The participation of artists in prominent events has long term benefits regarding critical reception, career development and public outreach, which maximise our investments.”

**The artist's intervention in Venice – May 6 to 8, 2015**

At the Venice Biennale, Jean Pierre Aubé will continue his investigation of radio frequencies, particularly through an exploration of the city's “electrosmog”, i.e. all the electromagnetic fields present in a place. During several live interventions, he will target the electronic communications of wireless devices, which some consider to be essential tools for the smooth functioning of society, while others view them as potential health hazards. In a period paralyzed by a fear of cyber-attacks, even cyber-terrorism, their proliferation has also raised issues related to pirating, detection, surveillance and, consequently, privacy infringement. Using a mobile set-up (Venetian cart, antennas, radio receivers, computers) and assisted by a small team on the ground, the artist will intervene in different places of the Biennale and the city during the preview days. “Nowadays,” says Jean-Pierre Aubé, “when there are people, there are waves. The passports, telephones and tablets which we carry around with us are small communicational beings. They are constantly signalling their presence and transmitting their location to the dozens of relay towers which dot our cities. Between them, they share thousands of information packets which they encode and decode. During the Biennale, I will take advantage of this gathering of visitors in order to intercept these messages and collect them and, why not, to share some of them myself.”

**Rome exhibition**

An exhibition by Jean-Pierre Aubé, also curated by Louise Déry, will be presented in Rome in one of radio art's most renowned spaces, Radio Arte Mobile. Following exhibitions by Jannis Kounellis, Michelangelo Pistoletto and Jan Fabre, Jean-Pierre Aubé's exhibition will link the [V.L.F. Natural Radio](#) project, recorded from 2000 to 2004 in Finland, Scotland and Quebec, with a collection of charts, photographs and videos from the *Electrosmogs* series. It will comprise two new works, *Electrosmog Venezia* and *Radio Vaticano*. The latter will be created by capturing signals from Radio Vatican, one of the most important radio frequency emitting sites in the world.

## **Artist Statement**

A graduate of the MFA program at the Université du Québec à Montréal, Jean-Pierre Aubé is well known for his sound and visual representations of very low frequencies and radio frequencies using ingenious methods and technologies which enable him to sound the magnetosphere and space. Over the years, he has become a sort of explorer-artist who, equipped with curious antennas, radio receivers, software of his own making and an array of computer hardware, captures various frequencies and then models this data into singular landscapes, which are displayed via charts, photographs and audio and video recordings.

For the curator Louise Déry, Jean-Pierre Aubé is a landscape artist of a novel genre. A sound and wave magician, he makes us aware of an invisible part of our surrounding world, its poetry, its ecology and the dangers threatening it. She recalls that “artists have always turned their eyes to the sky. I view Jean-Pierre as following in the grand romantic tradition, his head raised towards outer space, both listening and observing it, he evokes its boundlessness while at the same revealing the congestion which our inexorable technological footprint has brought to this immensity. In a world where the sky is being sold by the piece to meet the demands of the communication industry and in which formidable powers are busy hiding information or spying on the transmitted contents, Jean-Pierre’s work focuses our attention on the vast issues regarding the respect and damage of the planet and its surroundings, and the effect of these practices on each human being.”

## **Jean-Pierre Aubé**

Born in 1969 in Kapuskasing, Ontario, lives and works in Montreal.

**Education:** MFA, Université du Québec à Montréal

**Exhibitions:** Centre d'exposition de St-Hyacinthe (2015), Le Fresnoy (Tourcoing, 2013), Canadian Centre for Architecture (Montreal, 2012), Clark (Montreal, 2012), Séquence (Saguenay, 2011), Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (2011), AXENÉO7 (Gatineau, 2010), Galerie de l'UQAM (Montreal, 2008 and 2010), Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (Quebec City, 2008), Palais du Tau (Reims, 2008), Ludwig Museum (Budapest, 2007), ZKM (Karlsruhe, 2005)

**Performances:** Elektra (2012 and 2011, Montreal), MUTEK (Montreal), Mois Multi (Quebec City, 2005), @rt Outsiders (Paris)

**Prix :** Prix Giverny Capital 2013

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## **Louise Déry**

Louise Déry holds a PhD in Art History and has been the director of the Galerie de l'UQAM since 1997. Previously, she was curator of contemporary art at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. She has curated numerous exhibitions accompanied by catalogues (Rober Racine, Dominique Blain, Raphaëlle de Groot, Nancy Spero, David Altmejd, Michael Snow, Giuseppe Penone, Shary Boyle, Sarkis...) of which over thirty were shown abroad (Europe, Turkey, the US and Asia). She was the curator of the Canada pavilion at the Venice Biennial with an exhibition by David Altmejd (2007) and in 2013 she returned there to present a performance by Raphaëlle de Groot.

## **The Venice Biennale and Quebec**

Founded in 1895, the Venice Biennale hosts national representations by countries that have access to pavilions, as well as international exhibitions approved by the Biennale Foundation, which entrusts them to renowned curators. Besides the presence of several artists from Quebec over a thirty-year period, since 1990 three Quebec artists have represented Canada at the Biennale, Geneviève Cadieux (1990), Jana Sterbak (2003) and David Altmejd (2007), in addition to BGL for 2015. In 2013, the curator Louise Déry presented a performance by [Raphaëlle de Groot](#) at the Biennale. Jean-Pierre Aubé's *Electrosmog Venezia* project follows on the heels of this initiative.

### **Information**

Tel.: 514 987-8421

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**Source:** Maude N. Béland, press relations consultant

Press relations and special events department

Service des communications, UQAM

Tel.: 514 987-3000, ext. 1707

[beland.maude\\_n@uqam.ca](mailto:beland.maude_n@uqam.ca)

[twitter.com/MaudeNBeland](https://twitter.com/MaudeNBeland)