

Saint Etienne International Design Biennial 2009

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On 6th February, all exhibition commissioners meet up for the first time at the Cité du Design!

On 6th February, all of **the commissioners** for the upcoming International Design Biennial in (15th to 30th November 2008) met up in Saint Etienne at the Cité du Design* site, which is where the exhibitions are to be held.

Lead by its Director **Elsa Francès**, - the Cité du Design team welcomed the six outside commissioners comprising **John Thackara**, **Catherine Beaugrand**, **Jérôme Delormas**, **Claire Fayolle**, **Michel Philippon** and **Emmanuel Tibloux**, together with the set designers from the **Atelier Trafik**, who also attended.

Philosopher and journalist **John Thackara**, is involved in collaborative projects dealing with everyday concerns (transport, food). His exhibition, which is central to the Biennial, is intended to show research focusing on the necessities of a sustainable world at town and district level.

Catherine Beaugrand, who is an artist and teacher at Saint-Étienne's school of art and design, is to present a city-wide interactive game that can be accessed by everyone; a unique project that has never before been developed in France, using the latest communication technologies.

Jérôme Delormas, director of Lux Scène nationale de Valence, will be inviting graphic designers from various continents to present their works on "graphics of the future".

Claire Fayolle, who is a journalist and teacher at Saint-Étienne's school of art and design, and who commissioned "*Demain, c'est aujourd'hui*" (*Tomorrow is today*), an exhibition focusing on industrial futurology at the 2006 International Design Biennial, is continuing her research for showing the latest industrial innovations and for illustrating futurology in companies.

Emmanuel Tibloux, director of Saint-Étienne's school of art and design, will be presenting a selection of works produced by schools throughout the world and architect and set designer **Michel Philippon**, who is a teacher at Saint-Étienne's school of art and design, will be showing a "giant apartment".

The Cité du Design's project heads: **Marc Partouche**, **Céline Savoye**, **Chloé Heyraud**, **Isabelle Vérilhac** and **Josyane Franc** – will add to the team of commissioners through selecting and designing some of the exhibitions for the Biennial.

With the support of the Cité du Design and its activities, the 2008 International Design Biennial will be providing a broad view of design, based on six major themes.

"Design as a tool for innovation", "the image as object, aesthetic and structure", "urban/rural", "education and training", "the state of play with regard to international design", and "architecture and design" will lead visitors to react to all forms of creation in which design makes use of its capacity for innovation.

* site of GIAT – Saint-Étienne's former arms manufacturer

Finally, being aware of what such an event may produce, the aim of the 2008 Biennial is to reduce the event's impact on the environment by assessing its ecological footprint.

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ANNEXES
Mini biographies

John Thackara:

John Thackara is the director of "Doors of Perception".

He is at the root of projects and festivals attended by the general public, designers, experts and thinkers. These examine two main areas of thought: "What will our life look like in a sustainable world?" and "How can design help us to get there?"

In 2008 John Thackara also started heading the "Designs of the time" (Dott 07) programme. He is also the author of "In The Bubble: Designing in a Complex World", which was published in 2005.

Catherine Beaugrand:

Catherine Beaugrand is an artist and researcher of language using digital tools. She establishes a special link to urban spaces, a link which is involved in an area that brings architecture into play. Projects of various natures have punctuated her professional life, eg.

Luna Park, 1997 (presented for the first time at Documenta X, Kassel, then in Madrid, Essen and Yokohama)

In 2001, Catherine Beaugrand devised and has since directed "design corrélation", a structure for researching the modes of existence of images.

Having worked since 2006 in a multimedia video education activity at Saint-Étienne's school of art and design, she carries out research between text, scene and video: this currently involves the production of a fictional work combining various digital media alongside writer and dramatist Jacques Guimet and a collaboration with writer Annie Zadek for the production of a performance film.

Jérôme Delormas:

Jérôme Delormas has been director of the Lux Scène nationale de Valence since 2006, having previously headed the Ferme du Buisson centre for contemporary art. He has also recently been appointed managing director of the Gaîté Lyrique, a forthcoming centre in Paris for the digital arts and contemporary music (opens in 2010). He also co-directed la Nuit Blanche 2007.

His path has generally been cross-disciplinary, focusing at various times on contemporary dance, music, graphic design and the visual arts. Having been involved in the development of technology and art due to the emergence of digital technology, he finds himself strongly involved in this field of experimentation through the projects of the artists he accompanies.

Claire Fayolle:

As a journalist and teacher, Claire Fayolle was trained as an art historian. With responsibility for this column in Beaux-Arts magazine, she has been writing about design, mainly in the specialist press, for over 15 years. On France Culture, she has worked for the past two years on the "Transformes" programme by Christophe Domino, as well as co-producing "Questions d'Objets". She is a teacher at Saint-Étienne's school of art and design, and she has also taught at ENSCI / Les Ateliers and at Lausanne's local art school (École Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne (ECAL)).

She has also been involved in a variety of events: Caravelles 2 (International Design Quadrennial), "Design: miroir du siècle" (Design: the century's mirror) (Grand Palais Paris) and Saint-Étienne's 1998 International Design Biennial.

She has written various works, including "C'est quoi le Design?" (What is design?), through Autrement and the international association of art critics (l'Association Internationale des critiques d'Art (AICA)).

Michel Philippon:

Architect and set designer Michel Philippon created the **agence mpproduction architecture-scénographie-jeux** in 1991.

The themes examined were based around a variety of applications:

Architecture: new construction, transformations and renovation, including the children's centre (Maison des enfants) in Geneva and the library centre (Maison Bibliothèque) for the Director of Mamco in Geneva.

Developing countries: expertise and restoration projects in Albania.

Public spaces: urban installations, (Geneva, Lausanne, Montreux).

Set design and games: exhibitions/games (France, Italy, Dubai).

Training and research: France and Switzerland.

Games: projects for games and cultural awakening (France, Italy, Switzerland)

Emmanuel Tibloux:

Emmanuel Tibloux is a former pupil of the teacher training school of Fontenay/Saint-Cloud (Ecole Normale Supérieure de Fontenay/Saint-Cloud), was a teacher/researcher in the departments of literature and the performing arts at the University of Rennes 2 (1993-2000), head of the Institut français in Bilbao (2000-2004) and head of the fine arts school of Valence (Ecole régionale des beaux-arts de Valence) (2004-2007). He has been director of Saint-Étienne's school of art and design since September 2007.