## **Fostering New Creative Communities**

## iMAL, Brussels

Yves Bernard Marie-Laure Delaby Yannick Antoine





Yves Bernard (yb@imal.org) September, 2011

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center for digital cultures and technology





a Contemporary Art Center oriented to (new) media arts and digital cultures an Education Center for digital cultures and multidisciplinary creativity a Laboratory for Arts, Sciences, Technologies and R&D projects an Artist Workplace and Production center for innovative Arts&Culture projects an European and international meeting place for artists, scientists and creative people, ideally located in Brussels, a multicultural and international city, capital of Europe (and Belgium).





iMAL is the integration of:

- an Art Center with public activities for a large audience (new media arts, digital cultures)
- a MediaLab : artist experimentation, R&D and production workplace with educational and

community-development activities, connected with art schools and universities.

- a Hub with trans-disciplinary activities between Arts, Sciences and Innovation





## iMAL: connecting different communities

A range of activities for many different communities / audiences, from general public to:

Art & Culture Amateurs, Sciences & Technology Amateurs

Tinkerers (bricoleurs), DIY,...

Artists, Designers, Creative people, Developers, Hackers

Scientists, Engineers

Academics (IT and Social Sciences), Educators, Professors, Teachers,...

Art Galleries & Collectors, Art professionals,...

Entrepreneurs, businessmen, decision makers, politics

Brussels people (and Europeans), young and less young, informal and formal,...



## iMAL: Contemporary Art Center

International dimension mixing local and foreign artists

Contemporary art exhibitions with a focus on media and technology-based arts

Concerts & performances





center for digital cultures and technology

Collective exhibitions:

2010: moddr\_\*

- 2010: Playlist: playing Games, Music, Art
- 2009: V.O.S.T. OV/OT, Stock Overflow
- 2008 : Holy Fire, art of the digital age
- 2007 : Hybrid World, inaugural exhibition of new venue

2006 : Art+Game

2005 : openLAB

- 2004 : Infiltrations Digitales
- 2003 : F2F, new media art from Finland

2000 : CONTinENT







HOLY FIRE art of the digital age 18 → 30 APRIL 08 EXHIBITION / IMAL/BRUSSELS 30 OLIA DE GHARBONNAGES / KOOLMUNENKAAI 30 19 OLIA DE GHARBONNAGES / KOOLMUNENKAAI 30





#### Holy Fire, art of the digital age, April 2008

with Cory Arcangel (USA), Gazira Babeli (SL), Boredomresearch (UK), Christophe Bruno (FR), Grégory Chatonsky (FR), Miguel Chevalier (FR), Vuk Cosic (SLO), Shane Hope (USA), Jodi (BE/NL), Lab[au] (BE), Joan Leandre (SP), Olia Lialina & Dragan Espenschied (DE), Golan Levin (USA), Eva and Franco Mattes aka 0100101110101101.ORG (IT), Alison Mealey (UK), Mark Napier (USA), Casey Reas (USA), Charles Sandison (UK/FI), Antoine Schmitt (FR), Yacine Sebti (BE), Alexei Shulgin & Aristarkh Chernyshev (RU), John F. Simon, Jr. (USA), Paul Slocum (USA), Wolfgang Staehle (USA), Eddo Stern (USA), Ubermorgen.com (AT), Carlo Zanni (IT).

Curated by Yves Bernard and Domenico Quaranta.

Holy Fire presents contemporary artworks made with comtemporary technologies and designed to be collectible. Holy Fire is probably the first exhibition to show only collectible new media artworks already on the art market, in the form of traditional media (prints, videos, sculptures) or customized new media objects.



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Holy Fire, art of the digital age, April 2008

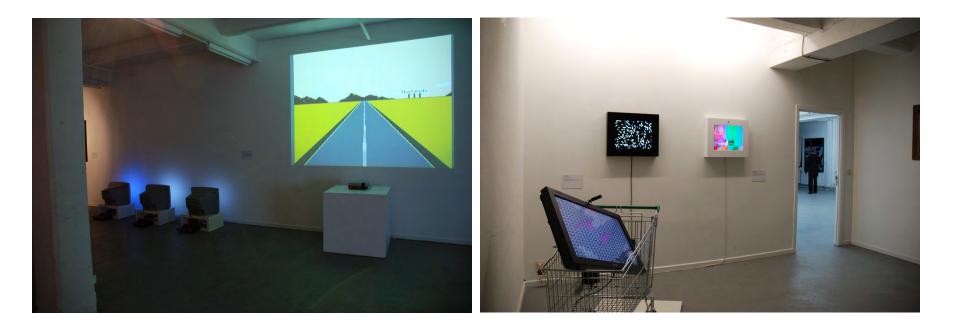




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Holy Fire, art of the digital age, April 2008





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Holy Fire, art of the digital age, April 2008

debate at Art Brussels, international contemporary art fair





Holy Fire, art of the digital age, April 2008

we make money not art

#### Holy Fire, art of the digital age

By Regine on April 22, 2008 7:55 AM

Somehow related:

Encoded art works Residency and workshop opportunities for media artists

iMAL: RFID and art

on FACT archive

Recent articles:

Video of the day

and curators

Holy Fire, art of the digital age

New Brave World workshop at

Pricked: Extreme Embroidery Even the Ghost of the Past sk-interfaces conference talks

genetically modified art at the New Museum on Friday

Categories:

Take two persons whose work in the media art field i've been admiring for years. Have their minds communicate for more than a couple of minutes. What is going to happen?



<u>UBERMORGEN.COM</u> (Lizvlx/Hans Bernhard), PsychlOS - Hans 2, 2004. Lambda print on aluminium. 100 x 150 cm. Edition of 5. Private Collection, Brussels / <u>Fabio</u> <u>Paris Art Gallery</u>, Brescia

Yves Bernard is the director of <u>iMAL</u> (interactive Media Art Laboratory), a space dedicated to *contemporary artistic and cultural practices emerging from the fusion of computer, telecommunication, network and media.* iMAL is the only space that doesn't put the Belgian french-speaking community i come from to total shame. The



Holy Fire, art of the digital age, April 2008



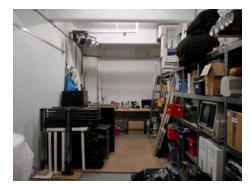
Marx and Engels claimed that capitalism's "constant revolutionizing of production" ultimately means "all that is solid melts into air." The contemporary art market, however, describes an opposite process: innovations such as the flat-screen monitor, the digital print, and the editioned DVD, have helped transform immaterial forms like video and net.art into a new generation of physical, sellable objects. Underscoring the gallery-friendly moment, "Holy Fire: Art of the Digital Age" at Bruxelles's iMAL Center for Digital Cultures and Technology presents a show of works already for sale on the art market. While it's not surprising to find a younger crew who came of age within the current market (Eddo Stern, Cory Arcangel, Paul Slocum), more significant are the first-generation net.art names who have ditched their former outsider status and joined the commercial club: note the inclusion of Jodi, Vuk Cosic, Alexei Shulgin, and Olia Lialina, as well as later, politically-pointed artists like 01001011101101.ORG and Joan Leandre. (As corollary, observe that old media have



- to produce media artworks with innovative use of technologies, raising new forms of aesthetic expressions and/or critical issues about our world.

- to help artists in their projects with advise (artistic and technical), funding research, workplace and equipment, first public show, support for diffusion and promotion

- often supported through our artists residency programme







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#### White Square (2002)

interactive installation

Hanna Haaslhati (Fi) with

Yves Bernard (Be)

A poetic immersive environment, a platform for encounters and collaborative behaviors

Acquired by Concertgebouw,

Brugge in 2002



#### WHITE SQUARE an interactive installation by Hanna

Haaslahti with Yves Bernard (2002-2003)

White Square was first presented at Kunstahalle Lophem, in the framework of the Symptomania exhibition (Finish Contemporary Photography, Film, Video and Interactive Art), 14.9.2002 - 18.12.2002, Kunsthalle Lophem.

Since the Helsinki exhibition at Kiasma beginning of 2003, White Square has many new features proposing more complex collaborative behaviors between users. White Square was exhibited at:

<u>Filmwinter</u> Festival for Expanded Media, Stuttgart, Jan 2004 <u>VIPER</u> festival, Basle, 2003 <u>VIDA6.0</u>, Madrid, 2003 <u>F2F Brussels</u>, 24.10.2003 - 5.12.2003 <u>Kiasma</u>, Helsinki, 16.1.2003 - 16.3.2003 Art in Motion, <u>AIM IV Interference Patterns</u>

Los Angeles, 15.2.2003 - 13.4.2003



### OFFFCAM (2004)

videomaton + web

Yves Bernard and Walter

Verdin

A social platform where everyone has 6 seconds to be a video star or anything else (pre-YouTube age).

OFFFCAM recorded 3.000 video portraits since 2004.





Jump! (2005) interactive installation

Yacine Sebti

Go back to childhood, forget the stress of adult life, just jump and print yourself in a collective video creation. Shown at the 5th Media Art Biennale - Mediacity, Seoul, 2008. JUMP!

an interactive installation by Yacine Sebti (2005)

Yacine designed "Jump!" for the visitor's pleasure. If he or she is ready to go back to childhood, to forget the tensions and stress of adult life, then he (she) can start jumping in the air: just jump and let your image go and print a bit of yourself in this constantly moving and changing collective video creation. "Jump!" is an immersive game for children from 7 to 77 years old.

Jump! was nominated at the International Festival for Film, Video and New Media <u>VIPER 05</u>, Basle, March 2006.

#### EXHIBITIONS

<u>Crea Numerica</u>, Beirut, September 2009 <u>BVAM 2009</u>, Santiago de Chile, August 2009 <u>Wired Festival 2009</u>, Den Haag, July 2009 <u>STRP 2009</u>, Eindhoven, April 2009 <u>Smartival</u>, Bruxelles, October 2008 <u>Media City 2008</u>, Seoul, September 2008 <u>Mol.-St-Jean</u>, Brussels, May 2008 <u>FILE</u>, Porto Alegre and Rio de Janeiro, Feb-Apr 2008 <u>eArts</u>, Ars Electronica, Shanghai, Nov. 2007 <u>Storm op komst</u>, Turnhout, April 2007 <u>Temps d'Images</u>, Montréal, February 2007 <u>Atelier du Web</u>, Bruxelles, May 2006 <u>Brakke Grond</u>, Amsterdam, April 2006 <u>Ping2</u>, Sataronja, Mallorca, October 2005 <u>Centre Culturel du Brabant Wallon</u>, April 2005

Center for digital cultures and technology

Salt Lake (2007) immersive environment Tom Heene & Yacine Sebti

A unique experience inside the media inferno. An hybrid work at the border between immersive environment, cinema, video game and interactive work. Selected by the 5th Media Art Biennale -Mediacity, Seoul, 2008. Nominated for File Prix Lux, Brazil, 2010





Exhibited at Ixelles, 2006 and Vooruit, Almost Cinema, Gand, 2007

### Synapse (2007)

interactive video installation

**Pascale Barret** 

What does « being a woman » mean? The body as an artist? How can I establish communication, how can I make contact with the « others »? And make a concrete substitution created by a violent and repeated shock on the virtual wall that separates me from the visitor. I want the visitor to be confronted to my deformed body envelope, all wrapped in some adhesive tape.





### The Gate (2007)

hybrid environment (RL + SL) Yves Bernard, Yannick Antoine. The Gate is both an installation and a collaborative performance platform. The Gate connects the Real Life and Second Life (SL), it acts as a junction point, a door between the two worlds and two representation spaces.

Exhibited at Fantastic Illusions, Buda, Kortrijk, 2009-2010. Invited at Bienale of Shanghai, October 2010





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### Oups! (2007)

interactive installation by Marcio Ambrosio with Yacine Sebti.

This project was born from the wish to mix new technologies and classic animation in a playful and artistic way. Each animated sequence has a script and the visitor interacts and transforms himself into an actor of this story.

Grand Prize at Japan Media Arts

Festival, 2008





Movie in a Frame (2008) art appliance Yacine Sebti Move in a frame questions the mirror,

but through space and time.





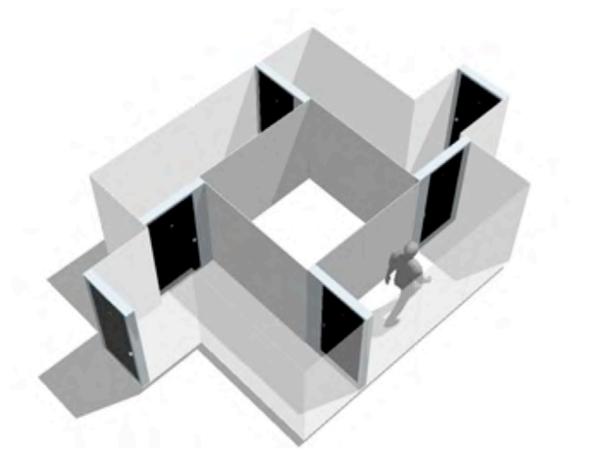
Exhibited at STRP Festival, Eindhoven, 2009

### Past Forward (2009)

installation

Nicolas Dufranne with Damier Gernay and Félix Luque.

The spectator will experience her/h own limits in regards to her/his ima Once something is filmed or photographed, it's already past. In in real time does not exist. Only the spectator exists, in her/his loneline: and present.



Exhibited at Ixelles, Chapelle de Boondaal, 2009



#### Chapter 1 - The Discovery

(2009)

installation

Félix Luque.

An encounter with an unidentified artificial entity as real than fictional. The installation reformulates some modern philosophical questions about mankind and technology through the use of images associated with science fiction culture and myths around artificial intelligence.





Nominated and exhibited at Transmediale, Berlin, Feb. 2010, and New Media Award Stichting Liedts-Meessen, Ghent, Apr. 2010. Honorary mention at Ars Electronica Festival, 2010.

### Nihil ex Nihilo (2010)

installation

Félix Luque.

Are computers becoming intelligent entities, but mad ones all talking together and overflowing us with spams? What happens when these artificial brains controlled by unknown forces try to escape and when their web dialogues become absurd, entropic and uncontrollable?





First exhibition at iMAL, September 2010.





Since 2002, IMAL produces professional workshops targeted to creative people (artists, designers, developers,...) under the direction of recognised artists (e.g. Solu, Casey Reas, HC Hilje, Telco, David Rokeby, Jasch, Julian Oliver, Jonah Brucker-Cohen, Eric Singer, Kim Cascone,...)



nd technology

IMAL workshops are:

- attended by international and multidisciplinary participants
- practical and theoretical, given by artists for artists
- fun, in one of the friendliest district of Brussels
- affordable...





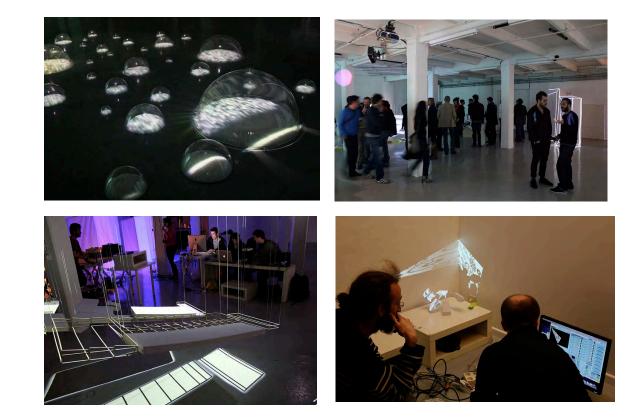
IMAL workshops are:

- usually ending with a public event (performance/exhibition)





iMAL openLABs are project-oriented masterclasses with exhibition of results. Participants are selected through a call for projects. The openLAB is under the coaching of a leading artist.

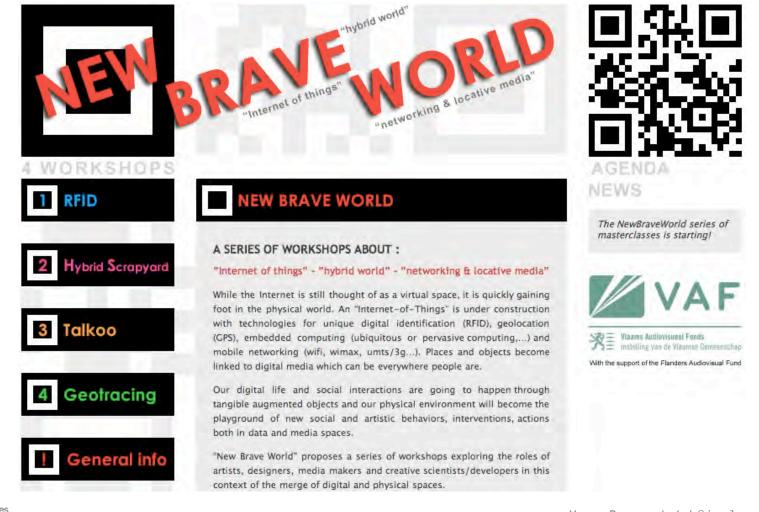


Yves Bernard (yb@imal.org) September, 2011

Projections on forms and Spaces with HC Gilje

(2011)

2008-2009 Masterclasses : NewBraveWorld series



Center for digital cultures and technology

Introduction workshops: Summer Digital Art workshops (since 2005)

#### STAGES DE JUILLET/AOÛT 10 LES ATELIERS NUMERIQUES D'IMAL

Vidéo Temps Réel - Analyse de Mouvements - 3D temps Réel - Physical Modeling - Art du Code - Physical Computing - Web Collaboratif (PureData/GEM - Processing - Arduino - OpenGL - SPIP/CSS - WordPress - PHP/MySQL)

every year

around 80 participants

iMAL a lancé les stages d'été en 2005 (consultez les <u>archives</u>), et suite à la demande continue, nous remettons cela en 2010 pour la sixième édition! Au programme: 5 stages qui s'étaleront du 13 juillet au 13 août 2010, et qui tous utilisent des logiciels libres!

Les 5 stages abordent des techniques et expressions de plus en plus utilisées dans les arts visuels, les installations, les arts de la scène, les performances audio-visuelles, ou les arts numériques (net art, art du code, interactivité) en introduisant des pratiques basées sur des logiciels libres (open source).

Deux stages permettent d'aborder et approfondir l'environnement PureData/GEM aux travers de problématiques telles que vidéo temps réel, analyse de mouvements, 3d temps réel et modélisation de systèmes physiques.

Un stage est consacré à l'art du code, matière de plus en plus présente dans les créations actuelles. Il est suivi d'un stage proposant une introduction au Physical Computing, ou comment rendre "sensible" un ordinateur en lui connectant de l'électronique (capteurs, moteurs, relais,...).

Un stage se concentre sur la création de plateformes de contenus collaboratifs sur le web dans une approche 'logiciel libre'.

- Stage 1 : Introduction à l'Art du Code Processing
- Stage 2 : Physical Computing Arduino
- Stage 3 : PureData, une introduction
- Stage 4 : 3D Temp Réel et modèles physiques PureData
- Stage 5 : Site Web Collaboratif Plateforme de Contenus

#### **Conditions de Participation**

Ces stages sont accessibles à tout artiste, étudiant en art, designer, infographiste, vidéaste, programmeur, enseignant en arts visuels... désirant s'initier aux nouveaux outils créatifs issus du numérique (18 ans ou +).

#### Inscription

Inscrivez-vous à temps en remplissant soigneusement le(s) formulaire(s) en ligne du ou des stages que vous voulez suivre (voir plus bas)!

Attention : le nombre de place est limité (max. 15 personnes).

#### Lieu

Les stages se donnent à iMAL, 30 Quai des Charbonnages, 1080 Bruxelles (le long du canal, métro Comte de Flandre). La salle est équipée d'ordinateurs en réseau, d'un vidéoprojecteur, et d'un tableau :-)

#### Horaires

Les cours se donnent de 10h à 18h00 avec interruption d'une heure le midi.



Introduction workshops: Code, Arts and Craft (continuous support)



About | Media Gallery |

#### Electroluminescent wires & Computer vision

We open this new season of the Code, Arts & Crafts workshops with 2 new topics, one exploring the EL wires trend, the other reviewing the basis of computer vision through the OpenCV library for Processing.



# iMAL : a Laboratory for Arts, Sciences, Technologies

VIRAGE (2009- february 2010) : a Research Project funded by Agence Nationale de la Recherche (FR) and Ministère de la Recherche (Communauté française) on new control interfaces and scripting tools for artistic creation and cultural industries. The consortium is composed of University labs (LIMSI/CNRS, Labri, CICM,...) small innovative companies (JazzMutant/Stanton, Blue Yeti,... and media art centers (GMEA, Cie Incidents Mémorables/

Didascalie, iMAL).

Territoires instables Laura Colmenares Guerra



Oh Peer, my Teddy! / Pascale Barret



M/M ?! this is not YOU Yacine Sebti





# iMAL : a Laboratory for Arts, Sciences, Technologies

VIRAGE (2009- february 2010) :

3 experimental art projects



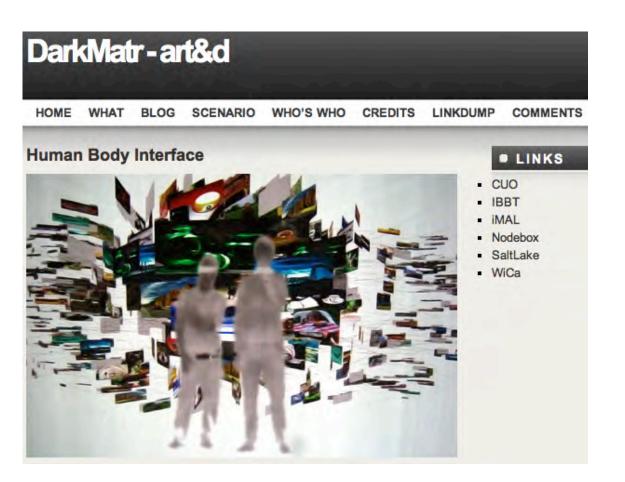




# iMAL : a Laboratory for Arts, Sciences, Technologies

IBBT Art&D project (2009) : for artists and scientists to develop together innovative projects triggering the advanced development of technologies (funded by Flanders government). iMAL hosted 3 residencies of Tom Heene and his group or artists and scientists for his project 'Dark Matter'.





A programme of public events to connect different communities:

artists, scientists, tinkerers, hackers, creative people, curious & amateurs,...

Arts & Sciences conferences

Dorkbot BRU

SHARE BRU

Tech Meetings

**Open Platform** 





Arts/Sciences Conferences



26 May 2011

#### Arts/Sciences#9: Jean-Baptiste Labrune

Presentations Arts Sciences

iMAL invites Jean-Baptiste Labrune, a scientific researcher interested in the development of creative tools using new technologies.



#### Arts/Sciences#8: Emmanuel Mahé 28 October 2010

#### Presentations Arts Sciences

Researcher and specialist in emerging uses of information and communication technology, Emmanuel Mahé (FR) will outline an archaeological approach of the speed in all its contemporary forms. In parallel, he will propose a reading of the current craze of the art world for...



#### Arts/Sciences#7: Philippe Bekaert & Eric Joris

Presentations Arts Sciences

Philippe Bekaert is professor at Expertise Center for Digital Media (Hasselt University) and has a long experience of collaboration with artists, especially Eric Joris from CREW. Since 2003, they are working together on the production of interactive augmented reality...



#### Arts/Sciences#6: Christian Jacquemin

16 September 2009

#### Presentations Arts Sciences

Professor in computer sciences at Paris University II and researcher at LIMSI-CNRS, Christian Jacquemin (FR) has worked on several Arts/Sciences projects and has led and taken part in several workshops on the topic. He is especially interested in virtual and augmented...



#### Arts/Sciences#5: Anne-Mie Van Kerckhoven 12 November 2008

#### Presentations Arts Sciences

For near 30 years, AMVK is interested in the relationships between arts & sciences along her continuous artistic exploration of sex, cyber-feminism, technology and representation. A lecture in our Rendez-Vous programme.



Dorkbot BRU

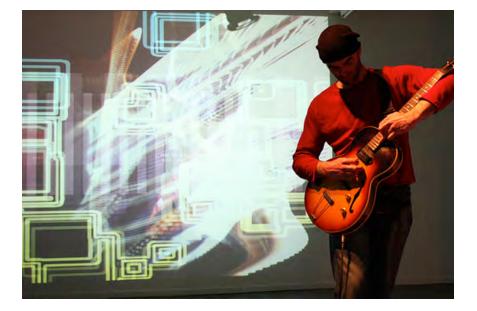








#### SHARE BRU



Support and infrastructure for new media communities worldwide.



multimedia jam.

A regular open

A place to experiment,





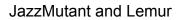
Yves Bernard (yb@imal.org) September, 2011

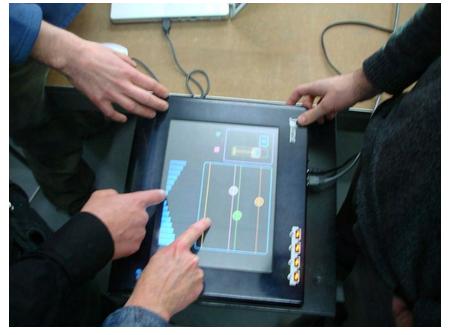
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**Tech Meetings** 

#### Rémi Dury and the KRL









Open Platform: iMAL hosts many other events

- seminars, lectures (e.g. Internet of Things)
- project presentations
- concerts, performances
- clubbing, DJ,... (e.g. CatClub)
- ⇒ iMAL is established as an active cultural venue in Brussels





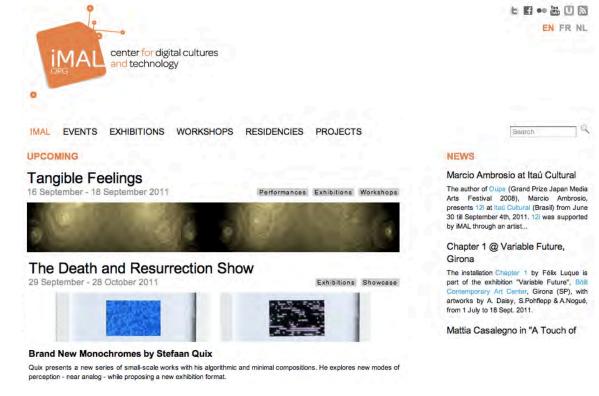
## iMAL : www.imal.org

The main instrument for our communication, promotion and community development:

- a Living Archive and Medialibrary:

10 years of activities, a growing resource for the communities

- a promotional and diffusion tool for the artists and their productions
- trilingual EN/FR, NL....
- online venue and physical venue amplify each other





# iMAL : online social platforms

iMAL documents its activities on many online social platforms:

Use the Internet to get off the Internet,

to foster f2f meetings and grow local communities!

- YouTube
- Flickr
- Facebook, iMAL newsletters with 30.000 subscribers
- ustream.com, with archives of our video streaming events

iMAL archive 2000-2006

F2F exhibition,

iMAL, Brussels,

Yacine Sebti AV

performance.

imagicy

13 views

imagicy 7 views

=>

strenghten the many communities

around iMAL



imagicy 44 view



242.pilots live in Brussels, 2002 imagicy 114 views



Related videos

category: Other

category: Other

category: Other

category: Other

You Tube

DurationalPerformance\_Lecture

Entertainment DorkbotBRU#6: part1 (ESAPV-Mons)

Entertainme

Entertainment



Eric Vernhes AV concert, iMAL, imagicy 6 views





Deep Wall by Scott

52 views

Arts/Sciences #7 - Philippe Bekaert & Eric Joris (CREW)



IAM exhibitions 10 sets

flickr

USTREAM

1-4 of 20

**iMAL** events 19 sets



**NewBraveWorld** workshops 4 sets

Yves Bernard (yb@imal.org) September, 2011





URL: http://www.youtube.com/user/imagicy#grid/user/08ECDFDB6408C368

White Square at

F2F, Brussels,

SCHIMmelLAB

during OFFF04.

imagicy

28 view

imagicy

22 views



Chocolate Heart

Brand Body by

Tammenpaa at

imagicy

S.S.S. at

imagicy

37 views

Infiltrations

This online archive is the result of a first effort to preserve our media art video documentation from 2000 to 2006 and share it with the largest audience. Enjoy it!



David Rokeby's workshop at iMAL imagicy 45 views



Hysterus by Eric Vernhes and Marc imagicy 29 views



Bernard & Walter imagicy

45 views







# iMAL : wikimal

Coming soon...

A new collaborative tool to support the community

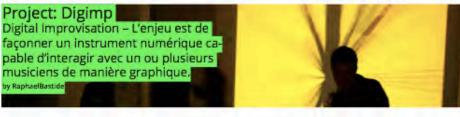
- Complementary to our workshops, masterclasses....
- Sharing, repository of knowledge, how-tos, \_
- Built by Contributors -
- Structured around projects, resources, \_ classes, tags

Home How-tos Ressources Projects FabLab Classes Contributors

#### wikimal

a platform for sharing knowledge and projects around iMAL lab

Featured < >



#### Latest how-tos

Latest contributors

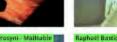
#### Latest projects +add

#### +add











#### Browse



Browse

Ressources



FabLab

Browse



Tags Arduino # Midi Electronics Kinect

Protocols Electronics Processing UDP/OSC



Why such a diversity of activities for a small organisation ?

The MediaLab problem:

often isolated from general audience, closed circuit process,

the isolationist syndrome...

The Art Center problem:

often disconnected from creative people and processes,

the institution syndrome...



A range of activities for many different communities / audiences, from general public to:

Art & Culture Amateurs, Sciences & Technology Amateurs

Tinkerers, DIY, bricoleurs,...

Artists, Designers, Creative people, Developers, Hackers

Scientists, Engineers

Academics (IT and Social Sciences), Educators, Professors, Teachers,...

Art Galleries & Collectors, Art professionals,...

Entrepreneurs, businessmen, decision makers, politics

Brussels people (and Europeans), young and less young, informal and formal,...



A range of activites for many different communities / audiences to:

Mix, Connect, Discover, Exchange,...

Empower, Cross-fertilize, Collaborate and Evolve:

an amateur becomes a creative actor, a bricoleur becomes an artist,

a scientist becomes an artist or helps an artist,...

an artist becomes part of an academic research group,...

Dialogue and Confrontation : what you do is given back to and seen by the others...

See, Listen, Discover <-> Learn, Share, Experiment <-> Create, Act, Produce,....



- an efficient cultural and creative factory  $\Rightarrow$
- established as a well-known cultural venue connected with the city and its inhabitants  $\Rightarrow$
- working to discover emerging creative talents, support them to produce innovative artworks or  $\Rightarrow$ activities and products
- to encourage them in developing (micro-)communities  $\Rightarrow$
- connect and promote them on local & global levels  $\Rightarrow$



# iMAL: what's next?

More active in the social and urban development of our neighborhood, working with local communities (young, immigrants,...) and local actors and partners.

In 2012, Festival Kanal!





### iMAL: what's next?

FabLab BRU: opening in 2012 !

Accessible to the Creative Communities, to the locals and local associations. To enable citizens...

Linked with open design, the post-digital & open industrial revolution...

