

PARC



SAINT LÉGER

EXHIBITION  
FROM 29 MAY TO 28 AUG. 2016

TENSION  
ECONOMY

WITH MATHIEU KLEYEBE ABONNENC,  
LAWRENCE ABU HAMDAN, ZBYNĚK BALADRÁN,  
ÉRIC BAUDELAIRE, JULIEN BISMUTH, MAXIME BONDU,  
ANETTA MONA CHIŞA & LUCIA TKÁČOVÁ,  
NEMANJA CVIJANOVIĆ, LORETO MARTÍNEZ TRONCOSO,  
ROMAN ONDÁK, CHRISTODOULOS PANAYIOTOU,  
SÉBASTIEN RÉMY, MATTHIEU SALADIN, CHARLOTTE SEIDEL,  
REMCO TORENBOSCH, CYRIL VERDE, MARIE VOIGNIER,  
LOIS WEINBERGER, CARLA ZACCAGNINI,  
AS WELL AS H.A. SCHWARTZ, EICHSTAEDT, KERN,  
DZIURZYNSKI, RAMONES, AGRAWAL, SHAH, KOSINSKI,  
STILLWELL, SELIGMAN, UNGAR

Curators: Émile Ouroumov  
with Catherine Pavlovic

PRESS RELEASE

CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN

Through the works of some twenty artists from various countries and generations, along with a group of scientists, the show titled “Économie de la tension” (Tension Economy) aims to explore in what ways these practices take a stance on current issues.

The title of the show reappropriates the notion of the “attention economy” recently analyzed by the researcher Yves Citton in *Pour une écologie de l’attention* and *L’Économie de l’attention. Nouvel horizon du capitalisme?* (2014) According to this theory, in a world in which there is an overabundance of information, our attention regimes are henceforth characterized by intellectual availability as a scarce resource – at the risk of transforming minds into commodified capital. Far from being something recent, the observed phenomenon has only expanded with the Industrial Age, gradually becoming hegemonic with technological advances at a time when digital networks are widespread. It concerns such diverse spheres as the economy, advertising, the media, education, research, and culture, by focusing in a biased way on a limited set of parameters and an obsession with the quantity rather than the quality of attention. “More broadly, each time an evaluation process is set up (of government services, hospitals, schools, etc.), that process contributes to actively *producing* the values it claims to be content to objectively *observe*, creating recursive loops that overwhelm our compasses.”<sup>1</sup>

What is art’s position with respect to this “attention race,” and what are artists’ role and degree of involvement in society?

In France, with the spring of 2016 we see a desire to reappropriate public affairs. Redefining the participatory character of a democracy, this new awareness goes beyond the formal framework of traditional social movements. It takes shape notably around the popular protest movement known as “Nuit debout” (Up at Night), which has opened a new type of space for debates and proposals. The mistrust there of the mass media gives voice to a desire to renegotiate the field of attention in the space of media, rethink the tools for analyzing society, and even create new ones that reflect a plurality of viewpoints.

It is interesting to compare this new societal desire with those in the field of art. Not inaccurately a recent article entitled “Il se passe quelque chose... (sauf dans la culture)”<sup>2</sup> critiques the superficial commitment of and comfortable distance that

is maintained by the art world in general and its institutions in particular—commitment and distance being given voice in statements that remain empty rhetoric.

The debate touching on the social function and usefulness of art is certainly nothing new. In particular, the 20th century witnessed a divergence between modernism, which defended the specificity of the esthetic domain, and the avant-gardes, which aimed to abolish the distinction between art and life. In the wake of this contrast, various practices were born, like institutional critique, and socially engaged or participatory art, whose effectiveness and legacy would be diluted against a backdrop of the exponential commodification of contemporary art. From another historical perspective, ironically the Eastern Bloc recognized the transformational character of art and its capacity to monopolize minds and hold one's attention by their being enlisted in the service of propaganda.

In a rich, feverish intellectual climate, “Économie de la tension” would like to take back the production tool that is embodied by the art center as a platform for experimentation and a sound box for the plurality of viewpoints that define the art community. Thus, the show envisions the physical and symbolic space of the art center and the attention of its audience as devices for analysis and applying artistic strategies before the authority of political, cultural, or media discourses. Their partial enumeration—observation, examination, irony, deconstruction, resistance, infiltration, perturbation, imposture, and a quest for identity—implies a rift in the hierarchy of behaviors, a tension that has been introduced in the artistic, civic and political domains.

Émile Ouroumov

<sup>1</sup> “L’attention, un bien précieux,” interview with Stéphanie Arc and Yves Citton, *CNRS Le journal*, 17/07/2014. <https://lejournal.cnrs.fr/articles/lattention-un-bien-precieux>

<sup>2</sup> Jean-Marc Adolphe, “Il se passe quelque chose... (sauf dans la culture),” *Mediapart*, 19/04/2016. <https://blogs.mediapart.fr/jean-marc-adolphe/blog/190416/il-se-passe-quelque-chose-sauf-dans-la-culture>. [The title of the article roughly translates as “Something’s happening... (except in culture)”—Trans.]

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## EXHIBITION OPENING

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Saturday 28 May 2016 from 5 to 9 pm  
6.30 pm

INTERVENTION BY  
LORETO MARTÍNEZ TRONCOSO  
*EL AIRE QUE YO RESPIRO*  
*ES EL AIRE QUE TÚ RESPIRAS*

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## OTHER EXHIBITION SPACE

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NEMANJA CVIJANOVIĆ  
*THE MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY*  
*OF THE IDEA OF THE INTERNATIONALE*

will be on display at the Prieuré,  
La Charité-sur-Loire  
from 25 May to 28 August 2016.

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## EX-TENSION

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A special evening related to the show  
that is scheduled to take place  
at Parc Saint Léger

Saturday 4 June,  
5 pm

### OPEN STUDIO EVENT

Selket Chlupka and Nicholas Vargelis,  
artists in residency at the art center from  
March to May 2016.

6 pm

### PROGRAM OF SOUND PIECES

by postgraduate students in  
"Art et créations sonores" at the École  
Nationale Supérieure d'Art of Bourges,  
using Nicolas Floc'h's *Plateforme*,  
installed in the park.

8 pm

### INTERVENTION-SCREENING

by Sébastien Rémy and Cyril Verde  
in connection with their *ACME* project.

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## CONVERSATIONS

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Parc Saint Léger invites you to  
a series of talks on contemporary art,  
every Sunday at 4 pm.

As part of the series,  
two events are scheduled:

Sunday 5 June

### WITH ÉMILE OIROUMOV

Curator of the exhibition

Sunday 19 June

### WITH ÉLIE GUÉRAUT

PhD student in sociology

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## WRITING WORKSHOP

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Saturday 25 June from 10 am to 5 pm

HEADED BY PIERRE BASTIDE,  
A WORKSHOP FOR PARTICIPANTS  
TO WRITE FREELY ON THE PIECES  
FEATURED IN THE SHOW

Free admission, registration required  
(limited seating)

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## FAMILY WORKSHOP

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Sunday 24 July at 3 pm

TOUR OF THE SHOW FOLLOWED  
BY A WORKSHOP AND A SNACK

5-years-old and older.

Free admission, registration required

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## LECTURE

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Thursday 15 September at 6:30 pm  
WITH IGOR GALLIGO

researcher with the Ministry of Culture  
and Communication (DREST) / EnsadLab

Exhibition from 29 May to 28 August 2016.  
Open Tuesday to Sunday from 2 to 7pm and by request.  
Closed 14 July 2016. Free admission.

Press contact : Léa Merit  
lea.merit@parcsaintleger.fr

A free shuttle will run between Paris and the venue on the day of the opening:  
Departure: 2.00 pm, Paris (Denfert-Rochereau)  
Return: 9.00 pm, Pougues-les-Eaux  
Reservation required: 03 86 90 96 60  
or with Léa Merit : lea.merit@parcsaintleger.fr

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région BOURGOGNE  
FRANCHE-COMTÉ



la Charité  
sur Loire

Le Parc Saint Léger est membre de d.c.a.,  
association pour le développement des centres d'art,  
et de Arts en résidence – Réseau national.