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TECHNOLOGY : ART : SOCIETY

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Technology : Art : Society :
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// 17 MAY 2007 //

:: **politics under fire** ::

[<http://ctrlconference.org>]

[<http://upgrademtl.org>]

A one day symposium on technology, art and society. Featuring: keynote speaker McKenzie Wark (New School, NYU); a discussion with local artists and activists on democracy, art and media; and an evening cabaret of video-art, new media and electronic music performance. *Free / gratuit & open to the public.*

:: **schedule** ::

- 10H - 12:00 **GRADUATE SEMINAR with McKENZIE WARK**
Open to McGill graduate students only. Email: seminar@ctrlconference.org
Thomson House Room 404, 3635 McTavish St., McGill
- 12H - 13:30 **SEMINAR LUNCH for participants**
Banquet Room, Thomson House, 3635 McTavish St., McGill
- 14H - 15:30 **DEMOCRACY, ART & MEDIA: PANEL**
With members of the Levier Project, Oboro, Centre Canadien d'Architecture (CCA), Fair Trade Media & Île Sans Fil.
Banquet Room, Thomson House, 3635 McTavish St., McGill
- 16H - 18:00 **McKENZIE WARK: GAMER THEORY**
Keynote talk, Adams Auditorium, 3450 University St., McGill
- 18H - 20:00 **Time for dinner.**
- 20:00H - 24 **UpgradeMTL :: POLITICS UNDER FIRE ::**
Vidéo-art & musique expérimentale / video-art screening & experimental music. Présentation par RYBN, France. Performances par Tara Rodgers, Doug van Nort, Javier Arciniegas, tobias.dj. Featuring video-artists Rozalinda Borcila, Ondrej Brody & Kristofer Paetau, Andrew Lynn, The Vacuum Cleaner.
Society for Arts and Technology (SAT), 1195 St. Laurent



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McKENZIE WARK: GAMER THEORY

16H - 18:00 _ Keynote talk, Adams Auditorium, 3450 University St., McGill

Free / Gratuit and open to the public / ouvert au publique.

McKENZIE WARK is Professor of Cultural and Media Studies at Lang College, New School University. He is the author of several books, most recently *Dispositions* and *A Hacker Manifesto*. Wark investigates the politics and economies of digital and online technologies and is well known for his contributions to critical net communities such as Nettime. Steven Shaviro writes that "McKenzie Wark's *A Hacker Manifesto* is a remarkable and beautiful book: cogent, radical, and exhilarating, a politico-aesthetic call to arms for the digital age. [...] If his Manifesto has its deepest roots in the Western Marxist tradition, from Marx himself through Lukacs and Benjamin to the Situationists, it also draws heavily on Deleuze and Guattari's notions of the 'virtual', as well as Mauss' theory of the gift. At the same time, it relates directly to the practices (and the ethos) of the free software movement, of DJs producing mash-ups, and of radical Net and software artists."

[<http://www.ludiccrew.org/wark/>]

KEYNOTE TALK :: GAMER THEORY ::

Ever get the feeling that life's a game with changing rules and no clear sides, one you are compelled to play yet cannot win? Welcome to gamespace. Gamespace is where and how we live today. It is everywhere and nowhere: the main chance, the best shot, the big leagues, the only game in town. In a world thus configured, McKenzie Wark contends, digital computer games are the emergent cultural form of the times. Where others argue obsessively over violence in games, Wark approaches them as a utopian version of the world in which we actually live. Playing against the machine on a game console, we enjoy the only truly level playing field--where we get ahead on our strengths or not at all.

[<http://www.futureofthebook.org/gametheory/>]

Gamer Theory uncovers the significance of games in the gap between the near-perfection of actual games and the highly imperfect gamespace of everyday life in the rat race of free-market society. The book depicts a world becoming an inescapable series of less and less perfect games. This world gives rise to a new persona. In place of the subject or citizen stands the gamer. As all previous such personae had their breviaries and manuals, Gamer Theory seeks to offer guidance for thinking within this new character. Neither a strategy guide nor a cheat sheet for improving one's score or skills, the book is instead a primer in thinking about a world made over as a gamespace, recast as an imperfect copy of the game.



DEMOCRACY, ART & MEDIA: PANEL

14H - 15:30 _ Banquet Room, Thomson House, 3635 McTavish St., McGill

Free / Gratuit and open to the public / ouvert au publique.

The community panel for this Symposium will feature Montréal collectives and organizations working in technology arts and new media. Linking together theoretical frameworks with local curatorial practice, arts production and media democratization, the community panel will seek to engage the ethical and political dimensions of their work. FEATURING:

Devora Neumark, Levier Project [<http://www.engrenagenoir.ca>]

Adam Bobbette, Centre Canadien d'Architecture (CCA) [<http://www.cca.qc.ca>]

Dru Oja Jay, Fair Trade Media [<http://fairtrademedia.com/>]

Michael Lenczner, Île Sans Fil [<http://www.ilesansfil.org>]

Aaron Pollard, Directeur technique, Oboro [<http://www.oboro.net>]

Moderator: **Anna Feigenbaum**, [CTRL] Collective [<http://ctrlconference.org>]

UPGRADEMTL :: POLITICS UNDER FIRE ::

20:00H - 24 _ Society for Arts and Technology (SAT), 1195 St. Laurent

Free / Gratuit and open to the public / ouvert au publique.



THEUPGRADEMTL

Vidéo-art & musique expérimentale / video-art screening & experimental music. Curators Horea Avram and tobias c. van Veen present works that tackle the social and political dimension of new media, from control and alternatives to control, strategies of democratization and access to creative tactics for confronting mechanisms of power.

20H30 + présentation "Anti-Data Mining" par **RYBN**, France. Rybn est un collectif transversal, issu des nouvelles pratiques liées au vjaying, aux musiques électroniques, aux technologies sensorielles et aux logiciels open sources.

[<http://www.rybn.org> / <http://www.antidatamining.net>]

21H15 + uninterrupted screening of video art. Featuring video-artists **Rozalinda Borcila**, **Ondrej Brody** & **Kristofer Paetau**, **Andrew Lynn** and **The Vacuum Cleaner**. Curated by Horea Avram.

22H30 + live electronic and experimental music. Performances par **Tara Rodgers**, **Doug van Nort**, **Javier Arciniegas**, **tobias.dj**. Also time for drinks.

UpgradeMTL is a global, autonomous organisation for the presentation of the technology arts. [<http://upgrademtl.org>] . Organised in Montréal by tobias c. van Veen, Sophie Le-Phat Ho and Anik Fournier.



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[CTRL]: TAS is sponsored by The Beaverbrook Fund for Media@McGill with assistance from the Post-Graduate Students Society and AHCS_GSA. TAS partners include UpgradeMTL, the Society for Art and Technology and the Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University. [CTRL]: TAS is Anna Feigenbaum, tobias c. van Veen & Horea Avram.

Mission

When conducting research into media, ethics and communications, critical scholarship takes as its object local communities and artistic practices as it studies the effects of technology upon society. It is rare, however, that representatives from community-based technology practices, curators and artists in the technology arts, and scholars in disciplines of communication, information and media have the opportunity to encounter each other in dialogue and the chance to engage with each other's practice. In the spirit of opening dialogue brought about by the study and practices of media, ethics and communications, we propose to spark a new, dynamic encounter between these fields by bringing together artists, community members and scholars in a one-day symposium and art event dedicated to Technology, Art and Society. This Symposium seeks to combine artistic, academic and community research and practices that crosses borders between genres and disciplines. We seek to foster a transdisciplinary, creative environment in which we can construct collective visions for democratizing technology within communities while cultivating the political and ethical potential of artistic practice.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

[ctrl] collective	[http://ctrlconference.org]
Anna Feigenbaum	anna @ctrlconference.org
Horea Avram	horea @ctrlconference.org
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The [ctrl] collective develops and supports collaborative events and projects that address, confront and intervene in modes and mechanisms of social, economic and institutional control. Bringing together researchers, artists and activists, [ctrl] fosters spaces for generating imaginative tactics to resist and create alternatives to a control society. :: WE ARE WATCHING YOU ::

UpgradeMTL _ <http://upgrademtl.org> | tobias@upgrademtl.org

The Upgrade is an international, emerging network of autonomous nodes united by art, technology, and a commitment to bridging cultural divides. Launched in 2004 as the third node in the international network, Upgrade MTL has sought to explore the limits of the technology arts through performance, exposition, presentation, installation, nomadism, intervention and cabaret. Upgrade MTL has featured diverse events bridging digital culture and the technology arts, from new media and net-art to electronic music and embodied performance. As a forum for feedback and discussion, the Upgrade has become a space in which to engage political questions concerning technology and the arts in Montreal. Upgrade MTL is supported by The Society for Arts and Technology (SAT).



:: ctrlconference.org ::