

Valérie Lamontagne – *Peau d'âne*

EXHIBITION

Peau d'âne

September 15 to October 20, 2007
 Opening: Saturday, September 15, 2007, at 5:00 pm
 the dresses will be presented from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, from noon to 5:00 pm

EVENT

Story Time: Peau d'âne

Saturday, September 29, 2007, at 3:00 pm
 as part of the Journées de la culture

From the Charles Perrault fairy tale *Peau d'âne*, Valérie Lamontagne draws on the motif of three fabulous dresses: one made out of moonbeams, one as warm and bright as the sun above and one cut out of the sky itself. Using innovative technologies and working with experienced collaborators, the artist has created three interactive dresses that react in real-time to atmospheric variations transmitted by a weather station installed on OBORO's roof. The colours of the moon dress vary according to the moon cycles; the illumination of the sun dress corresponds to the intensity of the sun's rays; and the sky dress swells and moves depending on the patterns of the wind. By making use of climate conditions in this manner, *Peau d'âne* addresses with an apparently banal subject matter, but one that hides valuable clues to our modes of cultural and social exchange. A multitude of performance possibilities emerge from these wearables, which bridge the worlds of fairy tales and technology.

At the opening, three dancers will wear the interactive dresses and mingle with the gallery public. The dresses will also animate the reading of Perrault's fairy-tale *Peau d'âne*, presented by the artist for the Journées de la culture.

Valérie Lamontagne is a Montréal-based performance/digital media artist, freelance art critic and independent curator. Her media-based artwork/performances (*Advice Bunny*, *Snowflake Queen*, *Sense Nurse*, *Mermaid of the Future*, *Sister Valerie of the Internet* and *Becoming Balthus*) have been showcased across Canada, the United States and Europe. She received an MFA from Concordia University (Montréal) where she presently teaches in the Design and Computation Arts program and she is a co-founder, with Brad Todd, of the media arts collective MobileGaze. She is presently a Ph.D. Candidate investigating "Relational and Ubiquitous Performance Art". <www.valerielamontagne.com>



sun dress. image : Giannina Urmeneta Uttiker, 2006

Valérie Lamontagne would like to thank the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and Groupe Molior for their generous support as well as Lynn van Gastel for the fashion designs, Patrice Coulombe and David Beaulieu for their technical development and project programming and I8U for the audio track.

