



un centre dédié à la production et à la présentation de l'art, des pratiques contemporaines et des nouveaux médias  
a centre dedicated to the production and the presentation of art, contemporary practices and new media

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EVENT

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MEDIATIONS

## MeMo: Real-time Visual Effects and Dancing Bodies

Soo Yeon Cho and Jean-Sébastien Rousseau

*Creative collaboration of an artist-choreographer-dancer  
and an artist-designer-programmer*

Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 5:30 pm



*Touch, Soo Yeon Cho and Jean-Sébastien Rousseau © M. Sutherland, 2007*

**T**wo artists share their interdisciplinary collaboration with a performative and interactive talk.

Consider the two an explorative duet. One, Soo Yeon Cho, is a choreographer and a dancer educated in contemporary dance and practices Korean dance, break-dance and capoeira. The other, Jean-Sébastien Rousseau, is a new media artist trained in real-time computer graphics, programming, scenography and design. Together they created *MeMo*: a personal and sensitive approach to examining movements via digital medias.

Merging bodies with computers and choreographies with projections, they are interested in the overlapping of new media and dance.

**Soo Yeon Cho** previously received her diploma in French Language and Literature, and worked in the French Embassy in Seoul, Korea. However, discovering her real life's interest in dance through three years of intensive training of martial arts, capoeira, she started practicing various forms of dance. Since then, Soo has pursued contemporary dance training in Montreal. Graduating with a BFA in contemporary dance from Concordia University, she is currently immersed in new/multimedia performance practices, and investigating personal forms using real-time video/audio processing and other computational arts. Soo has been involved in several new media and movement projects with the Topological Media Lab (*Ouija, Touch, Remedios' Terrarium*, the Mouvement/Media workshop), and recently performed *Forest/Wald*, a new media performance piece with interactive light and sound installation by internationally renowned installation artist Chris Ziegler and Sandeep Bhagwati.

With *MeMo*, Rousseau and Cho lead a series of experiments meant to fill the gap between sketches and prototypes and large-scale performances or productions. Through practical and theoretical research in issues such as the role of responsive media in dance or the development of protocols for creating experiments, sketches, performances and media artworks, *MeMo* hopes that the understanding of movement and media will help to reduce physical and psychological limitations on the dancer and the programmer. The creative duo surveys new ways of working together, of experiencing diverse sensations, of building a particular aesthetic to generate the 'building blocks' of movements and computer code that communicate in novel and poetic ways.

**Jean-Sébastien Rousseau** [JSR] is as an artist-designer-programmer in the field of new media. He mainly does freelance work/research for different companies and universities in Montreal. He also started mixar [mxr], a collective of artists who bring together (mix) art and research. At a professional level, JSR is happy when he is conceptualizing, constructing and programming systems or frameworks for realtime video processing and rendering. His works allow people to build interactive immersive environments, performative setups and architectural installations (temporary or permanent). JSR holds a degree in computation arts from Concordia University. Previously he spent some time at Montreal's Polytechnique, in Mechanical Engineering.

**Mediations** – From April to June 2009, *Mediations* is a program which provides to artists of all origins a unique opportunity to discover a collection of fascinating artists, whose career paths and work with new media are sure to stimulate through artist talks and workshops in audio art or video art.

This project receives the financial support of the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine and Ville de Montréal within the framework of the Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal 2009-2011.

For the complete program: <mediationsprogram.oboro.net>

DAM is an non-profit organization dedicated to Montreal's cultural and artistic diversity.

For more information on DAM: <diversiteartistique.org>



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- 30 -

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