

MACHINIMA WORKSHOP

borders and migration

Machinima workshops – the use of video and computer games to direct movies – aim to raise **autonomy towards our surrounding technologies** and more particularly video and computer games.

The machinima workshop on **borders and migration** was created in the frame of the **antiAtlas of borders**, a project on the mutations of borders in the XXIst century, that gathered 5 exhibitions, 2 international conferences, a website and a review.

The workshop, held by **Isabelle Arvers**, French curator of the antiAtlas of borders and Machinima Curator and the Egyptian game artist and machinima maker, **Ahmed El Shaer**, author of “Under Examination”, a machinima related to borders between the real and the virtual world

The aim is to add a **participative dimension to the understanding of the mutations of borders** and to the idea of migration by giving new types of tools like video and computer games to the audience, to give their personal perspective on the subject. A collaborative and creative process to better understand the main thematic of the antiAtlas of borders: the **border economy, borders, flux and networks, new forms of representations of the border, biographisation of the border and border systems of controls.**

The Machinimas are films made with game engines. Video games thus become a medium for storytelling.

Appeared at the beginning of our millennium, Machinimas now have their festivals dedicated and numerous digital film festivals and directing short films have devoted a section to this art. They are designed for the young generations by their content and visual codes, because video games are a medium they know and master. It is therefore interesting to get them to use game engines for writing and directing short films.



The workshops aim to transform an object of mass consumption and entertainment in a means of film production and expression. The workshop intends to create hybrid works (Machinima interactive, interactive installations, games in the city, musical games, ...).

Each step of the workshop can enable everyone to fit into a creative process: writing dialogue and scenes, set design, characters, direction of virtual actors, video editing, sound mixing and put online film made on a video platform.



aims

Public awareness on educational aspects of media: video game, image, video, sound, editing

To **assimilate, integrate a tool (video game)** in favour of an innovative cultural production

Educating young people in technical writing, reading, production and editing

Working on a **playful appropriation** of the first cultural object: the video game

Working in a group for a better perception of collective life, relationships with others

Uniting the forces and individual potential **around a common path**



The Machinima Game art workshop aims to address critically video games and art, as installation, performance, digital painting in motion, gaming, interactivity or video.



The workshop begins with a **screening of machinima and game artworks**. This screening shows the variety of games used to design films or videos, as well as the variety of approaches, from the fan fiction to the most experimental artworks.

For exemple, we can watch *World of electors*, the interviews between the two rounds of presidential elections in 2007, reworked in machinima by **Alex Chan**, *Don't buy me web*, a video blog on the net neutrality by **Chris Burke**, *Lord Vigilante*, the monologue of a woman taxi in GTA by **Eddo Stern** and **Jessica Hutchinson**, *Hotel*, a work of **Benjamin Nuel** that brings us inside the backstage of a fighting game and finally, *the Intimate Confessions* by **Systaime** which diverts the voices of TV reality shows into a very minimal machinima.

We can then watch game artworks by artists such as *Can you see me now*, a pervasive game of **Blast Theory**, *Wacco Resurrection*, a video game documentary by **Eddo Stern**, *Sam 5 year old killer* or *Free Fall 2011*, videos from games modified by **Palle Torsson** and contemplative installations by **Tobias Bernstrup**, *Mario is sleeping* by **Miltos Manetas**, or *I shot Andy Warhol* and *Super Mario clouds* of **Cory Arcangel**.

Following this presentation / projection, I show the **different production techniques of machinima**, with dedicated softwares like Moviestorm or Muvizu or with video games, like GTA or Fall OUT using FRAPS to capture video in real time.

creativ process

Discovery of machinima history

Screening of film excerpts and works of artists who use video games as a medium

Presentation of 3 techniques for the design of films

(video editors inside games, dedicated machinima softwares, capture in real-time of gameplay)

Introduction to screenplay, dialogues writing

How to set backgrounds & characters

How to record virtual actors movements and dialogues

Design of camera movements

Editing of footage shots, sound and music integration

Rending of film and upload on a video platform



format and duration

Format and duration are flexible and adaptable to each context and also depending on the expected results. Two workshop formats are available :

- a sensitization workshop with the discovery of short films made from vidéo games and techniques to achieve machinima making.

- creative workshops that lead to the design of short films or hybrid works between films and installations

The ideal time to design one or more films is 24 hours but it is possible to achieve very short films with workshops of 8 to 16 hours (the minimum duration of a workshop is between 2 and 3 hours)

technical specifications

Microsoft Windows XP/ Vista/ 7
(32 or 64-bit)

A PC with 2.4GHz processor

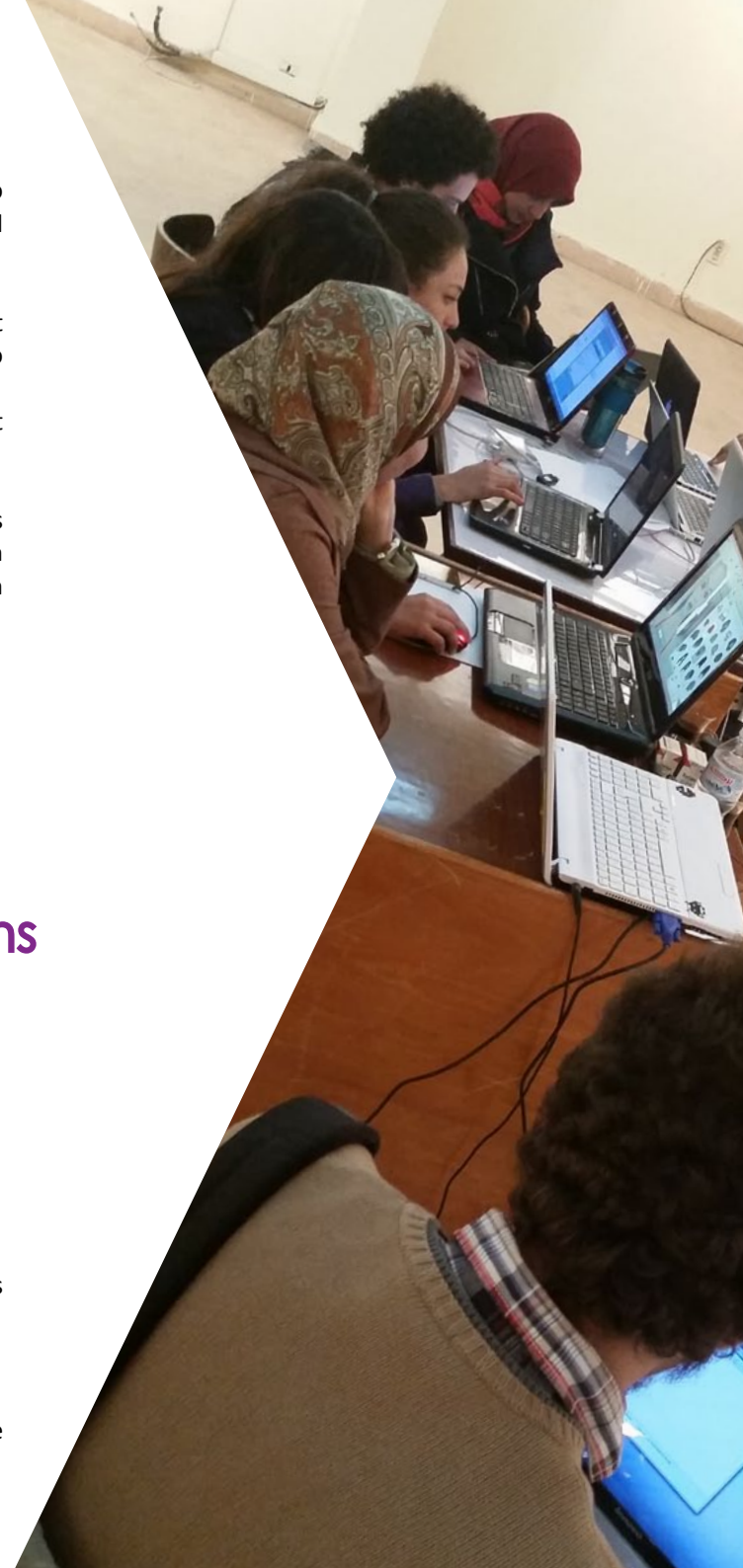
2GB of RAM

10GB of available hard disk space

A 32-bit colour display, capable of 1280×960 pixels resolution

A broadband internet connection

A dedicated 3D-capable graphics card (NVidia GeForce FX 5200 or better / ATi Radeon 9600 or better)



references

Open Crea PRIMI, Marseille

Workshop for professionals
La Boate - June 2011

Superior Art School, Cambrai

Creation workshop
12 students
3 x 6h: Feb. 5, 6, 7, 2012

Centre for Digital Media, Vancouver

Integration of the machinimas in the classes
(rapid prototyping, project management) - 2012

Web Visions Barcelone

With professionals of web design
8h : 27 juin 2013

Level Art Agora, Wroclaw

Creation workshop, 8 teenagers
3 x 6h: Nov. 13 to 15, 2013

Centre for Digital Media, Vancouver

With Master students - Nov. 2013

Ecole supérieure d'arts de Cergy

With students from the school
2 x 8h: Feb. 13 & 14, 2014

AntiAtlas of borders, La compagnie Marseille

Creation workshop with Ahmed El Shaer
2 groups of 8 teenagers
16h: Feb. from 24 to 28, 2014

Haute Ecole d'Art du Rhin, Mulhouse

With 8 students in graphic design
From January 26 to 29, 2015

Fayoum Art Center

With Ahmed El Shaer - 6 participants, artists
3 days, Feb. 2015

Faculty of Fine Arts Cairo

With Ahmed El Shaer - 12 participants
1 day, Feb. 2015

Faculty of Fine Arts, Alexandrie

With Ahmed El Shaer - 8 participants
1 day, Feb 2015

L'Atelier, Alexandrie

With Ahmed El Shaer - 10 participants
1 day, Feb. 2015





Isabelle Arvers

A graduate of the Political Sciences Institute and a Master in Management of cultural projects, Isabelle Arvers specializes in new media in 1993. Pioneer in the field of game art in France, she curated Playtime – the gaming room of Villette Numérique (2002), as well as the net.art gallery on “sound games”.

Her following exhibitions and projects then presented the video game as a new language and as a medium for artists: gameboy music concert at Project 101, Paris, 2004. She also curated Mind Control, a net.art exhibition for Banana RAM Ancona, Italy, 2004, and Node Runners game festival, for the Region Ile de France in Paris, 2004. Curator Reactivate under Gametime festival, Melbourne, Australia 2004 / 2005. Exhibition curator No Fun ! Games and the gaming experience for Píksel festival in Bergen, Norway, 2005. Playing Real, 2007. Gamerz 2009-2014 Digital Lounge at Maison Populaire, Montreuil, and Game Heroes at the Alcazar, Marseille, 2011.

From 2005, she is interested in machinima and organizes screenings at the Centre Pompidou, at festivals in France and abroad (Czech Republic, Brazil, Canada) since 2009, she organizes workshops initiation or completion of machinima.

She designed the first machinima exhibitions in art gallery and continues to work with curatorial exhibitions of independent games, game art and retrogaming in France with Dream Games, Games Policy, Games Reflexions and abroad with Evolution of Gaming, coming to Vancouver in August. She curates the End of the Map exhibition which will be presented in Paris during the fall 2015.

She has written for magazines like Arcadi, Amusement, MCD, Digitalarti, Etapes Graphiques and published critical essays on the work of game artists. She published an article on the machinima at MIT Press in 2010 : “Cheats or glitch, voice as a game modification in Machinima”.

In 2014, Isabelle Arvers launches Kareron, a non profit organization dedicated to the promotion, distribution and production of digital artworks and games.



Ahmed El Shaer

Born in 1981, Ahmed El Shaer is a multi-disciplinary artist whose practice spans the mediums of installation, photography, sound and video, with a particular interest in digital technologies. His videos combine Machinima, stock footage, 3D animation and experimental soundscapes. His work has been highlighted in numerous exhibitions and festivals, among which: «Experiments in Arab Cinema» at (Simon Fraser University) «SFU», Vancouver, Canada, 2013 and (Rochester University) New York, USA, 2014. «Long Saturday» during the program; (Window to the orient «Cairo») at «Bündner Kunstmuseum», Chur, Switzerland 2013. «Wavy Banner» exhibition and International symposium (ET4U) Denmark, 2013. «Emotional Intelligence Artificial», Open LAB Egypt Group for interactive arts, Cairo, Egypt, in Cooperation with Kazoosh Group in Dresden, Germany 2013. «Back to Square», Group Exhibition, The Lopez Memorial Museum, Manila, Philippines, 2013. (2012) Cairo Documenta, Disconnect, the Town House Gallery, Cairo, Egypt, (2011) Bamako Biennale, Bamako National Museum, Bamako, Mali.

He is the recipient of numerous awards and has participated in several residency programs, such as Art Omi Artist-in-Residence New York, USA, the Pro Helvetia Artist-in-Residence cycle (Zurich, Switzerland, 2009) and the Summer Academy of Fine Arts (Salzburg, Austria, 2006 and 2007).

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