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Zone Productions - Montreal

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This project received financial support

In Canada:
 Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal
 Industrie Canada
 The Banff Centre for the Arts
 ISEA 95 Montréal
 Accord Canada-France, Canadian Heritage
 SGI Montréal
 Calgary Microserv

ZA Productions - Paris

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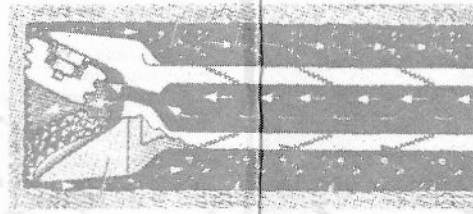
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Centre Georges Pompidou IRCAM

Martin Matalon: composer
 Frédéric Voisin: musical assistant
 Xavier Bordelais: sound mixing

This project received financial support

In France:
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A person enters on each side of the virtual tunnel that links the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal with the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. As the two progressively advance toward one another, the surface of the passageway they are in the process of forging reveals the equivalent of geological strata which are transformed in this context into iconographic strata. These discoveries enhance the dialogue

between the two protagonists. As well, each participant shares a complementary part of the same musical composition. Finally, on both sides of the ocean, a group of spectators watches the progression of these two explorers and the exchanges between them projected on a giant screen.

Freedom of exploration is one of the major characteristics of Tunnel sous l'Atlantique. The tunnels created are likely to evolve in all sorts of directions: they may go up or down, turn to the right or left, regardless of the angle of rotation. Users will thus be able to seek out fragments of images they have only seen certain details of. It becomes obvious that this project presents an interactive relationship that clearly surpasses the level of mere arborescence. Le Tunnel sous l'Atlantique attains a higher degree of interactivity due to a «supervisor» program that monitors users' more or less chaotic behaviour as they develop their exploration and interests. Toward this end, the system must administer three different types of data transmitted in both directions between Paris and Montreal: spatial coordinates and the orientation of each explorer; the sound of the dialogue and commentaries of both participants; and finally a picture of the face of each protagonist at the moment they meet (approximately 5 low-resolution images per second).

Maurice Benayoun produces creation videos, many of which have been selected and have won prizes at a number of international festivals. At Z.A. Productions, which he co-founded in 1988, he conducts ongoing research using 3D synthesis images, and has assumed artistic direction of special effects for several feature-length films. Since 1984, he has been teaching at the Université de Paris1 and actively participates in the work of the Centre de recherche et d'étude sur le Cinéma et les arts audiovisuels (CRECA) and the Centre de recherche sur l'image (CRI). His most recent work includes the series Les Quarxs, the first 35 mm 3D high-definition series, and two virtual reality productions: Dieu est-il plat? (Is God Flat?) and Le Diable est-il courbe? (Is the Devil Round?)

On both sides of the Atlantic, the Tunnel utilizes an ONYX SGI station, an Indy station, a Next station, an SGI digital camera, a Sharp projector, a RINS line and a system of quadraphonic sound.

Centre Georges Pompidou

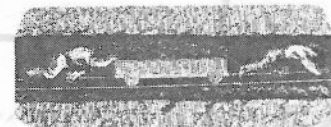
Part of ISEA95

Le Tunnel sous l'Atlantique

by Maurice Benayoun

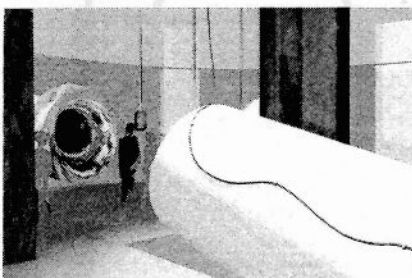
A Televirtual World Premiere

September 19 to 24, 1995



Le Tunnel sous l'Atlantique (The Tunnel Beneath the Atlantic) is an experimental work using televirtuality that allows users situated on each side of the Atlantic Ocean, in Paris and in Montreal, to meet and interact in a virtual space they have created together. The project is a creation of Maurice Benayoun.

A televirtual event by Maurice Benayoun
 Musical creation by Martin Matalon



Montréal
Zone-productions

Z.A. Production
Paris

