

Drummondville, Thursday, January 25, 2024

t.ether

An exhibition from duo aenl (Anna Eyler & Nicolas Lapointe)

It's with great pleasure that DRAC – Art actuel Drummondville presents from February 3 to March 10, 2024, the exhibition *t.ether* from the duo aenl, formed of Anna Eyler and Nicolas Lapointe.

Comprising a video, installations and interactive artworks, the multimedia exhibition oscillates between a utopian and disconcerting vision of the relationship between humanity and the digital realm. aenl's works delve into inquiries—questions about the nature of existence, the reality of consciousness, and being—regularly raised by technological advances. Inspired by popular culture and gamer universes, the artists' work combines play, critique and creation in a proposition that encourages exploration of digital space and its possibilities.

"The verb 'to tether' has more than one meaning, including to tie or connect a being or thing to someone or something else", explains author Lisa Tronca in the exhibition leaflet. The eponymous installation consists of mounds of wooden sticks linked by synthetic sinew and punctuated with mirror masks. A neon fluid circulates through the network of forms, thanks to a computer cooling system, suggesting connectivity. As for */lick*, the artwork associates the mechanics of online games with those of scientific exhibitions by inviting audiences to type in sensory-based commands (*/lick*, */touch*, */smell*) on a keyboard, generating random responses from microbial bodies and challenging our expectations. The duo's work thus invites us to establish a connection both with the artworks and among ourselves by creating a space where experiences and thoughts are shared.

Originally presented in 2022 at the Antoine-Sirois Gallery of the Université de Sherbrooke, the artist duo also offers the participative installation *Digi-Deuil Distribution*. For one dollar, the public can purchase an acrylic tombstone from a vinyl-covered vending machine featuring fluorescent skeleton patterns. Each tombstone contains a unique web address leading to a virtual space in the interactive digital cemetery of <u>digideuil.net</u>. The link allows its owner to write a short epitaph on their grave and to upload a file (audio, photo or video) visible to site visitors, whose pixelated aesthetic is reminiscent of video games. The work reflects on digital death, the survival of a deceased person through the digital footprint left during their lifetime on the web. A computer station is available in the exhibition space to visit the cemetery where digital files "rest."

Discover these artworks and more starting Saturday, February 3, at DRAC!

An opening event to mark the beginning of the exhibition

DRAC is delighted to invite you to the opening of the exhibition, which will take place on **Saturday**, **February 3**, **2024**, **at 1 p.m**. The artists will both be present to discuss with the public.

An official speech will take place at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to all.

We look forward to welcoming you at the opening reception!

Press release For immediate release

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Saturday workshops around the exhibition

DRAC presents two Saturday workshops inspired by the exhibition. These workshops are open to everyone.

The workshops are repeated twice a day 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.: for families 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.: for adults

February 17, 2024-Plastic art workshop: making a collage in a pixelated style.

March 9, 2024—Digital art workshop: creating a short stop motion animation.

LAST CHANCE : DRAC offers Saturday's creative workshop subscription! Attend 4 workshops for only \$25. A savings of 25%.

For more information on our workshops or to reserve, visit our website **DRAC.CA** or contact the Maison des arts Desjardins Drummondville ticket service at 1 819 477-5412.

A precious support

DRAC warmly thanks its partners for their support; the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Ville de Drummondville, and the Maison des arts Desjardins Drummondville.







To stay informed of DRAC's activities, follow us on our social networks (<u>Facebook/Instagram</u>) and subscribe to our <u>newsletter</u>.

Opening hours

Tuesday, Wednesday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The access to the exhibitions is free at all times.

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Biography

aenl

aenl (Anna Eyler and Nicolas Lapointe) is a multidisciplinary artistic duo based in Montreal. Collaborating since 2014, their artistic approach revolves around an investigation of web environments and computer-generated worlds associated with video games and immersive technologies. The duo's practice merges electronic devices, 3D animation, and sculpture.

Interested in how digital objects influence everyday life and how the technological imaginary is expressed, the artists explore the communicative and relational potential of the digital realm through an appropriation of computer programming language. Drawing inspiration from the visual vocabularies of data centers, science fiction, and video games, they create narratives that combine digital technology with mystical occultism.

The artists have recently taken part in group exhibitions featured at various events, including the Place Publique Festival at Fonderie Darling (Montreal, 2020), the Athens Digital Arts Festival (Athens, 2020), the Micro momentum ZOOM OUT/SORTIR DE ZOOM at the Galerie d'art Antoine-Sirois of the Université de Sherbrooke (Sherbrooke, 2020), Sight & Sound at Eastern Bloc (Montreal, 2021), and MUTEK Montreal (Montreal, 2021).

Website and Instagram