MUTEK AND ZÚ REVEAL PARTICIPANTS FOR THE MUTEK MONTRÉAL AI ART LAB

Montréal, Tuesday, February 4, 2020 – For their inaugural partnership, MUTEK and Zú are holding an international multidisciplinary laboratory using artificial intelligence (AI) in the creation of audiovisual works. The AI Art Lab is the first of its kind in Montréal; following the first two iterations in Saint Petersburg (Gamma_LAB AI, Russia) in May 2019 and Tokyo (MUTEK.JP, Japan) in November 2019, the Montréal laboratory will be held at Zú from March 1 to 10, 2020.

Spearheaded by Natalia Fuchs from Moscow (ARTYPICAL), the creator and curator of the project, the Lab also welcomes facilitators Tokyo-based Maurice Jones (MUTEK.JP) and Berlin-based Peter Kirn (CDM). The Lab sets to unpack concepts about artificial intelligence, break down stereotypes and explore our connections with this cognitive science and its growing place in our daily lives.

The ten-day program will include conferences, practical workshops and masterclasses by renown professionals, curators, and digital arts and scientific experts. A day of public conferences and artist talks with all participants is planned for Saturday, March 7, 2020. More information will be available in the coming days.

Over 70 artists and creators from across the world responded to our open call, revealing the depth of interest among artists for AI as a tool for creative practice, and confirming Montréal as a recognized hub of innovation and research in the field. The selection committee is thrilled to have assembled a rich and diverse group of 13 individuals:

Montreal Artists:
Alexandre Burton (CA/QC) / Edith Viau (CA/QC) / Gabriel Vigliensoni (CL/QC) / Hugo Boujut-Burgun (CA/QC) / Isabella Salas (MX/QC) / Line Katcho (CA/QC) / Lucas LaRochelle (CA/QC)

International Artists:
Albena Baeva (BG) / Damian T. Dziwis (PO/DE) / Joseph Kamaru (KE) / Moises H. Valenzuela (MX/DE) / Stanislav Glazov & Natalie Golubenko (RU/DE)

Participants will be supported in their artistic process by experts from MILA – Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute. They will also be considered for the program of the MUTEK Edition 21, which takes place in Montréal from August 25-30, 2020.

This project was made possible thanks to the support of the Initiatives collaboratives art-industrie-savoir en créativité numérique from the Ville de Montréal (via the Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal), in collaboration with the Gouvernement du Québec.
ABOUT THE LAB HOST: MUTEK
MUTEK is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the dissemination and development of digital creativity in sound, music, and audio-visual art. Its mandate is to provide a platform for the most original and visionary artists currently working in their fields, with the intent of providing an outlet of initiation and discovery for the audiences we seek to develop. MUTEK’s principal activity is the annual presentation of its namesake festival, which has taken place in Montreal since 2000.
For its 20th edition, in 2019, MUTEK integrated its 3-day Forum IMG, which tackles artistic practice, theoretical work and industry issues with a lens on leading-edge artists, ethics, cultural implications and innovative business operations. The festival’s range strives to be diverse, with interests in both the experimental and the playful sides of digital creativity. MUTEK’s programming intends to create a sonic space that can support innovation in new electronic music and digital art. This is a world of constant evolution and incessant refinement – the “MU” in MUTEK refers consciously to the notion of “mutation”. A MUTEK network exists today, with ramifications in North America, South America, Asia and Europe, which provides an essential platform to promote and explore wide-ranging artistic content, all the while reflecting a cultural effervescence that is both real and global.
www.mutek.org

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION PARTNER: ZÚ
Zú is a non-profit organization whose mission is to gather, help and promote creatives in the entertainment sector to develop world-class innovative projects. Zú supports them in their creative process and growth by facilitating access to the necessary resources for the development of new intellectual properties In an eclectic environment with state-of-the-art infrastructure, Zú rallies the community around a common goal: to bring greater visibility to our creativity and share it with the world at large.
www.zumtl.com

ABOUT THE RESEARCH SUPPORT PARTNER: MILA
Founded in 1993 by Professor Yoshua Bengio of the Université de Montréal, Mila Institut québécois d’intelligence artificielle brings together over 300 researchers specializing in the field of AI. Mila’s mission is to build a world-renown centre for scientific advancement that inspires innovation in AI for the benefit of all. Recognized globally for its significant contributions to the field of deep learning, Mila has distinguished itself in the areas of language modelling, machine translation, object recognition and generative models.
Since 2017, Mila is the result of a partnership between the Université de Montréal and McGill University with École Polytechnique de Montréal and HEC Montréal. In its new premises in the Mile-Ex, Mila create a unique space for innovation in artificial intelligence and technology transfer that will make use of interactions with industry and spark the emergence of start-ups while integrating the social impacts of technology in its projects.
https://mila.quebec/