

PARACHUTE

revue d'art contemporain / contemporary art magazine

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Dear IKT members,

It is with great pleasure that the 2008 IKT Congress Team and myself warmly welcome you to Montreal and Québec.

I had a dream, ever since the idea of hosting you here came up in Poland in 2005, that we could take you from “sphere to sphere”, embarking on a journey that would bring us closer together, curators of elsewhere, curators/artists here. The many interesting places in Montreal and Quebec that are devoted to the enhancement of contemporary art, its artists, its multifarious practices and diverse publics that characterize today’s cultural environment, represent so many unique spheres worth discovering. Montreal boasts North America’s first contemporary art museum founded by artists in 1964, Montreal and Quebec saw the first artist-run centers come together, creating a phenomenon that has swollen to over sixty exhibition and production centers in the province, devoted to video, photography, new media, and women’s art, offering multiple viewpoints on making art in a contemporary society. The university galleries and private galleries enrich this context, as do the three major Visual Arts schools in Montreal and Quebec. PARACHUTE was created here in Montreal in 1975 to track artistic and cultural innovations and new ideas capable of opening our minds to our ever-expanding contemporaneity, mixing the global and the local. We are one of these spheres that animate our common space.

So from sphere to sphere, you will discover our different worlds in the next days...

We will take you to see the renowned Buckminster Fuller sphere (1967) during this Congress, a landmark in the socio- and psycho-geography of Montreal, but also in our global intellectual landscapes. Fuller’s sphere is a monument to the present times, its utopias, its dreams, its hope, just what we need to be reminded of in the chaotic world we are experiencing. On the trip from Montreal to Ottawa, I will show you a short video programme: a selection of works by Quebec artists related to the landscape (the horizon), and the body. I named this programme *Conatus*, a concept which refers to the first moment of impulse in movement.

In a more general manner, we wish to share such a special moment with you: the urge to move, the urge to make and to develop. That is the common goal of curators and artists. The Orpheus Night DONT LOOK BACK will enhance this spirit among us, as curators from around the world, twenty-five countries in this year’s Congress, will meet with Montreal artists in a unique evening.

As we all look towards the future and its wealth of untapped resources, please feel at home with us in bringing our spheres together during this MONTREAL QUEBEC IKT CONGRESS!

Chantal Pontbriand
Director
PARACHUTE