

TURBINE presents

La Fabrique

Jean-Maxime Dufresne

Documentary exhibition

Artist residency at Monseigneur-Richard High School

From October 20 to 29, 2011

Opening: Thursday, October 20 at 5PM

Centre des arts actuels Skol

372, Sainte-Catherine Ouest

314 - Montréal

Turbine & SKOL

Free of charge



Project

In the winter of 2011, *La Fabrique* set up its activities in the Rheaume Pavillion of the Monseigneur-Richard High School in Verdun: a fascinating indoor world shaped by brutalist concrete architecture, typically found in Quebec school constructions of the 1970s. *La Fabrique* initially raised questions: How can one breathe life into this environment and architecture devoted to pedagogy? How can artistic action foster reflection about this space?

What followed was a dissemination of graphic manifestos and printed quotes by participating students in which they reflected on their built environment and its social ramifications. This acted as a catalyst for the artist and two groups of students to dedicate themselves to a core production of unusual furniture, created from obsolete equipment found in the school's storage spaces: an *armada* of hybrid objects was gradually inserted into the school to enhance its public dimension, and to foster the emergence of social interaction spaces within it. These unexpected

actions questioned the students' relationship with their school microcosm and, by extension, that of their own city.

At Skol, the project will conclude with the production of a journal and a photographic documentation. An opportunity to reflect on the adventure of juggling between the openness of the creative process and the often demanding cycles of the school calendar: a learning situation for all involved, where working rhythms adapt to each other, where the flexibilities of artistic autonomy and pedagogical action are mutually put to the test, and the unknown becomes a project's essential ally.

Artist

Jean-Maxime Dufresne is an artist trained in architecture and multimedia. Delving into the critical field of spatial practices, his work investigates transformations that shape urban territories and often problematizes the use of technological mediation. Architectural process is considered both as an inquiry and as a material production permeated by temporary experiences that mix installation, video, sound and urban intervention. In 2009, Skol played host to Agency, which brought together thought-provoking interviews with fifteen actors in Montréal's cultural field on space as contested, shared and reinvented matter. His individual and collective work with artist Virginie Laganière or SYN- has been presented in Canada (Sporobole, Optica, Vox, Fonderie Darling) and abroad (Temporary Urban Interstices, aaa, Paris; Actions: What You Can Do With the City, CCA / Graham Foundation, Chicago, USA), including a project this past summer in Dakar, Senegal, with the collaboration of IAGU and informal horticulturists. He regularly contributes to the Adaptive Actions platform with published essays, online documentation and urban walks produced for chapters in Madrid and Montreal. Since 2007, he has been a board member of Dare-Dare — an artist-run centre operating in the public realm — and involved with the Educational Programs team at the CCA (Canadian Centre for Architecture).

www.jmdufresne.ca

www.jmdufresne.wordpress.com

Funding

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