

# Affirming Collaboration

## Community and Humanist Activist Art in Québec and Elsewhere



### **BILINGUAL PUBLICATON**

**764 pages +**

**DVD compilation**

Co-edited by Engrenage Noir / LEVIER,  
Lux Éditeur and Detselig Enterprises

**30\$**

Available in bookstores or online at:  
[www.engrenagenoir.ca/blog/en/](http://www.engrenagenoir.ca/blog/en/)

## POST-LAUNCH FALL 2011 WORKSHOPS

Following the release of its publication at the end of June,  
*AFFIRMING COLLABORATION: Community and Humanist Activist Art in Québec and Elsewhere*,  
Engrenage Noir/LEVIER continues the celebrations by offering a series of three exciting workshops linked to  
the content of its publication, facilitated by people who have collaborated with LEVIER throughout the years.

These workshops are offered free of charge, but space is limited.  
Please register for the workshop(s) of your choice.

### **WORKSHOP / PARTICIPATORY PERFORMANCE WITH PETRA KUPPERS AND NEIL MARCUS (Michigan)**

Petra and Neil are two disability cultural activists and members of the Olimpias performance collective  
([www.olimpias.org/](http://www.olimpias.org/)).

Petra Kupperts facilitated a LEVIER workshop before entitled *A Culture That's 100% Accessible?* [see the  
account of this workshop in the book, pp. 64-65].

LEVIÈRE also asked Petra to participate in this publication in such a way as to link her community performance practice with a critical reflection on disability activism. She co-wrote an essay, *To Dance in the Circle: Disability and Accessible Aesthetics*, with her Olimpias collaborators, Neil Marcus and Leora Amir. [see pp. 313-316.]

Two activities are scheduled: a participatory performance, followed by a day-long workshop to continue talking about social justice and experimental community engagement.

SEPTEMBER 2011

Friday September 9

### **Journey to the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin**

6:00PM-9:00PM

Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique / Peter Boneham Studio  
2022, Sherbrooke East (corner Delorimier)  
Montréal

Petra et Neil will share their current participatory performance, that has traveled the world and moved Jewish elders, transgender activists, Australian Aboriginal cultural ambassadors and peace workers amongst others to contemplate the rich sources that can help nourish social justice struggles.

This performance was born in Berlin, in the space between Peter Eisenmann's Holocaust Memorial to the Murdered Jews in Europe, and Ingar Dragset and Michael Elmgreen's Gay Holocaust Memorial. This performance takes place without actors or a set, with only the energy of breathing, living bodies.

"What is the future of the memorial, how do we remember, how do we move toward a just future? Join us in a participatory score, an experiment in community performance".

Saturday September 10

### **Radical Access: Communal Queries for Somatic Travelers**

10:00AM - 4:00PM

Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique / Peter Boneham Studio  
2022, Sherbrooke East (corner Delorimier)  
Montréal

"Together, we'll contemplate what radical access may mean. What do we need to bring ourselves fully to our processes, to be available to share space and time with each other in compassion? We will use somatic exercises and enter playfully into the borderzones of words and bodies, organs of speech and organs of sensation, our shields and detoxification processes, our guts and our lungs. Come prepared to move in ways specific to you, to write, to lean on each other and to listen to the small sounds of life."

## WORKSHOP WITH JORGE GOIA (London, UK)

Jorge Goia has been a Soma facilitator since completing his training in 1993 with Roberto Freire. He coordinated groups in Florianópolis, Porto Alegre and Rio de Janeiro, and has been living in London since 2004, doing Soma and teaching Capoeira Angola. He has a PhD in Social Psychology (State University of Rio de Janeiro).

[www.somaexperiments.wordpress.com](http://www.somaexperiments.wordpress.com)

Jorge Goia has facilitated with LEVIER on two previous occasions a workshop entitled *Soma – An Experiment in Anarchism* [see the account of this workshop in the book, pp. 130-131.]

Goia was also asked by LEVIER to define the underlying principles of this approach in greater detail for the benefit of its publication, so he wrote an essay entitled *Soma: Origins and Paths of an Anarchist Experiment* [see pp. 326-331].

NOTE : Participants must commit to attend all four sessions of the Soma workshop.

*OCTOBER 2011*

*Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 6, 7, 8 and 9th*

### **Soma – an anarchist laboratory**

10:00AM – 6:00PM each day

Salle Fernand Daoust / Centre St-Pierre

1212, Panet

Montréal

Soma is a libertarian group experience using playful games to develop collaboration. Created in Brazil as an anarchist therapy by Roberto Freire, Soma is a space for social experimentation despite capitalist formulas of life. It brings out the micro-political through our bodies' response to certain physical exercises, to challenge the authoritarian or submissive behaviour that we discover in our daily lives. Soma encourages perception of how this behaviour reproduces political systems and aims to extend this awareness to other areas of our lives, to challenge hierarchy and social injustice. The workshop will focus in creating a group dynamic using Soma process as a laboratory for art and activism. Participants must commit to attend all sessions. They are required to bring costumes, props and make-up for the last day.

## WORKSHOP WITH JUDY RINGER (Portsmouth)

Judy Ringer is a trainer specializing in conflict resolution with Thomas Crum of Aiki Works in Colorado. She has black belt in aikido and the founder of Power & Presence Training in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, which offers innovative workshops on conflict resolution and communication. She is also a professional singer and voice coach, and the author of *Unlikely Teachers: Finding the Hidden Gifts in Daily Conflict*.

[www.facebook.com/PowerandPresence](http://www.facebook.com/PowerandPresence)

Judy facilitated a workshop for LEVIER before entitled *The Magic Potential of Conflict*, during the *Community Arts Training and Exchange Program (2002)* [see p. 35 and p. 82].

Judy also facilitated another workshop entitled *The Aikido of Performance and Performativity: Practice(s) of (Co)creative Presence* [see pp. 46-47].

NOVEMBER 2011

Friday, Saturday & Sunday November 11, 12 and 13

### **Collective Creativity and Collaboration: Affirming, Celebrating, and Transforming Energy**

Friday: 4:00PM – 6:30PM

Saturday: 9:00AM – 4:00PM;

Sunday: 10:00AM – 3:00PM

Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique / Peter Boneham Studio

2022, rue Sherbrooke East (corner Delorimier)

Montréal

#### PRESENTATION

Program experiential, practical, content-rich, and fun, in self-management and conflict transformation to support participants – both as individuals and as collectives – to manage barriers to creative collaboration. Program consisting of experiential partnering activities using the martial art aikido, writing, reflection, physical and verbal practice, and small and large group discussion.

The advantage of a weekend program is that participants will have time to engage many aspects of the Aiki metaphor, practice in a variety of ways, and brainstorm how to bring their new skills back to work and life.

#### DESCRIPTION

Is it possible that our “impossible challenges of life” might be teachers in disguise? With goals such as creativity, collaboration, and conscious action, why is it that we still end up facing obstacles? What do the obstacles represent for us, and how can we use them to further our purpose?

Creating conscious collaboration requires the ability to manage ourselves first in order to expand options, communicate effectively, and build healthy relationships.

Drawing upon the martial art aikido, Judy Ringer demonstrates through mind-body activities how our most challenging situations and people can become our best teachers. By changing ourselves, we change our environment. We move from feeling “acted upon” to becoming more conscious actors in our life and work.

This is a physically interactive program. We will create an aikido “dojo” (place of practice) where participants will learn to fall safely and to redirect an attack – both physical and verbal – and practice applying aikido principles to conflict, creativity, and collaboration. No experience required. All abilities are welcome.

#### OBJECTIVES / QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED:

- How do we get to a place of inner strength in order to be more fully present with the other in difficulty or conflict?
- Is it possible to experience/connect with the other such that the relationship causes me to be more present with myself?
- How can I expand the choices available to me when conflict arises?