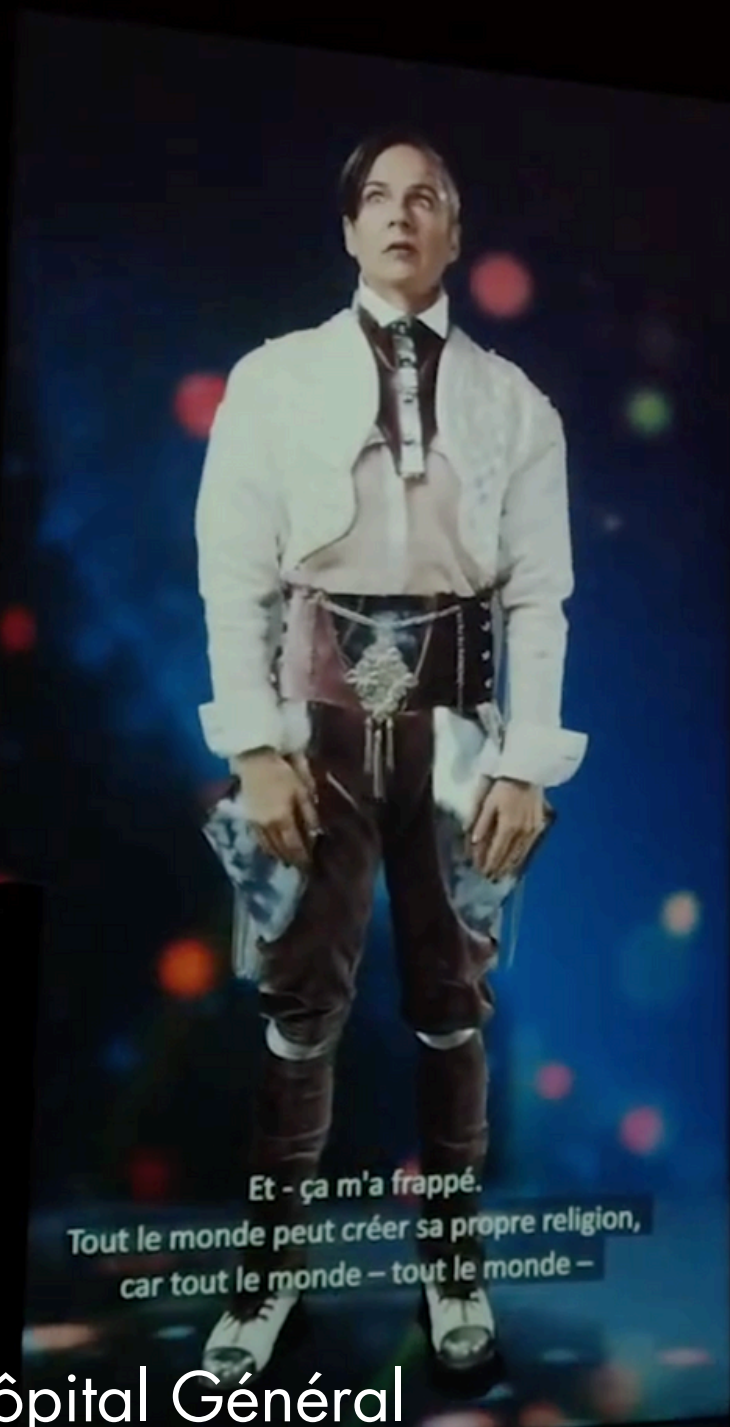


John Sanborn

THE FRIEND

Multi-screen installation | 2021



The Friend | Chapelle de l'Ancien Hôpital Général

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The Friend explores the human desire to believe in something greater. The work examines the appeal of spiritual movements and modern "American Messiahs" who exploit this need. Through 17 synchronized video channels, **The Friend** immerses viewers in the invented spiritual movement known as "New Thought".

At the heart of the installation is "The Friend", a charismatic yet enigmatic figure played by writer and actor John Cameron Mitchell who delivers 7 sermons filled with prophecies, confessions, and ambiguities. The character is accompanied by 8 Saints of dubious distinction, testifying to the divinity of this new religion and celebrating the freedom of damaged souls seeking utopia. This reflexive installation questions why people follow claims to personal divinity, pseudo-science and spiritual entrepreneurs.

The Friend illustrates John Sanborn's talent for blending narrative, technology and cultural critique to create immersive and captivating experiences.

John Sanborn is a key member of the second wave of American video artists that includes Bill Viola, Gary Hill, Dara Birnbaum and Tony Oursler. John Sanborn's work ranges from the early days of experimental video art in the 1970s through the heyday of MTV music/video and interactive art to today's digital media art. Vanity Fair called him "video's confirmed genius".

His work has been exhibited in all the world's major museums, including the Whitney Museum, MoMA, New York, the Prado, Madrid, the Centre Pompidou, Paris, the Tate Gallery, London, and the Seibu Museum, Tokyo. Electronic Arts Intermix distributes his video works and has since released his first project, "Les dernières vidéos de Marcel Duchamp". Sanborn's television programs have been broadcast worldwide, including works with Robert Ashley, Bill T. Jones, John Zorn, Nam June Paik, Philip Glass, Twyla Tharp, Mikhail Baryshnikov, David Gordon and The Residents.

Sanborn's recent works are media installations addressing questions of identity, cultural truth, memory, mythologies and humanity's compulsion to tell stories.

<https://www.johnsanborn-video.com/>

Original idea: John Sanborn

Videos: John Sanborn

Production: John Sanborn, VIDEOFORMES, Telematic Media Arts

Techniques :

Video editing

2D/3D animation

VFX

Mapping

Visual scenography

Available :

- 17 synchronized HD video projectors
- 8 43" monitors
- Immersive audio system (speakers and subwoofers)
- Interactive countdown system

Diffusion :

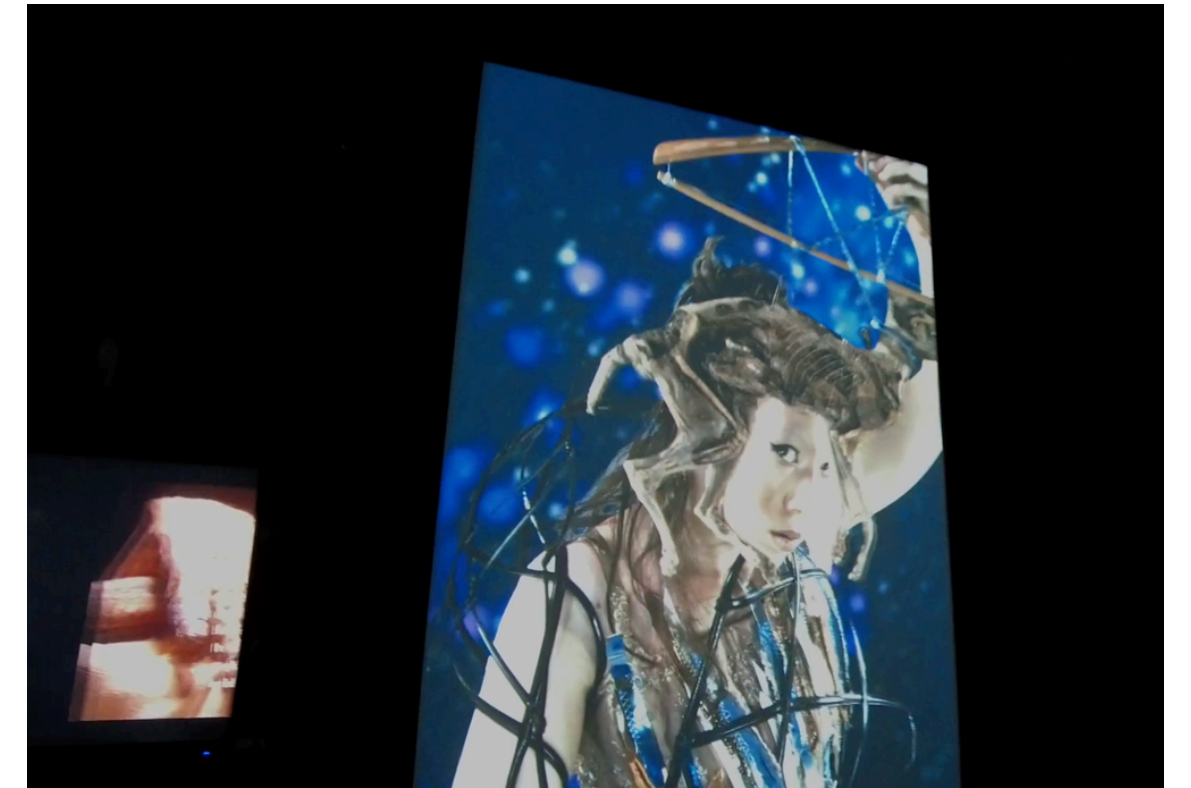
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