

[Séquence]

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[Séquence] was founded and incorporated in 1983; it grew out of the Galerie de l'Arche, one of the first multidisciplinary artist-run centres in Quebec, which was founded in Jonquière in 1975. Leaving Jonquière, [Séquence] established itself in Chicoutimi in 1988 with the goal of creating ties with the arts and university communities. We celebrated our twentieth anniversary in 2004 with the event "Regarder, observer, surveiller" ("Look, Observe, Survey"), which featured the work of 22 artists from Saguenay, Quebec, the rest of Canada and abroad.

In the fall of 1997, we purchased, at a cost of \$125,000, a 12,000 square-foot, three-storey building in downtown Chicoutimi and created gallery and studio spaces on the ground floor. For [Séquence], this was the first phase in a project of establishing a space dedicated to visual and media art in the heart of the city. Work on exhibit in the entrance hall (salle-1) can be glimpsed by passers-by in the street. With the gallery's storefront window-screen for projected work or video programs – radio frequency 98.5 FM – which is visible from dusk to dawn, we have attained our goal of making contemporary art available in the street and of making it more accessible. In 2006, in collaboration with the Chicoutimi municipal library, we improved the quality and extent of our broadcast of audio work around [Séquence] and the library.

[Séquence] is a site for artistic enquiry, experimentation, production and dissemination of visual art, media art and new media. Over the past ten years, it has disbursed more than a million dollars to artists and on contemporary artistic practices. We receive financial support from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (four-year terms), the Canada Council for the Arts (two-year terms), and the City of Saguenay. Our building is paid for and we are exempt from municipal taxes.

[Séquence] is currently modernising and bringing up to code some of its space, principally the basement. This will require an investment of \$250,000. This project, which should be carried out next year, will enable us to provide better work space for artists in residence and a better space in which to hold events. The basement will be equipped with entrances at the front and rear of the building, modern studios, storage areas and a multi-purpose room for screening film and video programs. The building's façade will also be renovated.

Founded in 1983, [Séquence] is a place for artistic enquiry, creation, production, dissemination and promotion of art, images and sound art. Located in the downtown area of the Chicoutimi district in the heart of Saguenay, [Séquence] is a major

centre of cultural and artistic activity in the region, with eclectic programs aimed first of all at the residents of Saguenay—Lac-St-Jean. Its programs also have an impact throughout Quebec, the rest of Canada and internationally. [Séquence] covers the entire spectrum of artistic creation and dissemination, from theoretical reflection to promotion.

With our dynamic presence in the Saguenay—Lac-St-Jean community, our mandate consists in providing a framework of reflection and action for artists and scholars whose work contributes to the advance of visual arts, media arts and new media. In order successfully to fulfill our mandate and to meet the needs of artists and provide the public with a space for reflection and a stimulating and enriching program, [Séquence] has established the following goals:

- Stimulate artistic enquiry and experimentation in visual art, media art and new media and thereby contribute to their development and advancement;
- Support artistic creation, production, dissemination and promotion in these fields of activity by making accessible to our members and to established and emerging artists an organisational, technological, technical and physical infrastructure which will make [Séquence] a centre for exchanging ideas and an interactive and synergetic place.
- Promote artists' use of mastery of new technologies in visual art, media art and new media and their subsequent integration into their artistic projects and enquiries.
- Stimulate exchanges and interfaces between the arts and other disciplines and social spheres.
- Facilitate communication between artists and institutions at home and abroad through [Séquence]'s national and international networks.
- Contribute to the emergence or development of innovative projects by making [Séquence]'s expertise available.
- Communicate and share with the largest public possible the results of the activities of artistic enquiry, experimentation, creation and production initiated or supported by [Séquence].
- Play a dynamic and committed role in the art world and society as a whole, in close association with active groups in the community.

[Séquence]'S ACTIVITIES AND ORIENTATIONS

Since its creation, [Séquence] has equipped itself with the technological equipment and established the programs needed to attain its objectives. First of all, [Séquence] purchased a three-storey building, located on Chicoutimi's main street, where several studios are available for artists to work, in addition to the exhibition gallery, which has three viewing rooms. In addition to these three floors is a basement without special facilities in which we have held some activities (multidisciplinary exhibitions and performances) whose nature lent themselves to the space available in the basement. Nevertheless, we are currently working, in collaboration with Quebec's Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, on obtaining a grant to

renovate this basement and to make it accessible while respecting the building codes which apply to the building. The implementation of a consolidation plan for our building will enable us to create a space which can hold 100 people and be equipped with the technology necessary for film and video screenings. This multi-purpose room is needed in Saguenay because there is no facility of this kind in the region at present. With the help of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Daniel Langlois Foundation and the City of Saguenay Arts Council, we believe that this project can be carried out and operational by 2008.

In order to reach our objectives and fulfill our long-term vision, [Séquence] has taken concrete steps to support the dissemination of artists' work in media arts. We have installed a screen in one of our building's street-front windows, where we show art films and videos. From their car or by standing on the sidewalk, local residents can watch programs of videos by regional, national or international artists at any time from dusk to dawn, at no cost whatsoever (please see the attached brochure and program guide). The installation of outdoor speakers will enable us to screen videos with soundtracks. WE also possess an short-wave transmitter, which enables us to broadcast sound art. By tuning in to radio frequency 98.5 FM people will be able to hear original and experimental sound art.

Over the years [Séquence] has become an artist-run centre which makes a untiring contribution to the arts. We expect to become more useful to artists and the community over the coming years by meeting the needs of today. Although we experience a few difficulties in our region, we examine all the possibilities for improving the quality and operations of our centre. We will succeed in carrying out all our projects by meeting the objectives we have set for ourselves. In this way, [Séquence] will become a leader in the contemporary art field.