

**Flirting with science fiction as it goes through its yearly summer transformation, the Lot valley is welcoming tech-savvy artists. United around Co-Mutations, they've set up an immense thought-provoking playground, in scale with the valley. The itinerary will take you from the Maisons Daura, an international artistic hotspot in Saint-Cirq Lapopie -where the artists have been residing since spring-, to the contemporary and experimental art center in Cajarc. As you walk along this path you'll discover works of art imbricated in sumptuous scenery, alongside the valley's architectural and natural heritage. You'll listen to a new series of sound-art by young artists through Franz West's work « Auditorium », that accompanies our contribution to a nationwide event : the forty year anniversary of the Pompidou Centre in Paris.**

The exposed artwork and installations are inspired by our digital cultures and reveal their hidden intricacies, above and beyond entertainment. Far from the tech-saturated urban space, this adventurous group of artists took upon themselves the reality of this territory, into which they've carved windows to fictional landscapes. The Lot valley has been singularly marked by technique and tool use, ever since prehistorical times : from rock painting to the development of agriculture and the industrial revolution, from modern utopias to artistic avant-gardes... The artists have claimed their share of this heritage through modern technologies such as renewable energies, audio streaming, geo-tracking, robotics, video games and database creation. They've combined diverse forms of craftsmanship and retro-futurist handy-work to create installations that reunite popular cultures and modern day issues.

Their collaborative approach stems from the interactions between citizenship and media. They share tools and knowledge in order to co-construct a panel of alternative behaviors and perform through the public space, claiming it as their own. Their if not techno-esoterical, at least fictional outlook mixes local myths and popular beliefs, distancing us from our traditionally consumerist use of technology, and turning it into an experimental and artistic tool. This wholesome adventure lets us imagine mutant artists, whom, as a sort of avant-garde to the modern art scene, will profoundly transform it and impact the environment that they use as a «temporary autonomous zone ». Co-mutations aims to demystify our relationship with machines, to measure the impact these technologies have on the development of our societies and our imaginations.

In 2017, the twelfth edition of the Lot valley's contemporary art circuit's artistic volition is to leave the beaten track of traditional expositions behind and confront the environment and nature with digital technology.

It will link more than 10 sites spread out through the Lot valley, including Cajarc, Larnagol, Calvignac, Saint-Martin Labouval, Tour de Faure and Saint-Cirq Lapopie.

**Curators : Martine Michard + Paul and Quentin Destieu**

\*Around the title Co-Mutations : derived from various scientific applications, the term commutation can refer to the transfers that occur in conducting materials under electric charge, to the transfer of data through electronics or telecommunications, to semantic or phonic substitutions in linguistics, or even to those in a poetic dialogue...

\*Temporary autonomous zone (TAZ) : is a formula introduced by Hakim Bey in 1991 in the homonymic book : TAZ, Temporary Autonomous Zone where he articulates his ideas around the principle of pirate utopias.