

# Escape Machine

**A video performance  
by Philippe Boisnard and Yann Kerninon**

General and technical description



## General description

*Escape Machine (Machine de Fuite)* is a 20 minutes video performance based on the text *Escape Machine, Means of Access (Machine de Fuite, Moyen d'Accès)* by Yann Kerninon. This text was first published in the most famous French literary revue *La Nouvelle Revue Française*, founded by André Gide and republished in Yann Kerninon's book *Cahier d'Ubiquité – volume 1* (Ed. Hermaphrodite – Preface by the French philosopher Michel Onfray).

*Escape Machine* develops and embodies in a video performance the ideas expressed in the text of Yann Kerninon, that is to say : cycling, physical effort, speed and pain considered both as a mean to escape the contemporary disenchantment and a way to renew our poetic relationship to the world. The union of sounds, pictures and physical performance performed on stage makes the public experiment with a poetic and conceptual brutality that evokes Heidegger, Deleuze, Masoch, Heraclite, Master Eckart, Baudelaire... or Lance Armstrong as well.

## Performance disposal

- Yann Kerninon is on stage, between the screen and the audience and rides energetically a streamlined racing bike.
- The video shows images of Yann Kerninon, urban or countryside landscape, rotating bicycle wheels and gearwheels with video echo effects.
- The sound is live mixed. The texts are those of *Escape Machine, Means of Access*, mixed with samples of electronic music, the *Stabat Mater* by Francis Poulenc and *Das atmende Klarsein* by Luigi Nono.
- This *Escape Machine* is a piece of art based on the repetition of short pieces of music, ritornellos and images samples (sentences, breath, heartbeat, bike noises, faces, rotating bike parts, landscapes...) that slowly interact and interfere one with the other.



## Technical conditions

The video performance *Escape Machine* requires **at least** a 10 ft. deep and 13 ft. large stage, a 5 x 7 ft. screen and a room for the sound mixing – provided with a good ampli-tuner.

If no other specification, the artists will provide all the rest of the material needed : bike, home trainer, video projector, mixing table, costumes, and so on.

## Biographies of the artists

**Philippe Boisnard** was born in 1971. He teaches art history at the Artois University (France). He is a writer, a philosopher and a video maker. He is well known in the underground scene of literature (*JAVA*, *DOC(K)S*, *EvidenZ*, *Fusées*). He writes as well in the well known French daily newspaper *Libération*, in the *Revue d'Esthétique* or in *Le Philosophoire*.

For about 3 years, he has got more and more involved in the question of the relationship between literature and new media and created internet performances such as WAR(Z) ACTUALITE.

His main interest is to understand how far it is possible to give birth to a media democracy that would be able to get rid of any institutional or revolutionary hegemony in the field of political or social representations.

Since 2000, he has created poetic video performances that have been seen in many institutions, museums, festivals and art galleries such as : Centre Pompidou in Paris, Musée d'Art Moderne de St. Etienne, Musée d'Art Moderne de Strasbourg, L'Arsenal de Metz, Université d'Arras, Université de Dunkerque, Ecoles des Beaux-Arts, festival Norapolis (Metz), Ile / danse (Ajaccio), Passion d'Avril (Lille), Les instants video, Galerie Eof (Paris), Galerie Artcore (Paris), Galerie 9 (St Etienne)...

His activity as a video - poet has been mentioned many times in the press (Nova Magazine, Libération, and many contemporary art revues and papers).

He founded the web site [www.x-tr-m-art.com](http://www.x-tr-m-art.com)

**Yann Kerninon** was born in 1972. He is a writer, a philosopher and teaches philosophy and art history in many of the best French "Grandes Ecoles" (equivalent of the best American universities) : *Centrale Paris*, *Essec*, *Télécom*, *Sup de Co*.

In 2003, he published *Cahier d'Ubiquité – tome 1*. His next essay, *Means of Acces to the World*, will be published in may 2005 and is inspired by dandyism considered as a means of rebellion and insubordination in our desert society. He is working now on a new essay – *Trying to kill the bourgeois in me* – which is mainly based on the dadaist revolt. His writings have been published in many French literary revues and in the newspaper *Libération*.

Yann Kerninon is also a professional magician and took part to the satirical punk magazine *Zoo*.

Using poetic and libertarian ways, he tries to define, experiment and incarnate means to re-conquer – individually and collectively – an authentic, invigorated and enchanted existence.

## Contacts

**A part of the video performance can be seen on :**

<http://homepage.mac.com/philemon1/trameouest/iMovieTheater44.html>

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Excerpt of the live video performance and video support (without sound mixing) on this CD.

**NB : For an international performance, the soundtrack exists in English or German.**

