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Urban art event transforms Centre-Sud - *Web exclusive!*

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## A river runs through it

Meg Hewings

*Centre-Sud artists flood their 'hood with creative energy*

This weekend Centre-Sud residents are likely to find something out of the ordinary amidst the fast food joints and downtrodden buildings in their neighbourhood: art around them everywhere.

A group of 150 interdisciplinary artists have gathered for a second year under the collective **Péristyle Nomade** and from June 12 to 14 will transform public spaces in Centre-Sud into a playground for the sensual and artistic - transforming the "everyday into a theatre of the fleeting."

Known as **L'Écho d'un fleuve**, the hybrid urban art event hopes to encourage the community to discover new ways of looking at, and experiencing, our own streets, back alleys and public spaces. Artists, community groups and local businesses have all conspired to organize three days of performances, installations, creative workshops, interactive installations, musical interludes, even flash mob cabarets.

The event's theme stems from the fact that a river used to run through the heart of what is now the Ville-Marie district. While the river no longer exists, organizers who jump-started the event last year wondered: If the river could talk, what would it say? What stories would it express to local artists, actors, singers, sculptors, flâneurs, homeless? What barely audible murmurings would it have on our collective consciousness? Last year's event featured 50 artists, various community and cultural groups and attracted nearly 1,000 participants, and this year's edition promises an expansive array of art that incorporates every discipline imaginable.

Things kick off Friday, June 12, at 7 p.m. at the corner of La Rivière (between Parthenais and Harmony - if it rains, it will be at Chat des Artistes at 2205 Parthenais) with an opening soirée that includes installations such as *Panorama\_Jacques-Cartier* by Cécile Martin and *Arbre généalogique urbain* by Maude Ledoux. Later there will be "unexpected infiltrations," poetry and performances that include *Balthazar* by Mobile Home, *St-Flying Kidney* by Maya Kuroki and Tomomi Morimoto, as well as *Microsillon des vagues* by Nicolas Bernier.

Saturday, June 13, features a full day of activities at Place Dufresne (corner of Dufresne and Ontario) and in the back courtyard of the Coop Touski (2361 Ontario E.), a neighbourhood café that serves up fresh local grub and hosts artist events. Interactive installations and workshops include "Building my village from boxes," eco-design, graffiti and poetry. Noon-hour performances include *Balçon* by Ariane Labonté and Céline Jantet, *Eastfalia* and even something called *Hockey-balle-poésie*.

Later, neighbourhood events include *Perdu/trouvé* and *Garde-robe audio-portable*, as well as *Fragments d'histoire de Sainte-Marie*. The evening wraps up with a 5 à 7 cabaret animated by Alexis O'Hara, with music by Roche Ovale and other performers, as well as an appearance by the Ligue Nationale d'Improvisation.

Meanwhile, Sunday, June 14, features an Urban Stroll along Ontario, starting at 1 p.m. at the Maison de la Culture Frontenac, accompanied by drums of Kumpa'nia, artists from **L'Écho d'un fleuve**, other mobile creations, pigeons and onlookers. Later, collective painting and bookmaking will take place in the Café Touski courtyard.



A sunny Sunday stroll to celebrate all the art found - and made! - in Centre-Sud.

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**L'Écho d'un fleuve**

June 12, 13, 14 at various locations