Audiovisual Show Simultaneously Creates Artwork in Two Countries

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An art installation/science experiment bridges the gap between Montreal in Canada and Rennes in France

Audiences at the Society for Arts and Technology in Montreal, Canada and the Festival Maintenant in Rennes, France simultaneously participated in the creation of audiovisual work 'Miscible' in real-time. This unprecedented experiment was held 5000 km and six hours apart, yet members of the public on both sides of the Atlantic were invited to attend the same show at the same time.

The audiovisual art installation bridged the gap between the two countries, enabling a bi-coastal exhibition to be held. It was created by Montréal-based new media artists Manuel Chantre and Mathieu Le Sourd (Maotik), who were aided by two chemistry researchers and an electronic engineer from the University of Rennes1, as well as a team of researchers at the Society for Arts and Technology.



The creators sought an innovative approach to telepresence and developed something midway between a performance and an audiovisual installation. The work is a collective and interactive experience, which manipulates a multimedia device comprised of liquids and equipment from a science laboratory, including made-to-measure glass chemistry jars and infusion bags.

'Miscible' gives telepresence a sensory dimension and provides an experience that transcends current modes of communication. On Manuel Chantre's website it explains:

The work's main thread is the virtual rapprochement of the two locations. As the performance proceeds, audience actions in Rennes and Montreal converge and gradually intensify until perfect homogeneity—or miscibility—has been achieved. In chemistry, miscibility is the ability of one liquid to mix with another liquid homogeneously.

You can check out the impressive audiovisual art installation in the video below: