

CALL FOR PAPERS

mapping labs for media in Europe

call for papers special issue - mcd#3
deadline 10th october 2010



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mcd review [Musiques & Cultures Digitales] along with PiNG [ressource organization in new media culture] are seeking submissions for a specific issue in the European field of *media labs*.

Throughout autumn 2010, texts will appear on **digitalarti** web platform and one on-line cartography designed as a **map-in-progress**. Selected contributions will be printed in a bilingual volume scheduled for spring 2011 to echo with **LABtoLAB** – international encounter of media labs – in Nantes.

mcd & PiNG welcome contributions from « laboratories-organizations » (spaces-projects, networks and communities) active in the field of digital creation in Europe. It aims not only at identifying structures and people but also at connecting them, virtually and physically, through web platforms and situations designed to accompany this publication.

In 2006, at the seminar *Networks's policy and media-labs in Europe*, the artist and researcher Ewen Chardonnet proposed the following terminology : «Under the term «Media Lab» one can identify digital centers with variable dimensions, from the technological department of one school or one museum to an activist micro-organization.(...) Following their vocation, medialabs would support art and creation, develop free software or technological devices, play a pedagogical role through training, offer virtual hosting for other cultural initiatives, accompany social and inclusive policy, lead disseminated campaigns, or set up independent media projects ».

The media lab that exists nowadays is indeed preceded by several historical workspace typologies and forms of research institutes : the production workshop, the artist studio and the research lab, but also the civic center, the library and the school. The media lab does not work as a content provider rather as a space dedicated to the social appropriation of medias, an exchange platform that responds to the need of the Information Society ; its role is educational and cultural, social and political. In this perspective, media labs may offer a public space for knowledge sharing, socialisation and experimentation open to teachers, students, DIY, amateurs, specialists, artists, cultural operators, project manager, educational programmers, workshop leaders, researchers, trainers, computer scientists, administrators, mediators.

If today it is not surprising to see labs appearing here and there, composing a real *lab-scape* in a geography where every single thing is creative, the publication's purpose is to identify as well as to understand the values and stakes of these organizations that question and define themselves on the Internet as « a laboratory of laboratories » : a collective lab where users can become collaborators in the production process : in charge of and concerned with the contexts and the tools they are using.

This publication endeavors to establish a **curious cartography** sticking up for a multiple topology, considering spaces but also « medialabs without walls » such as networks and communities that contribute to a dynamic European scene of digital creation.

SUBMISSIONS

Answer to the 5 following questions :

1 / in which historical, artistic or sociological context is your organization in line with? how do you define yourself regarding media labs?

2 // to who you address to (artists, researchers, public ...), what are your experimental grounds (creation, workshop, residency...) and how you develop it (through specific community, collaborative practices, networks...)?

3 /// do you open up these practices to a wider audience? how do you organize the production, transmission and circulation of knowledge?

4 //// how do you project yourself in terms of projects, new grounds for thought? in which terms media labs may play a role in the future society?

5 ///// what are your 10 favorite websites that highlight your artistic curiosity and/or your experimental grounds?

Submissions, in English or French, may be sent as abstracts (3500 up to 5000 signs, spaces included) answering the 5 questions. They should be sent with a logo and a selection of 5 pictures in good resolution (300 DPI).

The title of your submission should correspond to the name of your organization and mention a web address. If necessary, mention the author(s) and his/her position(s).

Information concerning the collaborative publication process on the web platforms will be indicated by mcd and PiNG following your post.

Please send your submission with « mcd contribution » in the subject heading to contrib@pingbase.net by **10th october 2010**.

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mcd | <http://www.digitalmcd.com> & <http://www.digitalarti.com>

Since January 2003, bimonthly magazine MCD (Musiques & Cultures Digitales) is dedicated to the promotion of digital arts, multimedia and electronic musics in general. Specific issues already published are : WJ-SPOTS#1 (sept 2009) together with Anne Roquigny and Live AV, audiovisual performances (april 2010).

Sarah Taurinya | sarah@digitalmcd.com

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PiNG | <http://www.pingbase.net> & <http://www.crealab.info>

Resource center and projects incubator based in Nantes, PiNG supports and develops collaborative projects both at a local and european level. PiNG closely works together with other associations, artists and public institutions involved in the field of non formal education and new media creation.

Catherine Lenoble | catherine@pingbase.net

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This specific issue goes along a collaborative project **LABtoLAB** initiated by 5 European media labs : Kitchen (Budapest), Medialab Prado (Madrid), Constant (Bruxelles), Area10 (Londres) et Crealab (Nantes).

LABtoLAB is both an investigative platform and a nomadic cycle of meetings that explore at a micro-scale level a network of labs looking for challenging fields of exchange through **art, education and technology**. A final meeting in Nantes in June 2011 will be the opportunity to reflect on the practices developed over the last two years as well as to present the publication. Open to a wide public of professionals and amateurs active in European labs and local networks, with an individual, institutional, activist or academic background, this meeting will interrogate a potential common and networked space a potential of exchanges that could be pursued, extended and applied.