

WHO / WHAT IS *THINKBOX* ?



THINKBOX is a self-curating media collective, created to explore technological works and contemporary media in relation to both gallery and commercial distribution networks. **THINKBOX** reflects the varied interests of its members. As an enterprise, it is centred on both exploration and innovation. The collective started sharing ideas in the late 1990's, and while occasionally in flux, retains a solid core of members that consists of Windsor's **Christopher Bissonnette**, **Mark Laliberte**, **Chris McNamara**, **Steve Roy**, & Ypsilanti Michigan's **Rob Theakston** and **Bill Van Loo**. Much of their collective output to this point has involved the creation of large scale new media installations, of video projections, of performances in gallery settings, as well as occasional forays into the more experimental aspects of club culture. They have also delved heavily into web-based MP3 projects, and have released two physical CD projects, *Settings* and *Guitar*.

THINKBOX was recently selected as one of URB Magazine's "Next 100 Artists for 2004". Collective and/or solo member performances have occurred in the past year at the following venues and festivals: *Movement* (Detroit's Electronic Music Festival), USA / *Cranbrook Museum of Art*, USA / *New Maps Festival*, Montreal / *Deep Wireless Festival*, Toronto / Vancouver New Music's *Dangerous Currents Festival* / *The Ann Arbor Film Festival*, USA / and, most recently at Montreal's prestigious *Mutek Festival* where they were programmed with a full 3-hour collective showcase event! Looking into the future, the collective is currently working on their next 2 CD's and will be presenting major gallery exhibitions (w/ associated performances) at the Art Gallery of Windsor (Jul-Sep 2005, Curator: James Patten), and at Thames Art Gallery (early 2006, Curator: Carl Lavoy).

Images:

- 1 TB collective portrait / [photo credit](#): Michael Pavlov
- 2 Neon 'Necker' Logo / designed by M. Laliberte
- 3/4 live performance views @ Mutek 2004 / Montreal, Canada
- 5 duet performance view, B. Van Loo + R. Theakston / Detroit, USA
- 6 'Halifax-Montreal Overnight' sculptural object / by M. Laliberte



Core Members & their recent accomplishments:

+ **Bissonnette** is a sound artist and full time graphic designer, and is a founding member of THINKBOX; his work can best be described as a process of musical and visual deconstruction. In September 2002, he participated in *The Digidome Festival of Electronic Art*, in Saskatoon. Most recently, he has concentrated on studio production, completing a full-length CD of his explorations.

+ **Laliberte** is a project-based hybrid media artist currently working in collage, sculpture, language, and computer-based sound composition. Another founding member of this collective, he has exhibited and performed extensively in galleries and at festivals across Canada and the USA. Laliberte is currently residing in Guelph, ON, in the midst of capturing an elusive MFA degree. Full view @ : www.marklaliberte.com



+ **McNamara** is a multi-media artist living in Windsor. His recent projects include an exhibition at Stiftung BINZ 39 in Zurich; a summer artist residency in the Engiadina province of Switzerland and a video installation at the Burst Building in Detroit Michigan (created w/ fellow-Thinkboxer, Steve Roy). Upcoming activities include an installation in the Art Gallery of Windsor's *Southwestern Biennale* and an installation in Berlin as part of the *Shrinking Cities* exhibition. He is a Lecturer in the Program in Film and Video Studies at the University of Michigan.

+ **Roy** is a live performer with a diverse musical background (which has included playing trumpet in jazz & symphonic bands, and singing & playing guitar in experimental rock bands). Always tinkering with the latest software and effects, Steve is currently in the midst of completing a major online MP3 project of releasing 1 new sound experiment each week for all of 2004.

+ **Theakston** is a DJ whose eclectic sets have gained notoriety around the Detroit area, holding residencies at various locations. A relatively new producer, he has released two CDs in 2004 on En Records and Tiny Company; he is also a writer and contributor to various publications, with a collection of writings slated to be released later in 2004.

+ **Van Loo** is well-known in the Detroit area for his unique live performances; in 2000, he performed live at the inaugural *Detroit Electronic Music Festival*. He has released material on Planet E and City Centre Offices, and is currently working on a solo full-length, an album with long-time friend J. Schnable, and a hip-hop based project exploring his Christian faith, which includes contributions from artists as diverse as Double Helix (Transmat) and Listener (Mush).



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