

NICOLAS BERNIER CURRICULUM VITÆ

biography

- Born : Ottawa, Canada, 1977
- Residence: Montréal, Québec

Nicolas Bernier is joyfully flowing from musique concrète to live electronics, post-rock, noise improv, performance, installation, video art while also working with dance, theatre, moving images and interdisciplinarity contexts.

In the midst of this eclecticism, his artistic concerns remain constant: the balance between the cerebral and the sensual, and between organic sound sources and digital processing.

The sound of Nicolas Bernier is somewhere between the old and the new. It is electronic music made from objects of the past: typewriter, old machines, tuning forks, soundscape memories and, yes, musical instruments. It is made with a modern apparatus but feels like completely handmade. It is gently articulated textures alongside enormous masses.

His works has been noticed at Prix Ars Electronica (Austria), SONAR (Spain), Mutek (Canada), DotMov Festival (Japan), ZKM (Germany), Transmediale (Germany) and have been published on lovely labels like Crónica (Portugal), Ahornfelder (Germany), leerraum (Switzerland) and Home Normal (UK).

He his currently a PhD candidat in sonic arts at the University of Huddersfield (UK) under the direction of Dr. Pierre Alexandre Tremblay and Dr. Monty Adkins. He his a member of "Perte de signal", a media arts research and development centre based in Montreal.

www.nicolasbernier.com

awards and distinctions

- 2011 Prix Ars Electronica : mention, *La chambre des machines* / AT
- 2011 Destellos Competition : 2nd prize : *Dans le ventre de la machine* / AR
- 2011 Dérapage 11 : best soundtrack (foumalade) / CA
- 2010 Prix Opus: CD of the year, *Les arbres* / CA
- 2009 Prix Ars Electronica: mention, *Les arbres* / AT
- 2009 IMEB: selection, *Sur fond blanc* / FR
- 2009 Quartz: nominee, *Treelogy III : Orchid* / FR
- 2007 Digital Art Awards: mention, *Liaisons mécaniques* / JP
- 2007 CIMESP: mention, *Liaisons mécaniques* / BR
- 2007 IMEB: mention, *Liaisons mécaniques* / FR
- 2007 IMEB: selection, *Sub•a•quat•ic* / FR
- 2006 IMEB: selection, *Writing Machine* / FR
- 2005 Visionaria Festival: prize, *Treelogy II: This Is A Portrait* / IT
- 2004 Visionaria Festival: 1st prize, *Treelogy I* / IT
- 2004 Chicago Motion Graphic Festival: best video art, *Treelogy I* / US
- 2004 SOCAN Competition: 1st prize, *...sans quoi les imperméables...* / CA
- 2004 Métamorphose: 1st prize student, *...sans quoi les imperméables...* / BE
- 2004 JTTP Competition: 2nd prize, *...sans quoi les imperméables...* / CA
- 2004 Insulae Electronicae: 3rd prize, *...sans quoi les imperméables...* / IT
- 2004 Dérapage 5: best soundtrack, *La chambre anéchoïque* / CA
- 2003 JTTP Competition: 2nd prize, *Tous les parapluies*, / CA
- 2003 Insulae Electronicae: 2nd prize, *Tous les parapluies...* / IT
- 2003 Luigi Russolo Competition: finalist, *Tous les parapluies...* / IT

grants

- 2011 CALQ: travel, euro tour / CA
- 2011 CALQ: creation, collaboration w/Martin Messier / CA
- 2011 CAC: creation, Paysages articulés v1 / CA
- 2011 UoH: Steinitz scholarship / UK
- 2011 FQRSC: PhD research grant / CA
- 2011 CAC: travel, Festival Ars Electronica / AU
- 2010 CAC: creation, *courant.air* / CA
- 2010 CAC: travel, Transmediale/ CA
- 2009 CALQ: residencies grant at Banff Center / CA
- 2009 SOCAN Foundation: Toronto residencies at NAISA / CA
- 2008 CAC: creation, *Les arbres* / CA
- 2008 CAC: travel, The Factory, Hamilton / CA
- 2007 UdM: excellency, MA. Composition / CA
- 2007 CALQ: creation, *Liaisons mécaniques* / CA
- 2006 CAC: creation, *Sub•a•quat•ic* / CA

education

- 2013 PhD, sonic art and composition, University of Huddersfield / UK
- 2009 Master, electroacoustic composition, Université de Montréal / CA
- 2005 BA., electroacoustic composition, Université de Montréal / CA
- 1998 DECO, Publicité (graphic design, writing, etc.), La Cité Collégiale, Ottawa / CA
- 1995 Radiodiffusion, La Cité Collégiale, Ottawa / CA

lectures and workshops

- 2011 The body in digital audio art, UQAM, Montréal / CA
- 2011 Old Machines & New Sounds, MIAN, Paris / FR
- 2011 Old Machines & New Sounds, MIAN, Montréal / CA
- 2011 dance and music : moving dialogues, Concordia University / CA
- 2010 silence.musique, ELEKTRA / CA
- 2009 When electroacoustic meet folk music, Pecha Kucha / CA
- 2009 Live electronics workshop, NAISA / CA
- 2008 Electroacoustic and eclecticism, CMM / CA
- 2007 Co-composition in electroacoustic music, U de Montréal / CA
- 2006 Electroacoustic and Acousmatic Music, Festival de Outono / PT
- 2005 From Popular to Electroacoustic Music, ZKM / DE

residencies

- 2012 DAÏMŌN, Gatineau / CA
- 2009 Banff Center, Banff / CA
- 2007 Musiques & Recherches, Ohain / BE
- 2005 Zentrum Für Kunst Und Medientechnologie, Karlsruhe / DE

organisational and affiliations

- 2005- Various advisory committees and juries
- 2007- Member : Perte de signal (artist-run center)
- 2010- Vice-president : 14 lieux (producer)
- 2009- Membre : Conseil québécois des arts médiatiques (national organisation)
- 2008-11 Artistic Director : Réseaux/AKOUSMA (presenter)
- 2009-10 Member : RCNM (network)
- 2009-10 CA Member : Le Vivier (presenter)
- 2005-09 Member : Canadian Electroacoustic Community (network)
- 2006-09 Founder and director : Ekumen (producer/pesenter/label)
- 2004- Member : Socan

selected discography

- 2011 Nicolas Bernier : *usure.paysage*, Hrönir / DE
- 2010 Nicolas Bernier : *courant.air*, Ahornfelder / DE
- 2010 Nicolas Bernier : *strings.lines*, Crónica / PT
- 2010 Nicolas Bernier : *silence.musique*, leerraum[] / CH
- 2010 Nicolas Bernier : *The Dancing Deer EP*, Home Normal / UK / JP
- 2009 Bernier + Poulin-Denis : *sur fond blanc*, Ekumen / CA
- 2008 Nicolas Bernier : *Les arbres*, No Type / CA
- 2007 Millseconde topographie : *Tricycle* DVD, Ekumen / CA
- 2007 Bernier + Trottier : *Objet abandonné en mer*, 12rec / CA

music for dance, film and theatre

- 2012 Catherine Lalonde : *Rictus* (multidisciplinary)
- 2011 Isabelle Hayeur : *Ascension* (installation)
- 2011 Samuel Matteau : *Trop* (film)
- 2011 Sylvi Panet-Raymond : *6 pieds sur terre* (videodance)
- 2011 Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Shawn Hounsell : *Wonderland* (dance)
- 2010 UBU, Denis Marleau : *Jackie* (Theatre)
- 2010 Christian Lalumière : *Training Session* (Film)
- 2010 Tetsumasa Saito : *Nirvana* (Film)
- 2010 ONF, Marie-Hélène Turcotte : *La formation des nuages* (film)
- 2009 O Vertigo, Ginette Laurin : *La Chambre blanche* (film)
- 2009 UBU, Denis Marleau : *Une fête pour Boris* (theatre)
- 2009 Junction, Mark Lawes : *On the side of the road* (multidisciplinary)
- 2008 UBU, Denis Marleau : *Le complexe de thénardier* (theatre)
- 2008 O Vertigo, Ginette Laurin : *La Chambre blanche* (dance)
- 2007 UBU, Denis Marleau : *Othello* (theatre)
- 2007 O Vertigo, Ginette Laurin : *Étude No.3* (dance)
- 2007 Nicholas Roeg : *Puffball* (film)
- 2006 danse Lab, Tony Chong : *Revolver* (dance)
- 2006 O Vertigo, Ginette Lauri : *ANGELs* (dance)

from the press

« NICOLAS BERNIER, WHOSE OEUVRE HAS FOREVER BEEN CAUGHT BETWEEN A PLETHORA OF DICHOTOMIES, FEEDING FROM THE EFFORT OF FINDING A BALANCE BETWEEN EXTREMES: IT IS SWEET, IT IS BITTER. IT IS FRAGILE, IT IS ROUGH. IT IS SENTIMENTAL, IT IS COOL. IT FEELS SPONTANEOUS, IT HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED – THERE'S NO END TO THE LIST. »

Tobias Fischer, Tokafi (Germany), March 22, 2011

« la nouvelle coqueluche electronica/ambient/électroacoustique. »

- Goûte mes disques / BE

« I am left with little doubt that Nicolas is fast developing into one of the most important producers/artists around today. »

- Bodyspace / PT

« the most unique performance to Sonar Chicago »

- *depauliaonline.com* / US

« The numerous detours, razor cuts, slamming doors, wooden squeaks and articulated arrangement of sonic debris are on display with considerable panache. »

- The Wire / UK

« le génie de Nicolas Bernier se retrouve dans son art de créer des sons par le biais de la musique populaire. »

- Le métropolitain / CA

works 2005-present

- 2011 L'usure du clocher (sound sculpture)
 • Commissioned by FIMAV
 26/02/2012 Ars Souterrain, Montréal / CA
 09-12/06/2011 In/Ex, Montréal / CA
 18-23/05/2011 FIMAV, Victoriaville / CA
- 2008-10 courant.air (live electronics and acoustic guitar, 34')
 • Movement 1 and 8 commissioned by Réseaux
 • Movement 2, 3 and 7 commissioned by NAISA
 • Movement 4, 5 and 6 with CALQ financial support
 30/10/2010 AKOUSMA 7, Montréal / CA
 02/11/2009 Pecha Kucha, Le cercle, Québec / CA
 07/08/2009 Sound Travels Festival, Toronto / CA
- 2010 La chambre des machines (sound performance, 27')
 13/10/2011 electroni k, Rennes / FR
 06/10/2011 Elektra, Paris / FR
 23/09/2011 Today's Art, Den Hague / NL
 21/09/2011 Espace Mendes, Poitiers / FR
 10/09/2011 Sporobole, Sherbrooke / CA
 04/09/2011 Ars Electronica, Linz / AT
 11/10/2010 Sonar Chicago, Chicago / US
 ___/___/2010 CAM en tournée, Montréal / CA
 19/06/2010 Sonar Barcelona, Barcelona / ES
 02/06/2010 Mutek, Montréal / CA
 05/02/2010 Transmediale, Berlin / DE
- 2008-10 strings.lines (electronics + tuning forks + viola da gamba + violin, 40')
- 2009 The Dancing Deer (pop concrète, 25')
- 2009 silence.musique (musique concrète, 40')
 05/11/2011 Parallel Public Lab, Washington / US
 14/04/2010 Störung, Barcelona / ES
 04/06/2011 Tonus, Bern / CH
- 2004-09 Les arbres (live electronics + instruments + video, 40')
 29/05/2008 Mutek, Montréal / CA
 08/09/2009 Sound Travels Festival, Toronto / CA
- 2008 10 passages (musique concrète, 10')
 • Commissioned by Perte de signal
 28/02/2009 Nuit Blanche, Montréal / CA
 30/10/2008 Maison de la culture N.D.G., Montréal / CA
- 2008 boîte. (sound performance, 20')
 • Commissioned by Érick d'Orion
 11/09/2009 Escapes improbables, Montréal / CA
 16/01/2009 Ekumen présente Musique d'atelier, Montréal / CA
 18/09/2008 Mois Multi, L'art des bruits, Québec / CA
- 2008 Les chambres de l'atelier (musique concrète, 11')
 25/05/2011 Musiques & Recherches, Bruxelles / BE
 20/09/2010 BIMESP, São Paulo / BR
 14/04/2008 Pulsar * 3, Montréal / CA
- 2007 Liaisons mécaniques (musique concrète, 10')
 • Commissioned by Musiques & Recherche
 24/03/2010 Concert Robert Normandeau, Limerick / IR
 15/08/2008 BIMESP, São Paulo / BR
 05/06/2008 Festival Synthèse, Bourges / FR
 04/04/2008 Avril à Lisbonne, Lisbonne / PT
 12/01/2008 Beast, Birmingham / UK
 29/11/2007 Akousma, Montréal / CA
 03/11/2007 Mantis Festival, Manchester / UK
 25/10/2007 Musicacoustica, Beijing / CN
 28/08/2007 Cimesp, São Paulo / BR
 27/04/2007 Ixelles, Bruxelles / BE
- 2006 Big Wheel (soundwalk, 12')
 • Commissioned by Champ libre
 01/04/2007 (sonor)2, Nantes / FR
 22/09/2006 7e MIVAEM, Montréal / CA
- 2006 Sub•a•quat•ic (underwater installation)
 09/06/2006 Réseaux, Montréal / CA
- 2006 Poster musique (urban soundtrack, 56')
- 2005 Writing Machine (musique concrète, 16')
 • Commissioned by ZKM
 30/01/2009 Centro Cultural Belemi, Lisbonne / PT
 04/11/2006 Akousma (3), Montréal, Montréal / CA
 02/12/2005 404 Festival of Electronic Art, Rosario / AR
 29/10/2005 Olhares de Outono, Porto / PT
 12/05/2005 ELEKTRA, Montréal / CA
 13/02/2005 ZKM, Karlsruhe / DE

works 2005-present (continued)

- 2005 Treelogy (3 music videos, 20')
 24/03/2011 MAMCS, Strasbourg / FR
 15/05/2009 Festival des musiques de création, Jonquièrre / CA
 22/04/2009 Festival Le bruit de la neige, Annecy / FR
 11/06/2009 Stimultania, Strasbourg / FR
 01/05/2009 Cartes, Espoon / FI
 11/12/2008 Stimultania, Strasbourg / FR
 06/06/2008 Champs Libre, Strasbourg / FR
 06/05/2008 Cartes Flux, Espoon / FI
 27/03/2008 Sparks video, Syracuse / US
 27/03/2008 Salon de la courte forme, Montréal / CA
 29/02/2008 Center For Art Tape's, Halifax / CA
 02/02/2008 Transmediale, Berlin / DE
 06/11/2007 Instants video, Marseille / FR
 12/09/2007 6DOF, Puebla / MX
 24/08/2007 EXiS, Seoul / KP
 23/08/2007 Galerie Horace, Sherbrooke / CA
 24/02/2007 Festival MNM, Montréal / CA
 28/03/2006 GEMDAYS, Huddersfield / UK
 29/10/2005 Olhares de Outono, Porto / PT
 09/09/2005 Soundplay, Toronto / CA
 23/06/2005 Cirque du Soleil, Montréal / CA
 09/08/2006 Skopje Film Festival, Skopje / MK
 05/05/2006 Algorythm(o)s, CANTE + CENART / MX
 01/04/2006 Festival Int. du Court-Métrage, Lille / FR
 09/12/2005 Visionaria Festival, Sienne / IT
 02/12/2005 404 Festival, Rosario / AR
 09/10/2005 Backup Festival, Weimar / DE
 10/11/2005 Arts Center, Séoul / KP
 10/01/2005 Reggio Emilia, Revenna / IT
 09/24/2005 Chroma Festival, Iles Canaries / ES
 15/06/2005 The Apolo, Barcelona / ES
 11/06/2005 Paysages Électroniques, Lilles / FR
 28/05/2005 Onedotzero, London / UK
 14/05/2005 ELEKTRA, Montréal / CA
 13/05/2005 Videopoesia, Buenos Aires / AR
 09/05/2005 Edgezones, Miami / US
 07/05/2005 310k, Amsterdam / NL
- 2005 Portrait No.2 (music video, 3')
 10/03/2007 Traverse video, Toulouse / FR
 01/01/2006 Momentfactory.com / CA
 12/20/2005 Dérapage, Montréal / CA
- 2005 Le microsillon des vagues (live electronics + instruments + video, 30')
 12/06/2009 Écho d'un fleuve, Montréal / CA
 15/05/2009 CEAAC, Strasbourg / CA
 06/10/2007 Festival Antenne-A, Québec / CA
 22/09/2007 Galerie Horace, Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke / CA
 02/12/2005 404 Festival of Electronic Art, Rosario / AR
 16/04/2005 Société des arts technologiques, Montréal / CA
 31/03/2005 Casa Del Popolo, Montréal / CA
- Since
 2006 Performances and improv
 30/11/2011 Quatuor de Martin Tétreault, MACM, Montréal / CA
 10/09/2011 BOLD, Sporobole, Sherbrooke / CA
 29/03/2011 + G.Rivet + D.Garcia + J.Delisle + C.Quevillon + I.Bamford, Mardi spaghettif, Montréal / CA
 21/05/2010 + Normand + De Beauport, Mardi spaghettif, Montréal / CA
 21/05/2010 BOLD, FIMAV, Victoriaville / CA
 06/11/2009 BOLD, Grace Exhibition Space, New York / US
 08/10/2009 BOLD, Festival Art nomande, Chicoutimi / CA
 27/09/2009 + Pollyfibre / Banff Centre, Banff / CA
 21/06/2009 + Simon Trottier, Suoni Per Il Popolo, Montréal / CA
 15/05/2009 + Trottier, Festival des musiques de création, Jonquièrre / CA
 19/12/2008 + Alexis Bellavance, Rustines | Lab, Montréal / CA
 22/07/2008 + H.Prévost + P-Y. Martel, Mardi spaghetti, Montréal / CA
 19/06/2008 + Simon Trottier, Suoni Per Il Popolo, Montréal / CA
 11/06/2008 Solo, Suoni Per Il Popolo, Montréal / CA
 31/05/2008 + Hélène Prévost, Festival Musiques Spontanées, Rimouski / CA
 14/04/2008 + A. Bellavance, The Factory Media Arts Center, Hamilton / CA
 15/03/2008 + Simon Trottier, Mois Multi, Québec / CA
 13/06/2007 Solo, Saw Gallery, Ottawa / CA
 31/05/2007 + Alexis Bellavance, Festival Alucine, Toronto / CA
 23/05/2007 Solo, Eric Mattson, Epoxy 4, Montréal / CA
 13/06/2006 + Delphine Measroch, Suoni Per Il Popolo, Montréal / CA