



Patrick Fontana, artiste, 59 rue lepic 75018 Paris
mobile : 06 18 04 67 70 mail : fofana@free.fr
<http://www.grenze.org>

2009-2024 : ETHICA, work without obstacle, a digital and augmented edition of the Ethics by Spinoza. Arts and Humanities project. **Seeking funding to continue in 2024.**

Published in Latin in 1677, the Ethics intends to demonstrate “in the manner of surveyors” not only the existence of God, the nature and the origin of the human mind, but still the way which leads “as by the hand” to salvation and bliss. Thanks to an unprecedented visualization of the text, Ethica makes visible the demonstrative network of the work.

Ethica, work without obstacle, is funded by Conseil régional des Hauts de France, a thematic and structuring project 2015-2018, research unit Centre de Recherche en Arts et Esthétique (CRAE, EA4291), University of Picardy Jules Verne.

Patrick Fontana received in 2013, the grant *Brouillon d'un Rêve Pierre Schaeffer* from Société Civile des Auteurs Multimédia (SCAM), and the grant *aide à l'écriture et au développement aux nouveaux médias* from Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée, France, (CNC), after the unanimous decision of the jury.

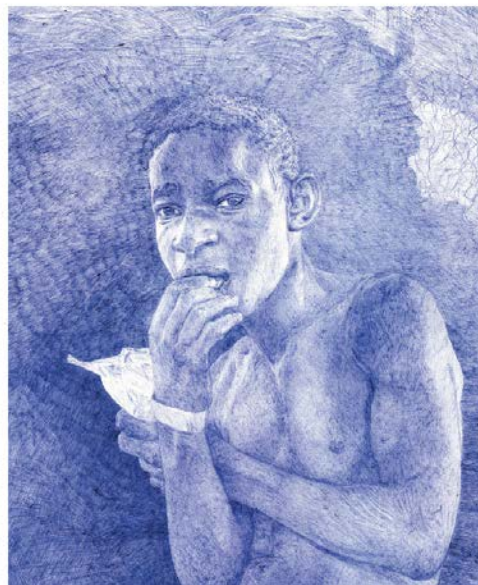
Patrick Fontana and TYGRYZ Compagny, received in 2016, the grant *aide à la production DICREAM* from Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée, France, (CNC).

Ethica has been hosted and supported (2015-2016) by the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'homme, Paris

The Social and Political Thought Research Group, Brunel University of London participated in the financing of Ethica's teaser in 2015.

2015 : Spinoza tout-monde, I invited philosopher Nathalie Chouhan to take part in the workshop (at Emmaüs-Solidarité) to work together on extracts from Spinoza's Ethics (1632-1677). Personal texts on the philosopher's affects and discussions during the workshop were recorded in French and in the languages of the participants.

Online listening



Ethica exhibition as part of the exhibition *la construction du champ*, volet#1 : le chantier, en 2021 at Jean Collet gallery, Vitry-sur Seine.

[presentation video on Youtube](#)

(March 2024) Since its launch 2018, more than 62 000 people from 110 countries around the world have connected to the Ethica work without obstacle application and its website. Thank you very much!

<http://app.ethica-spinoza.net> site internet : <http://ethica-spinoza.net/en>

2021- 2024 **Parce que l'oiseau**, ballpoint pen drawings.

Birds are very special neighbors, important to people in every culture. They are the companions of ardent attachments... We even believe they tell us things... Perhaps because there's something in the way birds are alive that declares the world, that states life, that applies to life and the world to such an extent that we actually hang on to them, cling to them... Muriel Macé Une pluie d'oiseaux , Ed. José Corti.

Parce que l'oiseau is a series of ballpoint pen drawings in different formats, juxtaposing birds and humans, all helpless in the face of looming climate disasters.

Parce que l'oiseau places humans and birds together, in the same gaze, worlds that we would like to share.

[Online presentation](#)



2023 : Les voix passantes, sound creation, poetry readings by 90 people learning French as a foreign language, as part of the exhibition, *Ceci n'est pas un château*, château de l'étang, Bagnolet, november 2023 - january 2024.

2022 Temps de réaction

Performance-atelier, Patrick Fontana, Pierre-Yves Fave

(two video-projections, a double pendulum, pure data, OBS)

Temps de réaction questions our relationship with computers, IT and digital technology, and in particular the interactions between human gestures and the machine.

[Video presentation](#)

[Site](#)



2019 : Je est un autre, sound programme. Residency-mission CLEA la communauté d'agglomération Coeur d'Essonne, DRAC Île-de-France, Académie de Versailles. 7 groups in 5 towns: retired women, CM2s, nursery assistants, mentally ill people, adults with disabilities, isolated minors, people learning French as a foreign language.

<https://r22.fr/antennes/lecture-s-de-bouche-s>

2019 : Exposition, *Notes dessinées*, in the network of media libraries in the communauté d'agglomération Coeur d'Essonne.

These « notes dessinées » consist of a drawing linked to a fragment of text read or heard during a speech. Taken in the moment, they are a way of putting words or texts into images. These notes are then developed into a series of drawings and animated sequences. For each project, I look for the right medium to get to the heart of the subject I'm tackling, either on my own or as part of a group. I try to create the right conditions for serendipity and chance discoveries.



2015 - 2016 : *Hymnes*, sound creation, commissioned from author Nicolas Richard, as part of the workshop atelier Lecture(s) de bouche(s) association Emmaüs-Solidarité, Paris Production Khiasma. Festival Relectures 2016, les lilas.

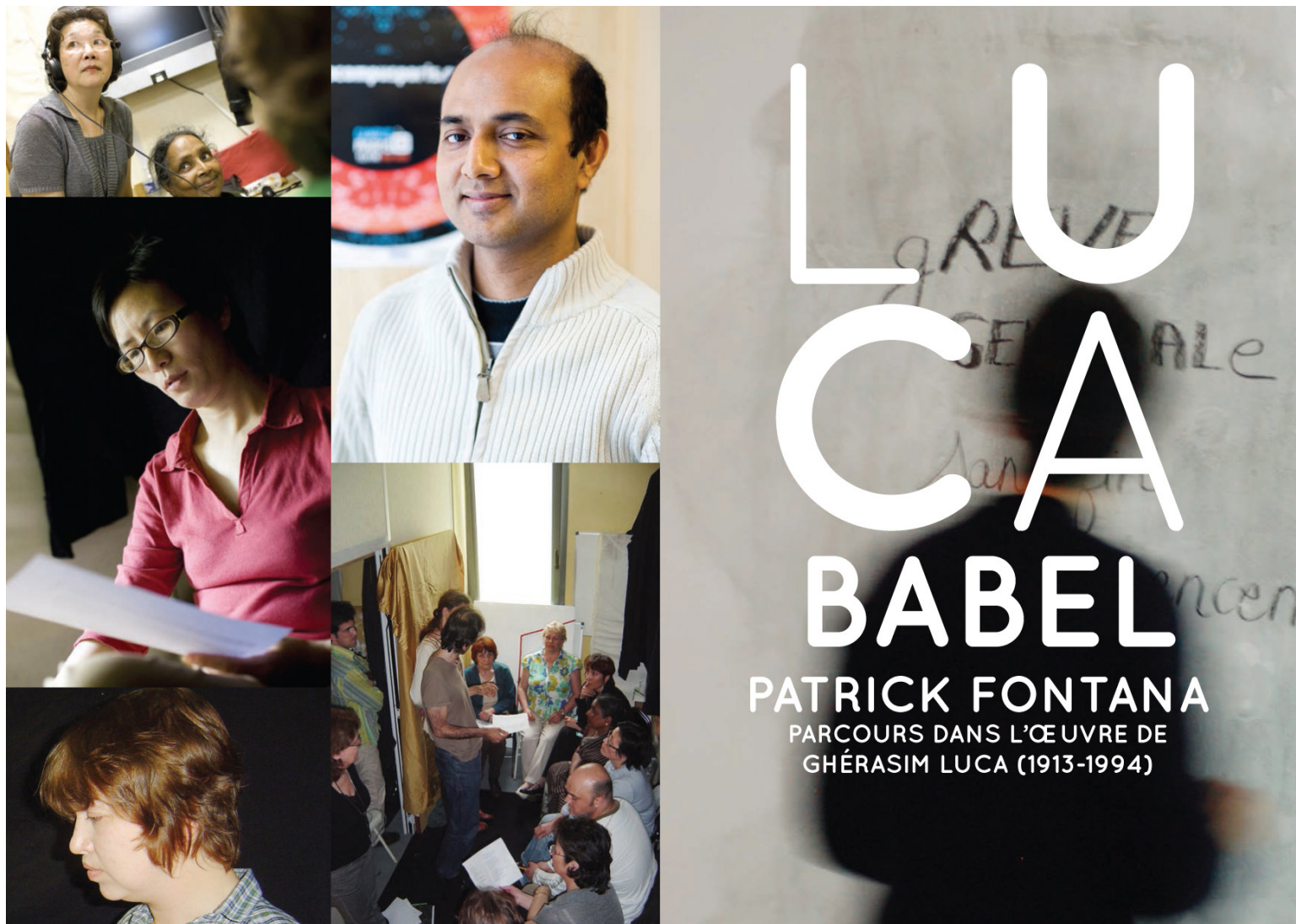
<https://www.r22.fr/antennes/espace-khiasma/relectures-17-histoires-geographies/hymnes>

2015 : En redevenant sauvages et féroces, exposition, series of black pencil drawings.

Thousands of people are crossing the Mediterranean at the risk of losing their lives to reach us, "migrants" who walk across Europe, stopped by walls and barbed wire, put in camps and soon to be turned back. Europe rejects these people en masse.

Paper A5 format black pencil portraits taken from photographs of these events on the internet.





LU CA BABEL

PATRICK FONTANA
 PARCOURS DANS L'ŒUVRE DE
 GHÉRASIM LUCA (1913-1994)

2013 : LUCA BABEL ! audio CD, poems by Ghérasim Luca.

Khiasma, Association Emmaüs Solidarité Paris, Drac Ile-de-France.

Coup de coeur 2014 de l'Académie Charles Cros.

Luca Babel brings together a selection of poems by Ghérasim Luca recorded between 2007 and 2016. These poems were worked on in the artistic workshop Lecture(s) de bouche(s), by people learning French as a Foreign Language at the Emmaüs association in Paris.

Luca Babel is the memory of 10 years of rich and unexpected collaboration with these people and a formidable manifesto for learning a poetic and lively French language. It also shows my attachment to Luca's poetry, which I have been reading and working on for almost 30 years through public readings, recordings for France Culture and a sound and visual installation bearing the same name as the workshop.

Ghérasim Luca was born in Bucharest in 1913. He moved to Paris in 1952. He chose French to write his poetry. In his solitude and his search for a philosopher's stone, a "key", Luca, troubled by the rise of racism and anti-Semitism, committed suicide in January 1994.

<https://www.r22.fr/antennes/lecture-s-de-bouche-s/20130303-luca-babel>

2009-2011 : Des-intégration(s), Patrick Fontana, Aelters, Pierre-Yves Fave.

sound and visual installation, Puredata, spatialization 12 enceintes

A host of voices, 'spatialised' through twelve amplified speakers, play recordings of readings of the poems 'L'étranger' and 'L'invitation au voyage', in French and Russian, Arabic, Tigrinya, Tamil, Vietnamese, Chinese, Bengali, Spanish, Czech, Turkish, Persian and Catalan.

At the heart of this poetry of the world, a video-projection of the text CESEDA (Code d'Entrée et de Séjour des Emigrés et du Droit d'Asile - Code of Entry and Residence for Emigrants and the Right of Asylum) is altered and disordered, as if the framework it provided for the language were suddenly too narrow to contain the vast, sensitive expanse of this polyphony.

The recordings were made in 2010 in the Lecture(s) de bouche(s) workshop at the Emmaüs-Solidarité association, with people learning French as a foreign language.

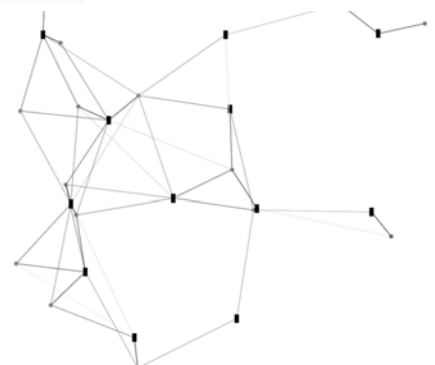
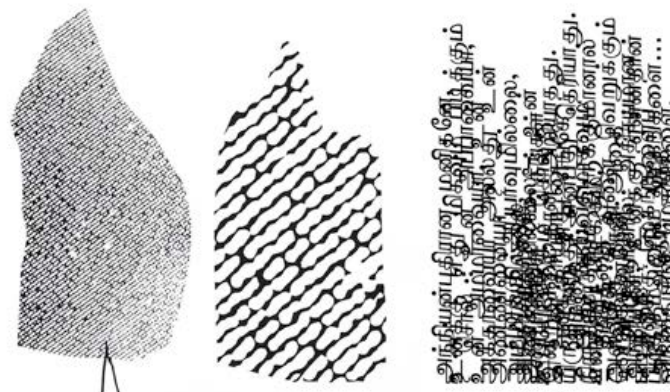
These are the poems of Baudelaire that we hear, Baudelaire, both a poet of reference and a figure of modern rupture, like all poets, a foreigner in his own language.

The use of translations brings French back into play at the heart of this polyphony in movement and takes us into another dimension of listening. Unpublished translations have been specially made for Des-intégration(s): in Tamil, Vietnamese, Arabic, Catalan and Tigrinya (one of the languages of Eritrea).

Drac Ile-de-France, Association Emmaüs-Solidarité, Ville de Paris. Creation at l'Espace Khiasma (Les Lilas).

[presentation video 1](#)

[presentation video 2](#)



2011 : Désintégrations, notes dessinées based on the book by Christophe Bertossi (IRI), *Les frontières de la citoyenneté en Europe. Nationalité, résidence, appartenance.*

[presentation video](#)

[Notes dessinées on ligne](#)

Through a comparative analysis of the European context of nationality, this book shows how recent developments are not a reconciliation between nationality, liberal citizenship and immigration. Rather, they reveal the very limits of the national principle as a basis for today's democratic measure of political exclusion. The challenge of redefining the boundaries of citizenship in Europe ultimately lies in a global rethink of the notion of citizenship itself.



Modern political citizenship thus reveals its necessary economy: there is (and must be) a civic allegiance within the framework of the nation-nationality.

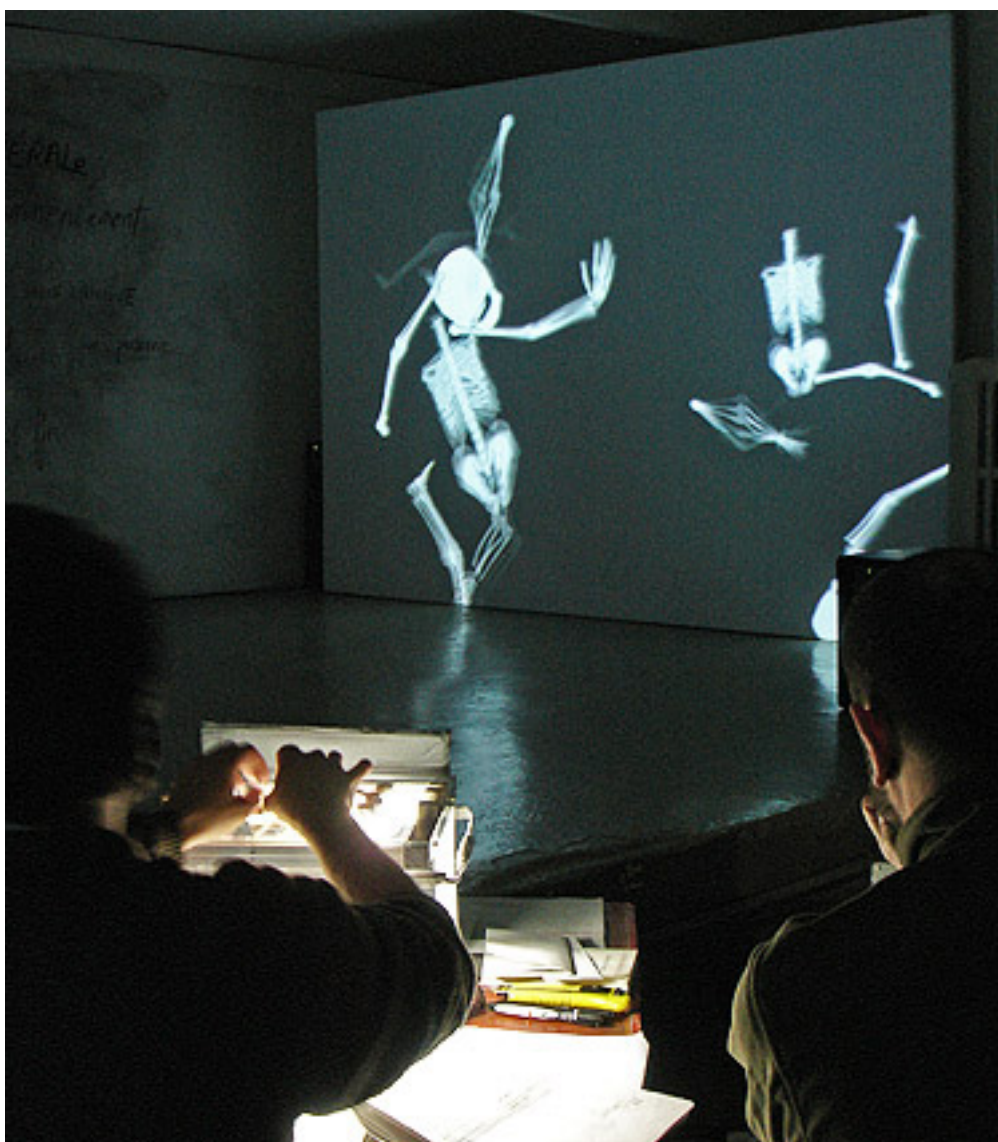
**2006-2009 : Lecture(s) de bouche(s).
Patrick Fontana, Aelters, Pierre-Yves Fave. Avec la
comédienne Nathalie Nambot.**

Performance video PureData , Gem Reactivision.

Lecture(s) de bouche(s) is inspired by the poems and Cubomanies of the Romanian poet Ghérasim Luca. It is based on the development and installation in space of two plastic objects that produce visual forms: the dioptric studio and the ink table.

DICREAM 2006 (aide à la réalisation), Ville de Paris, association Emmaüs-Solidarité. In 2007 and 2008, Patrick Fontana benefited from a creative residency at the Espace Khiasma (Les Lilas) supported by the Conseil général de la Seine-Saint-Denis.

[presentation video](#)



2008 : *L'Amour noir*, P. Fontana, producer of a radio creation on Ghérasim Luca for France Culture, selected for Prix Europa 2009, directed by Marguerite Gateau.

France Culture

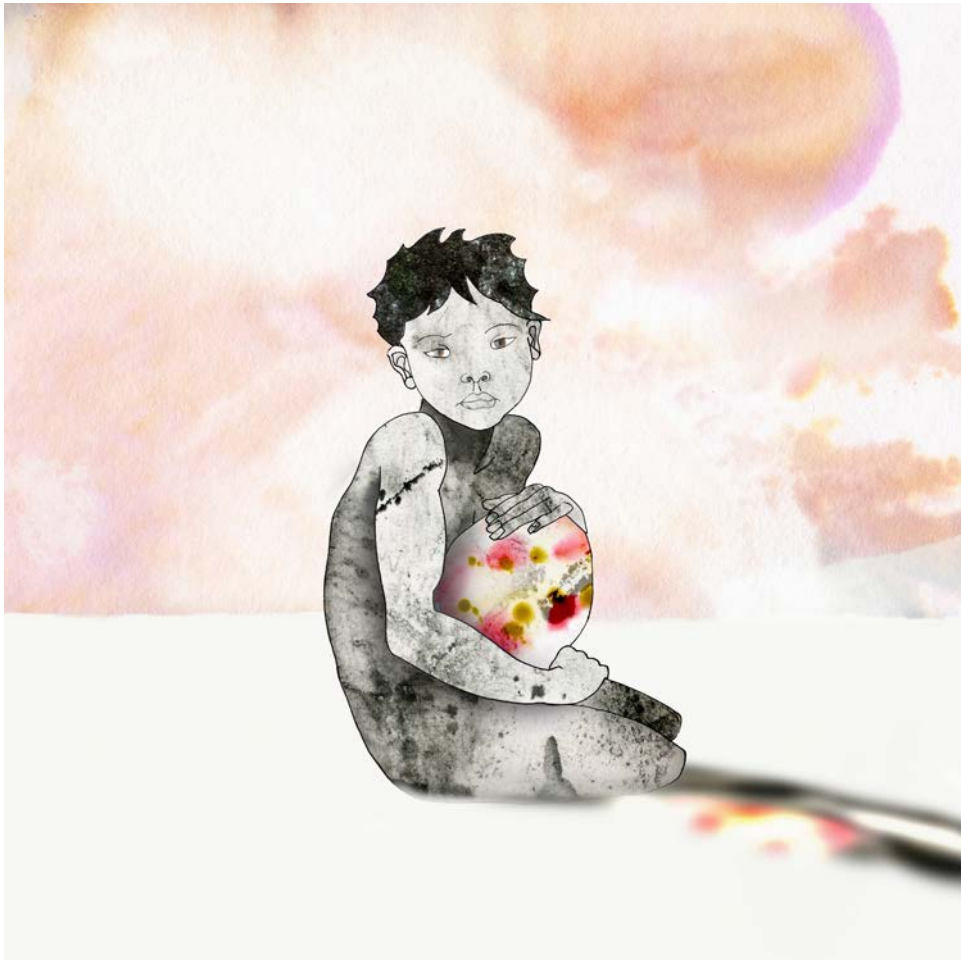
2008-2022 : *Le rêve de Chak, l'histoire de l'enfant source*, illustrated story written with Josep Rafanell i Orra.

traductions : Angela Camps, José María Perceval

image texture : Florence Hinneburg

online : Pierre-Yves Fave

Digital edition



C'est l'histoire de Chak, l'enfant immense qui habitait sur la planète HaaB. Dans ces temps anciens, la planète était éclairée par la lumière incandescente du Bas Astre, le soleil moribond. C'est l'histoire de Chak, l'enfant qui vivait seul dans son monde.

2000-2007 : GRENZE, performance video, based on Karl Marx's Capital Patrick Fontana, Aelters, Pierre-Yves Fave.

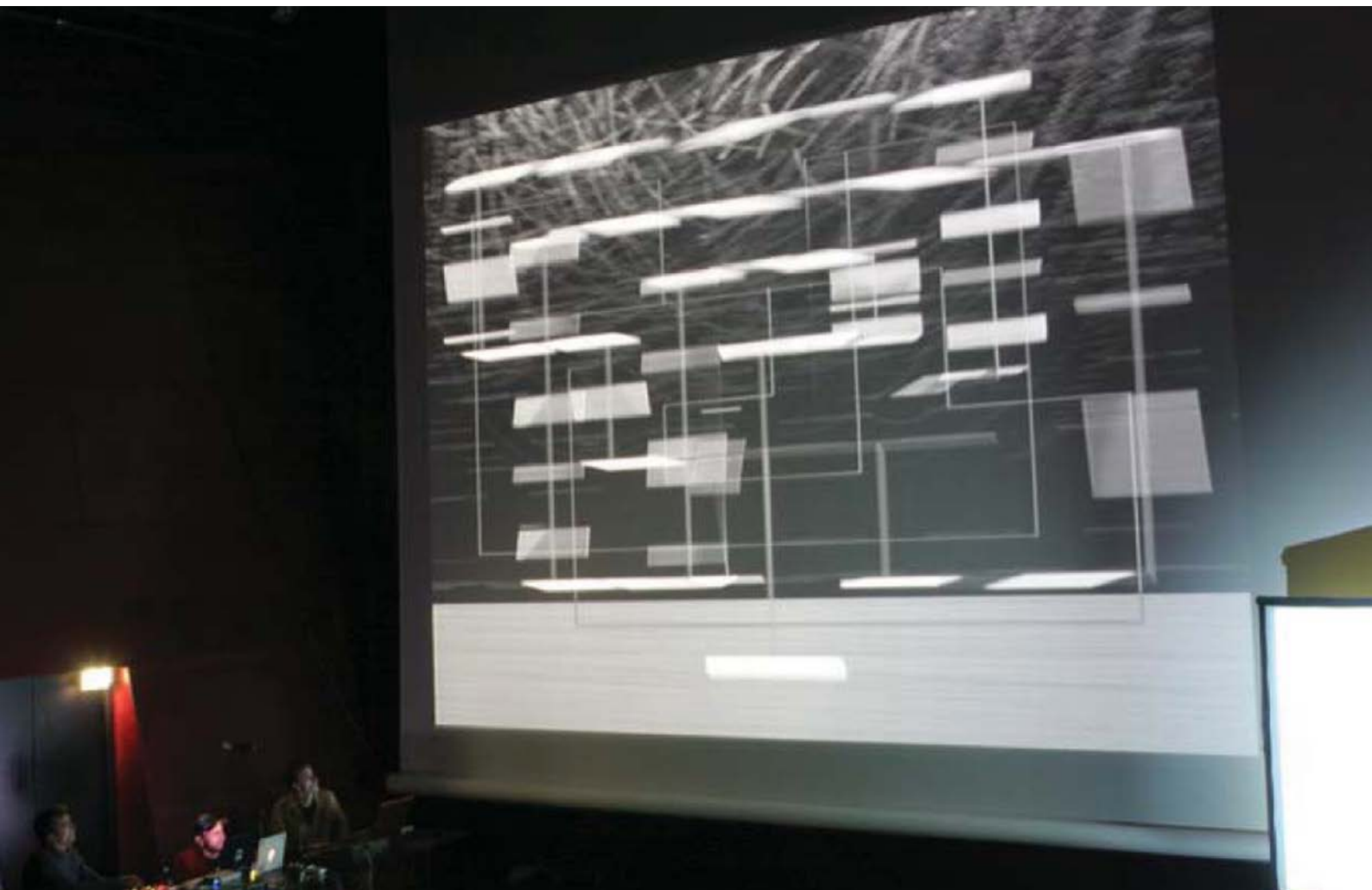
"Your ability to "put words into images" has found here a form and a space that allow it to manifest itself in all its power. I imagine that a multitude of singular forms are possible from elements assembled in this way. I don't know if this is how Eisenstein would have put Le Capital on film, but you have certainly found a powerful and seductive way of realising his dream." Jacques Rancière

Grenze is a vision of the metamorphoses of the capitalist system, based on notes drawn from Karl Marx's Capital.

It is structured around the book. It gives a visual translation. It gradually sets up a chain of metamorphic movements. Our gaze, our expectations and time respond to the construction of an infernal mechanism that takes everything away.

Ministère de la culture et de la communication, DICREAM, SCAM, CTC, Collectivité Territoriale de Corse, AERI, CG93, Conseil Général de Seine-Saint-Denis. Patrick Fontana benefited from a creative residency at NIFCA (Nordic Institut For Contemporary Art) Helsinki en 2006. Grenze has been broadcast in over 20 countries around the world.

[Presentation video](#)



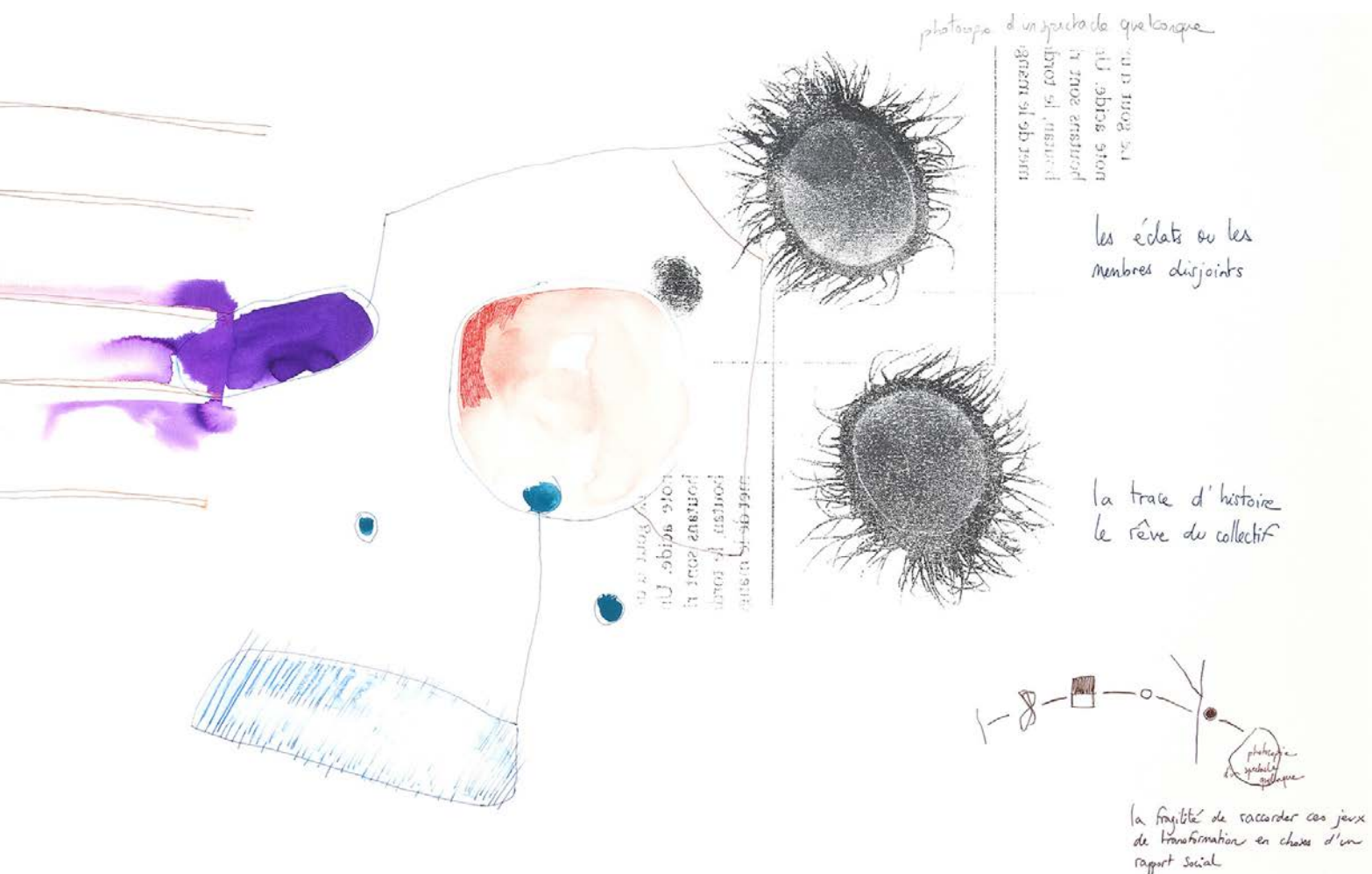
2003 (restart in 2024) : La bande à venir avec une esquisse, notes dessinées based on the seminars of Jacques Rancière and Giorgio Agamben as part of the exhibition *Changer son matin : de quelques bonheurs possibles, peut-être*, Valence, CRAC scène nationale, 2003.

For two years, 1997 - 1999, I attended two seminars: Jacques Rancière's *L'idée esthétique* and Giorgio Agamben's *Qu'est-ce que la philosophie* at the Collège de philosophie in Paris. During these two seminars, I took notes dessinées (832 for J. Rancière - 181 for G. Agamben).

I transcribed these notes onto 270 sheets of 120x80 cm paper. I invited about thirty people to see this work, including J. Rancière. I recorded each visit. At each visit I removed and/or tore up a sheet.

The remaining sheets were shown at the exhibition. *Changer son matin...*

Online presentation



1999-2000 Les Télés, notes dessinées around Antonio Négri's seminar on immaterial work, in Paris in 1995-1996.

Published in Le Monde Diplomatique (June 1999 and again in 2004 to mark the journal's 50th anniversary). Publication of a book-object in 1998, 300 copies with an original note dessinée, preface by Toni Négri.

[online presentation](#)

