



french institute  
alliance française

22 East 60th Street  
New York, NY 10022

T. 212 355 6100  
F. 212 935 4119

info@fiaf.org  
www.fiaf.org

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Natascha Bodemann | 646 388 6677 | [nbodemann@fiaf.org](mailto:nbodemann@fiaf.org)

[www.crossingtheline.org](http://www.crossingtheline.org)

# CROSSING THE LINE

French Institute Alliance Française (FI AF)  
together with Soundwalk Collective

presents

the World Premiere of  
*Fiction & Non-Fiction Soundwalk*

Olivier Cadiot • Philippe Claudel  
John Giorno • Camille Laurens  
Teju Cole

Available for download beginning September 17, 2011  
Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11am to 5:30pm  
Museum Mile

*“Soundwalk... like movies you can stroll through.”*—TIME Magazine

**New York, New York, August 30, 2011**— For the fifth edition of its highly acclaimed transdisciplinary contemporary arts festival *Crossing the Line* 2011, The French Institute Alliance Française (FI AF), New York’s premiere cultural center, has partnered with Soundwalk Collective, the New York-based group of sound artists to conceive and produce the *Fiction & Non-Fiction Soundwalk*, a free, downloadable audio-guided walk featuring five specially-commissioned texts by contemporary French writers Olivier Cadiot, Philippe Claudel, and Camille Laurens, and New York-based writers Teju Cole and John Giorno.

The *Fiction & Non-Fiction Soundwalk* is presented as part of *Fiction & Non-Fiction*, one of *Crossing the Line*’s three principle programming clusters. It will be available for download starting September 17th, in conjunction with the festival’s free Opening Day, offering engaging and thought-provoking live performances and site-specific works exploring the mystifying boundaries between fiction and reality.

On what do we rely to differentiate truth from fiction? How much of our interpretation of the world depends on our senses and how much on our rational mind? What really shapes our perception of the world around us?

For the *Fiction & Non-Fiction Soundwalk*, each author has written a short narrative inspired by a place, building, or object along Manhattan’s Museum Mile. The Soundwalk will guide listeners, using their MP3 players or smartphones, into the authors’ worlds taking them on a journey—real or imagined—to the source of each writer’s inspiration. The spoken texts have been recorded by each author, and are beautifully complemented by original music and sound design created by Soundwalk Collective. The recordings are available in an English version, as well as a version combining English and French.

The *Fiction & Non-Fiction Soundwalk* will be available for free download at [fiaf.org/crossingtheline](http://fiaf.org/crossingtheline) beginning Saturday, September 17, 2011. The audio-guided tour can be taken on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11am–5:30pm. Also, a limited number of MP3 buttons preloaded with the audio-guided walk will be available for loan on Saturday, September 17th, the Opening Day of *Crossing the Line* 2011, from 2–5pm, at the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, 972 Fifth Avenue (between 78th and 79th Streets).

### About Olivier Cadiot

Olivier Cadiot is a poet, novelist, and translator. He is the author of *L'Art Poetic* (1988; English version by Sun and Moon Press, 1999) and several novels, many of which were adapted for the stage by French director Ludovic Lagarde: *Futur, Ancien, Fugitif* (1993), *Le colonel des Zouaves* (1997), *Retour définitive et durable de l'être aimé, Fairy Queen* (2002), *Un nid pour quoi faire* (2007), and *Un mage en été* (2010). Both *Un nid pour quoi faire* and *Un mage en été* were adapted for the stage by Lagarde for the 2010 Avignon Festival to which Cadiot was invited as an Associate Artist. Cadiot works regularly with musicians and composers, including Pascal Dusapin, with whom he created *Il-li-ko* and the opera *Romeo et Juliette*, and the French rock musician Rodolphe Burger.

Cadiot is also the translator of the Psalms and Song of Songs for the new version of The Bible, published in 2002. He has been associated with the artistic collective Comédie de Reims as a playwright since 2009. Some of Cadiot's works have been translated into English by Charles Bernstein and Cole Swensen, including *Colonel Zoo* in 2005, among others, and published in American poetry reviews (*Serie d'écriture n°7*, published by Burning Deck Press).

### About Philippe Claudel

Philippe Claudel is a French writer and film director. Born in Dombasle-sur-Meurthe in Lorraine, France, Claudel began his career teaching in prisons in the nearby city of Nancy. There, Claudel was inspired to write short stories, novels, and eventually screenplays. His time as a prison employee strongly influenced his work, and the author has said that the experience shaped his ideas about guilt and the judicial system. Claudel is best known for his novel *Les Âmes grises (Grey Souls)*, which won the French Prix Renaudot, was shortlisted for the American Gumshoe Award, and won Sweden's Martin Beck Award; and *Les petites mécaniques*, which won the Goncourt Prize for short stories. In 2008, Claudel wrote and directed *I've Loved You So Long (Il y a longtemps que je t'aime)*. Starring Kristen Scott Thomas, the film won a BAFTA Award for Best Film Not in English and a César Award for Best First Feature for Claudel. *Broderick's Report*, Claudel's hallucinatory tale of an uneasy homecoming after a wrenching tragedy, was awarded the 2010 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. In addition to writing and directing, Claudel is a Professor of Literature at the University of Nancy.

### About Teju Cole

Teju Cole is a writer, photographer, and art historian. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, he got his start at age fifteen through regularly published cartoons in *Prime People*, Nigeria's version of *Vanity Fair*. Cole moved to the United States at age seventeen, where he studied art history. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Tin House*, *Transition*, and other journals. He is the author of the novella *Every Day is for the Thief*. His debut novel *Open City* was released to critical acclaim by Random House in February. He is at work on a non-fiction narrative of Lagos, Nigeria. He currently lives in Brooklyn.

### About John Giorno

John Giorno is an American poet and performance artist. Born in New York, Giorno graduated from Columbia University in 1958, and first rose to prominence as the subject of Andy Warhol's seminal film *Sleep* (1963). Warhol became Giorno's lover and, together with his contemporaries Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns, inspired Giorno to apply the Pop Art techniques of appropriation of found imagery to his poetry, resulting in his 1964 *American Book of the Dead*. In 1965, Giorno founded a not-for-profit production company, Giorno Poetry Systems, using innovative technology to connect poetry to new audiences. His *Dial-a-Poem* event, making short poems by contemporary poets available over the telephone, was presented at the Museum of Modern Art

in 1970, and generated a series of LP records featuring artists William Burroughs, John Ashbery, Patti Smith, Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, Robert Rauschenberg, Robert Mapplethorpe, and others.

A long-time practitioner of Tibetan Buddhism, Giorno was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War and was involved in a number of anti-war protests. Giorno is known for his contributions to the poetry slam and performance art scenes, as well as his influence on the early Industrial music of artists Throbbing Gristle and Suicide, among others. Giorno is also an AIDS advocate, and founded the charity AIDS Treatment Project in 1984, which continues to offer financial and other support to individuals with HIV/AIDS. The first career-spanning collection of Giorno's poems, *Subduing Demons in America: Selected Poems 1962–2007*, was published in 2008. In 2010, Giorno presented his first solo show at Nicole Klagsburn Gallery, *Black Paintings and Drawings*, exhibiting works that chronicled the evolution of poem painting.

### About Camille Laurens

After studying modern literature, Camille Laurens taught in France and then spent twelve years as a teacher in Morocco. She now lives in Paris, and is the author of an autobiographical narrative, *Philippe* (1995), as well as eight novels, including *Dans ces bras-là* (Prix Femina 2000), *L'amour, roman* (2003), *Ni toi ni moi* (2006), all published by Folio and translated into numerous languages. Laurens's most recent novel, *Romance nerveuse*, was published in January 2010 by Gallimard. She has also authored a number of playful explorations of the French lexicon, published in three books: *Quelques-uns* (1999), *Le Grain des mots* (2003), and *Tissé par mille* (2007), a collection of the columns she wrote for the French radio station France Culture. Passionate about art, she has collaborated with photographer Remi Vinet for *Cet absent-là* (2004) and performed in lecture-concerts with the electro-acoustic composer Philippe Mion, (CD *Tissé par mille*, coll. *A voix haute*, Gallimard, 2007).

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### Merci!

The *Fiction & Non-Fiction Soundwalk* is co-curated by Gérard Cherqui. It is funded by Etant donnés, The French-American Fund for the Performing Arts, a Program of FACE, and the Société des Auteurs et Créateurs Dramatiques (SACD).

FIAF would like to thank the following for their generous support of *Crossing the Line* 2011:

American Airlines, the Official Airline of FIAF; 972, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy; Institut français; Florence Gould Foundation; Robert de Rothschild; National Endowment for the Arts; FACE: French American Cultural Exchange; Etant donnees: The French American Fund for the Performing Arts; FUSED: French U.S. Exchange in Dance; New England Foundation for the Arts; Nespresso; BNP Paribas; Societe des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts; The Lowell Hotel; and Arizona State University.

### About Soundwalk

Soundwalk is an international sound collective based in New York City. In the early 2000s, Soundwalk made its name by producing cutting-edge audio guides, mixing fiction and reality to provide an exclusive and poetic discovery of a city, on the bridge between Baudelairian stroll and cinematic experience. Critically acclaimed, Soundwalk has won several accolades including the Audie Award in 2009 for the Beijing and Shanghai Louis Vuitton series, as well as the Dalton Pen Award in 2005 for the Ground Zero Sonic Memorial with Paul Auster, and the 2004 Audie Award for the Bronx Soundwalk with Afrika Bambaataa. Over the past 10 years, Soundwalk has collected, distilled, and re-interpreted sounds from all over the world to create immersive sound journeys, radically modern in their conception. Soundwalk's art projects range from site-specific installations to geo-specific performances that include sound, video, and custom-made objects. Soundwalk has performed and exhibited at leading museums and cultural institutions around the world, including the Centre Pompidou in Paris, MADRE Museum of Contemporary Art in Naples, Shanghai World Expo, Abu Dhabi Biennial of Art, Maison des Arts de Creteil, and Chanel Mobile Art.

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*Crossing the Line*, FIAF's fall festival, is conceived as a platform to present vibrant new works by a diverse range of trans-disciplinary artists who are transforming and furthering cultural and artistic practices on both sides of the Atlantic. It is conceived, initiated, and produced by FIAF in partnership with leading New York cultural institutions, and runs this year from September 17–October 16, 2011.

Inaugurated in 2007, *Crossing the Line* has enjoyed increasingly strong audience response from diverse segments of the New York City area, as well as prestigious critical acclaim. The festival has been voted “Best of 2009” and “Best of 2010” by *Time Out New York*, *The New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. *The New York Times* wrote: “One of the fall’s most exciting and thought-provoking performance events” (2008) and “The city should have a party for the French Institute Alliance Française for giving it this wonderful interdisciplinary festival” (2009).

The fifth edition is co-curated by Lili Chopra, Artistic Director at FIAF, and Simon Dove, Director, Herberger Institute School of Dance at Arizona State University, and focuses around three principal programming perspectives: Fiction & Non-Fiction; Lecture/Performance Series; Endurance/Resistance/Inspiration. A number of the programs will utilize FIAF's own spaces, including Florence Gould Hall, the FIAF Gallery, Tinker Auditorium, and Le Skyroom. Established partners in New York City will also host events, including Anthology Film Archives, Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Danspace Project, The Invisible Dog Center, The Kitchen, The Lowell Hotel, New York Department of Parks & Recreation, New York Live Arts, Performance Space 122, Performing Garage, the Stephan Stoyanov Gallery, and Van Cortlandt Park.  
[www.fiaf.org/crossingtheline](http://www.fiaf.org/crossingtheline)

### About FIAF

FIAF's mission is to create and offer New Yorkers innovative and unique programs in education and the arts that explore the evolving diversity and richness of French cultures. FIAF seeks to generate new ideas and promote cross cultural dialogue through partnerships and new platforms of expression. [www.fiaf.org](http://www.fiaf.org)

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**LISTING SUMMARY**

**What:** *Crossing the Line 2011: Fiction & Non-Fiction Soundwalk*  
**When:** Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11am to 5:30pm, beginning September 17, 2011  
A limited number of MP3 buttons will be available for loan on Saturday, September 17th, from 2–5pm, at the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, 972 Fifth Avenue (between 78th and 79th Streets)  
**Where:** Museum Mile  
**Transportation:** To 972 Fifth Avenue:  
Subway: 6 to 77th Street & Lexington Avenue;  
Bus: M1, M2, M3, M4, M72, M79 to 78th Street  
**Download:** Free of charge  
**To download:** [fiaf.org/crossingtheline](http://fiaf.org/crossingtheline)  
**Information:** [fiaf.org/crossingtheline](http://fiaf.org/crossingtheline) | 212 355 6100

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