

For Immediate Release

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CROSSING THE LINE 2012

The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)
together with the Paula Cooper Gallery
presents

Céleste Boursier-Mougenot: *portraits*

September 14 through November 10, 2012
FIAF • Gallery; 22 East 60th Street, NY, NY

New York, NY, August 13, 2012—As part of the sixth edition of *Crossing the Line*, FIAF's annual transdisciplinary festival of contemporary arts, the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) presents Céleste Boursier-Mougenot's *portraits*, a site-specific video and sound installation that explores the realms of the musical and the visual, on view September 14 through November 10, 2012 at the FIAF Gallery. The opening reception will take place on Friday, September 14, from 6–8pm.

After mesmerizing British audiences in 2010 with his aviary orchestra, which featured 40 electric guitar-agitating zebra finches, Boursier-Mougenot returns with a new sonic adventure. His work extends the idea of the musical score to include unorthodox combinations of ordinary objects and media, which he uses to generate “living art forms.” The results are both hypnotic and epiphanous: sonic events that have been turned into visual materials, or visual objects that have been transposed sonically. The sound patterns he creates branch and divide, randomly mutate, dissolve and reform in a never-ending flow.

portraits is composed of filmed interviews of six musicians projected at varying sizes on the walls and ceiling of the FIAF Gallery, creating an immersive experience for the audience. The images, shown with intentional distortions, are accompanied by a soundtrack Boursier-Mougenot created using a technique he developed himself, which transposes the video signals into sound.

A musician and composer by training, Boursier-Mougenot has said that in this work “I take the everyday exchange of language and transform it into pure poetry.”



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About Céleste Boursier-Mougenot

Céleste Boursier-Mougenot was born in Nice, France in 1961. He trained as a musician at the Conservatory for Music in Nice and served as the composer for the avant-garde Pascal Rambert theater company before beginning to stage sound installations in art galleries in the early 1990s. A Marcel Duchamp award nominee, Boursier-Mougenot has had work exhibited worldwide, including at the Barbican Art Gallery, London; Pinacoteca, Sao Paulo; La Maison Rouge, Paris; and the National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul. He lives and works in Sète, France.

About Crossing the Line 2012

Crossing the Line is the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)'s annual fall festival presenting interdisciplinary works and performances created by artists from around the world in New York. The festival provides opportunities for New Yorkers to explore the dialogue between artist and participant, examine how artists help re-imagine the world, and engage in the vital role artists play as critical thinkers and catalysts for social evolution. Curated by Lili Chopra, Artistic Director of FIAF, Simon Dove, Director of the Herberger Institute School of Dance at Arizona State University, and Gideon Lester, Director of Theater Programs at Bard College, *Crossing the Line* is initiated and produced by FIAF in partnership with leading cultural institutions and takes place this year from September 14–October 14, 2012.

Inaugurated in 2007, *Crossing the Line* has enjoyed increasingly strong audience response from diverse segments of the New York City area, as well as critical acclaim. The festival was 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* has said, "The French Institute Alliance Française's annual *Crossing the Line* has carved out a particular identity as an invigorating, unpredictable, occasionally provocative mix of genres and disciplines...It's the artistic equivalent of a splash of water on the face." fiaf.org/ctl

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

Merci!

FIAF would like to thank the following for their generous support of *Crossing the Line* 2012:

Nespresso, Presenting Sponsor of *Crossing the Line* 2012.

American Airlines, the Official Airline of FIAF; 972, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy; Institut français; Florence Gould Foundation; The French-American Fund for Contemporary Theater, a Program of FACE; FUSED (French-U.S. Exchange in Dance); Fondation d'entreprise Hermès; New York State Council on the Arts; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; The Enoch Foundation; The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation; Interaudi Bank; The Museum for African Art; Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques; Netherlands Cultural Services; The Netherland-America Foundation; APAP Cultural Exchange; and Robert de Rothschild.

Special thanks to Arizona State University.

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LISTING SUMMARY

What: *Crossing the Line 2012: Céleste Boursier-Mougenot: portraits*
When: Sunday, October 14–Saturday, November 10
Where: FIAF Gallery
22 East 60th Street (between Park and Madison Avenues)
Admission: fiaf.org/ctl | 212 355 6100
Transportation: Subway–4, 5, 6, N, R and Q to 59th Street & Lexington Avenue;
F to 63rd Street & Lexington Avenue
Bus - M1, M2, M3, M4, Q31 to 59th Street; M5 to 58th Street

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