

MUTANTX

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The immense complex of the former library where the next edition of the Biennale de l'Image Possible/BIP will take place is now empty, floating in the neighborhood like a ghost ship, abandoned and grandiose, all glass and concrete. We see this deserted liner as an arch ready to welcome the reinvention of the sensitive worlds surrounding it, in an urban biotope in the throes of transformation.

We see this environment we're about to collectively invest in as the (science-) fiction of our future. At the dawn of a moment of transition, of wavering, even of tipping, predicted with increasing urgency, we, living regimes mingled and more than ever united, are at the crossroads, for better or for worse, of «a contested past, a strange present, an uncertain future» (Paul B. Preciado). So let's mutate! Let's transform!

Mutantx refers to that which, whether voluntarily or not, is transformed by contact with external agents or evolves intimately. It's a change that profoundly modifies, overflows the self, and consequently troubles the thorny question of identity. It means being something else, without being a pure strangeness. Mutantx means being and staying in motion, in body and mind, and adjusting to or resisting the environment, intervening on the outside and the inside.

To be a mutantx is to have - sometimes unknowingly - a power and therefore, necessarily, a body. This body can be human, mineral, animal, vegetable, social, technological... or a combination of several types. The body bears witness to the mutation, and acquires a capacity for action, expression and protest. Mutantxs have also integrated the past and play with it. Mutantx rearrange their heritage. By manifesting themselves, mutantx become the sign that something is changing, or may change, in space and time.

Mutantxs do not exist without a link to a territory, which itself can mutate. There is an interdependence between mutantxs and the places they inhabit. One influences the others, transforming them, impacting them, reinventing them. Landscape and environment are also mutating contexts.

The image of mutantx is the image of diversity, mixity, inclusion, attempts. Mutantx are always a little frightening, or are admired and envied. It's normal: they're on the borderline between monsters and chimeras on the one hand, and prodigies and marvels on the other. Mutantx are like collages.

What we often forget is that, since «I is another» ("Je est un autre" – Arthur Rimbaud), we are all a little mutantx. That's why mutantx are hopes.