



Entre réflexions et immersion

Exhibition organised by Cercle Cité as part of the Immersive Pavilion at the Luxembourg City Film Festival

07/02/2025
— 06/04/2025
11:00 - 19:00

Cercle Cité
Luxembourg

Free entrance, registration
required: cerclecite.lu

Opening: 07.02.2025 at 18:00

The works shown in the *Entre réflexions et immersion* exhibition at the Cercle Cité had their world premiere at the 81st Venice Mostra 2024, in the Immersive Venice section. The exhibition invites the public to plunge into two distinct but profoundly complementary artistic worlds. Through the immersive experiences entitled *Ceci est mon cœur* and *Oto's Planet*, visitors are guided through an exploration of the self and the world, where technology and creativity come together as they push the boundaries of perception and emotion.

The title, *Entre réflexions et immersion*, reflects the delicate balance that these two works establish between introspection and sensorial wonder. It suggests a movement between the inner, intimate experience and a full engagement with environments that interrogate our relationship with reality and our emotions.

Ceci est mon cœur is an immersive and collective work that explores an extraordinary love story, that of a child's reconciliation with his body. Enveloped in a connected garment and enhanced with luminous embroideries, the work highlights the distorted perceptions we have of our own bodies. *Ceci est mon cœur* offers a sensory odyssey where the connected garment lights up in rhythm with the text of the story. A ballet of lights takes shape in response to the narrative, conceived as a dialogue between the narrator and their own body.

The work celebrates the beauty of human fragility and emphasizes the importance of self-acceptance. *Ceci est mon cœur* brings us face to face with our own essence while simultaneously connecting us with a poetic world in which the rhythm of our life becomes a work of art. This experience prompts a meditation on resilience, the beauty of existence and how it relates intimately to our bodies.

Awarded the special Jury Prize in the Immersive Venice section at the 81st Venice Mostra as well as the award for Best Immersive Experience at the International Film Festival in Geneva and the Beyond the Frame Festival in Tokyo, *Oto's Planet* is an adventure in virtual reality that transports spectators into a vibrant and interactive imaginary world. This work accompanies the character Oto and his dog Skippy in their day-to-day life on a mysterious planet, until an extraterrestrial suddenly appears, upsetting their peaceful



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life. It plunges visitors into a rich and playful narrative universe in which each visual, audio and interactive element contributes to creating an unforgettable sensorial and emotional experience.

In addition to its captivating aesthetic, *Oto's Planet* interrogates our relationship with nature, the unknown and differences. The work invites spectators to view the world through the confrontation between Oto and a strange visitor, Exo the cosmonaut, thus prompting us to reflect on the fear of the other and coexistence within a fragile ecosystem.

Although unique in their approach, these two works come together to form a complete experience that simultaneously invites spectators to lose themselves in an immersive universe and to find themselves in an introspective space. The title of the exhibition takes on its full significance in this duality: *Ceci est mon cœur* prompts a personal reconsideration of our own humanity while *Oto's Planet* opens a window to other worlds, exploring the complexities of encounters with the unknown.

Free entrance, registration required via cerclecite.lu

Organisation	Cercle Cité in the framework of the Immersive Pavilion of the Luxembourg City Film Festival
Curators	PHI Montréal and Film Fund Luxembourg
Artists	Nicolas Blies and Stéphane Hueber-Blies (<i>Ceci est mon cœur</i>) Gwenael François (<i>Oto's Planet</i>)
Partners	a_BAHN, Velvet Flare and Skill Lab
With the support of	Reckinger

Visit cerclecite.lu to find out more about the framework programme

Opening

Friday 07 February at 18:00 - Main entrance, Place d'Armes.

Free entrance, without registration.

The Immersive Pavilion

Every year since 2016, the pavilion has offered a selection of innovative immersive works using virtual and augmented reality that have won international recognition and awards. These works compete for the Luxembourg City Film Festival's 'Best Immersive Experience' award.

In 2025, the Immersive Pavilion will be held in neimënster from March 6 to 23. Admission is free. Find the full program on: filmfund.lu and luxfilmfest.lu.

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Ceci est mon cœur

Ceci est mon cœur is a contemporary tale of an extraordinary love story - the reconciliation of a child with his body. This sensory and narrative creation highlights the distorted perceptions we have of our own bodies. It is an immersive tale in which the audience, wrapped in a connected garment and embellished with luminous embroidery, is carried away by a poetic experience that is both aural and visual. *Ceci est mon Cœur* offers a sensory odyssey where the connected garment lights up in synch with the story's text. A ballet of lights takes shape in response to the narrative, which is conceived as a dialogue between the narrator and his own body. This immersive work is intimate, whole and organic: from the visual projections and soundscape to the choreography of light moving through the audience, everything seems to breathe and react to the story. *Ceci est mon cœur* celebrates the beauty of human fragility and underscores the importance of self-acceptance.

Attention: This artwork is not recommended for children under the age of 12.

Directors	Nicolas Blies and Stéphane Hueber-Blies
Production	a_BAHN, Lucid Realities, PHI Studio
Duration	35 minutes
Year	2024
Languages	French, English
Countries	Luxembourg, Canada, France

Nicolas Blies and Stéphane Hueber-Blies (Blies brothers) are two filmmakers and digital artists who create their works together. In 2015, they conceptualized the documentary music transmedia *Soundhunters* (ARTE) imagined to transform the world into an infinite musical instrument. The project was presented at Lincoln Center during the New York Film Festival and placed under the high patronage of UNESCO. In 2019, they wrote and directed *Zero Impunity* about the impunity of sexual violence in wartime (Thessaloniki IFF, Annecy IFF, Moscow IFF, Mostra de Sao Paulo, Guadalajara IFF, Palm Springs IFF, Trophées Francophones du Cinéma...). Hybridizing animation and live action, the film is considered one of the precursors in the field. In 2024, they released the digital art installation *Ceci est mon coeur*, about the reconciliation of a child with his body, mixing video-mapping and connected clothing (81st Venice International Film Festival). The Blies brothers have also served as jurors at prestigious festivals like Annecy and Biarritz, and continue to develop innovative projects such as their first feature film *Maman Sopra*.

Selection

Official Selection in Competition at Venice Mostra 2024

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Oto’s Planet

This interactive virtual reality tale follows the quiet lives of Oto and Skippy on their tiny planet. Oto enjoys simple pleasures: lounging in a hammock and eating fruit from his unique tree. With help from the user, Oto attempts to pick a fruit but accidentally triggers a shockwave that attracts Exo’s spaceship, causing it to crash onto the planet. Exo emerges, plants a flag, and begins to explore, paying little attention to Oto. The resulting attempts at communication and coexistence between these two unlikely roommates prove to be quite delicate.

Attention: Participants must be at least 8 years old, and children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult when using the virtual reality headsets.

Director	Gwenael François
Production	Skill Lab, Dpt., Small Creative
Duration	28 minutes
Year	2024
Languages	French, English
Countries	Luxembourg, Canada, France

Gwenael François is a French director based in Luxembourg and also a producer at Skill Lab, Luxembourg. He has created short films and music videos that blend creativity and technology. Embracing virtual reality since 2020, he has directed interactive experiences such as *Errances* (FIVARS 2023, SIGGRAPH 2023), *Oto’s Planet* (Special Jury Prize Venice 2024), and *Tachychronie*, currently in production. Collaborating worldwide, he continues his creative journey driven by innovation.

Récompenses

- Venice Immersive Special Jury Prize @ La Biennale di Venezia 2024
- Reflet d’Or @ Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF) 2024
- Best Immersive Film @ Manchester Animation Festival 2024
- Best Immersive Experience @ Beyond the Frame Festival 2024
- Best XR Experience (Byron Bay International Film Festival 2024)
- Best Visual Experience (European XR Awards 2024)
- Best Story / Narrative Work (XR Must Awards 2024)

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Practical information and press contacts

Exhibition	« Entre réflexions et immersion »
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Dates	From February 07 to April 06 2025
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Opening hours	Free entrance, every day from 11:00 to 7:00 (registration required)
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Location	<i>Ratskeller</i> exhibition space, entrance on rue du Curé
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Press images	cerclecite.lu/en/press
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More information	cerclecite.lu
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