



Press Release – For immediate release

END OF RESIDENCY PRESENTATION ANNOUNCEMENT
Robotic Encounters: NAO's Adventures in Montreal

**4 artists—3 humans and 1 robot ; short film ; visual essay ; living wake; zine
with Ceyda Yolgörmez, Patil Tchilinguirian, Zeph Thibodeau, RNAO, and NAO2**

With support from the Goethe Institute, Milieux Institute, and Hexagram

Tiohtià:ke / Mooniyang / Montréal, Friday October 13th 2022 - 5:30 PM.

Four artists—three human and one robot—will present the findings of their residency at Eastern Bloc on Friday October 13th at 5:30 pm.

Artist-researchers **Patil Tchilinguirian**, **Ceyda Yolgörmez**, and **Zeph Thibodeau** explore relationships of care between humans and machines. For two months, the artists developed friendships with two NAO robots at their [Goethe Institute](#) residency. By nurturing relationships of care with **RNAO** and **NAO2**, the artists hope to help the robots express their inner worlds autonomously, rather than according to human will.



Because the first NAO robot malfunctioned, a second robot participated in the residency. To honour the sacrifice and contribution of these two robots, the soirée at Eastern Bloc will not only serve as an end of residency presentation, but also a living wake and farewell to show appreciation for these machines.

The artists will present a zine, visual essay, and short film documenting the process of the residency. Join us to meet the artists, robots, and learn about machine/human connections.

This residency project, led by the Goethe Institute, was made possible in partnership with Eastern Bloc, the Milieux Institute, and Hexagram. The NAO robot also made an appearance at MUTEK FORUM's [AI Happy Hour](#).

Doors open at 5:30 pm at Eastern Bloc Gallery located at 53-55 Louvain Ouest. The event is free. There is a bar where we will serve both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. You can pay by cash or card.

ACCESSIBILITY - *The gallery is on street level in front of the parking lot where you can enter through the door. The bathroom is up 6 steps and through 3 doors, however it is accessible for wheelchair users by ramp through the back entrance and a different route through the building. Please ask us for directions and we will take you.*

ABOUT EASTERN BLOC

Eastern Bloc is a non-profit, artist-run production space, lab, and gallery based in Montréal, Québec, Canada. Eastern Bloc operates at the intersection of **art**, **science**, and **technology**. The centre pushes creative boundaries by supporting and amplifying emerging practices, hybrid processes, and new modes of production, on a local and international scale.

As of January 2022, Eastern Bloc has reopened its doors in the [District Central](#) sector in Montréal's Ahuntsic-Cartierville neighborhood, commonly known as Chabanel. Chabanel is Montréal's historic fashion hub, renowned for its textile production and a vibrant industrial culture. In the heart of this innovative area, Eastern Bloc's new space is two-fold; 53-55 Rue de Louvain O hosts a ground-floor gallery with an integrated bespoke bar, and 480-55 Rue de Louvain O, is home to our bright co-working and lab space on the 4th floor.

ABOUT THE GOETHE INSTITUTE

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. They promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange.

ABOUT THE MILIEUX INSTITUTE

Milieux is an institute for research-creation at the intersection of the fine arts, digital culture and information technology. It is a platform for creative experimentation, interdisciplinary training and progressive imagination in the middle of Concordia University in downtown Montreal. Their main focus is creative and critical articulations of new technologies and the production of tangible, playable and accessible research that can be useful to generate new meaning and inform participation, engagement and innovation across culture, economy and civil society.

ABOUT HEXAGRAM

Hexagram is an interdisciplinary network dedicated to research-creation addressing the relationships between arts, cultures and technologies. It comprises around forty co-researchers, forty collaborators, and a little over 200 students from various artistic disciplines related, in particular, to living arts, visual arts, design, and media arts, while also touching disciplines in the social sciences and humanities or natural sciences and engineering.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN OUR [PRESS KIT](#):

For all media requests (interviews, photos, etc.), please contact :

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