



# PIKSEL KIDS Lab :) CITY SECRETS, CITY LIGHTS & CITY AIR

a new media art lab for kids!

Bergen 2016

*“Piksel KidZ 2015 has been a relevant project for kids that can well serve as example of the cultural strategy of the Arts Council Norway.”*

Yngve Slettholm  
Former Arts Council director  
Bergen Kommune presentation 2015

Last years Piksel Festival, the Bergen festival focusing on new media art and open digital culture, introduced Piksel KidZ Lab, an artistic laboratory for kids to understand and build new media artworks.

Piksel KidZ Lab, aims to bring new media art practices to kids and youngsters. Understanding new media and technology art as a work in progress, a process, an ongoing research, we want the kids to learn how to develop an art work in the new XXI century. And to understand that, nowadays, an art piece is not anymore a final «object» but a engagement with the environment in a wide sense: social, cultural and natural environment.

Piksel KidZ lab proposes this year three new workshops: **The Machine to share secrets!, AgitPOV and Living lights!** The workshops are dealing with social communication, talkative bikes and, bioluminescence as a way of exploration of the urban and natural environment.

The three main activities have as results a set of art works produced by the kids that will be exhibited, each one in a different city environment.

**The Machine to share secrets!** will be performed by the kids in one of the main



squares in Bergen, AgitPOV, will take the streets of Bergen on bike, and **Living Lights** will produce bioluminescence artworks and pics to share online.

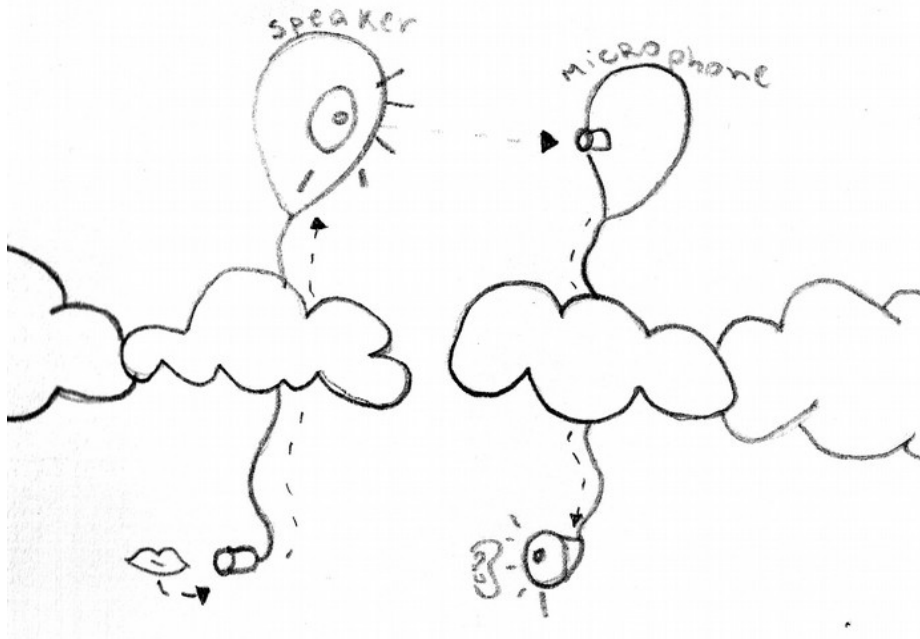
The three experiences proposed at the lab apply to collaborative learning and production methods based on Do It With Others (DIWO) and Do It Yourself (DIY), horizontal methods that promotes cultural diversity and multilayer physical and virtual experiences.

The project intend to invite pupils from schools and the 1881 Youth Club in Bergen to participate at the Lab, creating strong links for more kids related Labs at the Piksel Festival in the next years.

## CITY-SECRETS

**The Machine to share secrets!** is an art action and a poetic reinterpretation about new control technologies and the mediation of social communication.

The Machine to share secrets! is a participative and collaborative project which consists on the development of small communication systems equipped with microphones and speakers tide to heliums balloons, where the spoke person and the listener can share their secrets above the clouds.

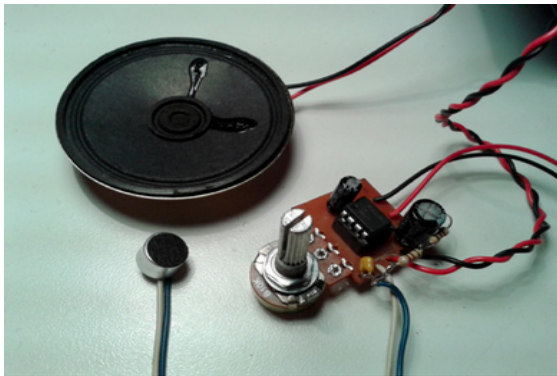


To do so, the kids will use a flying electroacoustic transducers, mainly using waste material, which will be built as communication system.

An electroacoustic transducer is a mechanism which transforms electricity into sound or sound into electricity. Using loudspeakers, microphones and helium



balloons, we develop a system which participants can use to send and receive messages. The message's audio signal will travel through a cable attached to a microphone in one end and a loudspeaker on the other one. This loudspeaker will hang from a balloon which will be suspended two or three meters from the ground. A similar system but the other way round (loudspeaker closer to ground, microphone closer to balloon) will be set up so that another user can receive that message. That means, when a balloon gets closer to another one, the message sent from one end will be received on the other one. The wind or airflow will add a random factor to the system.



The first part of the workshop the kids will develop their communication tools together with the artist, at the second part participants will test their "machines" in a public space.

During the workshop, the following questions will be considered: Are we free to express ourselves and share information in the public space? Are the new information and communication technologies secure and guarantee privacy to the users? From there we will think together how our secrets sharing machine will be.



Based on these questions the workshop participants will learn basic electronics



through the use of home-made and waste materials to build small electroacoustic transducers.



Duration: 2 day – 6 hours

Age: 12-18 years old.

Exhibition: Bergen city

**Constanza Piña aka Corazón de Robota (Robot's heart)** Visual artist, dancer and researcher, focused on experimentation with electronic media, open-source technologies and practices DIWO. Her artistic proposals are presented in various formats integrating dance, sound performance and participatory works.

Her work reflects on the role of machines in our culture and the human-technological issues, questioning the idea of education, capitalism and patriarchy techno-centrist in relation to open knowledge, autonomy and enhancement of technical manual work.

Constanza works under the philosophy of free culture and electronic anarchy, her research on synthesizers handmade and electro-textils can be seen documented on her web [www.corazonderobota.tk](http://www.corazonderobota.tk)



Agit P.O.V (Petit Objet de Vélo) is a microhack for bicycles relying on the persistence of vision (POV) effect, the propaganda tactics of the russian avant-garde (AGIT Prop) and the SpokePOV Project by Limor Fried (LadyAda).



A modest 12 LED circuit, a microcontroller, codes, a battery mounted on your bicycle wheel and the speed of the cyclist suffice to illuminate the streets with your poetical-political message. AGIT P.O.V. invites participants to a workshop and textual performance in the streets of our cities. Our bicycles are vehicles that can carry our poetic and creative voices and agitate the city.



POV (Persistence of Vision) is a phenomenon based on the residual presence of an image on the eye for 1/25th of a second. The myth of persistence of vision posits



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that the human perception of motion is the result of persistence of vision. In this way, the drawings of the zootrope, the photographic experiments of Muybridge on the successive instants of a horse's gallop produce the impression of the continuity of movement.



Within the development of this activity, kids are aiming to use the bike and to expand their critical thinking about the air pollution and the need to care about the natural environment of cities.

Duration: 3 day – 12 hours

Age: 8-18 years old.

Exhibition: Piksel Festival Street Exhibition

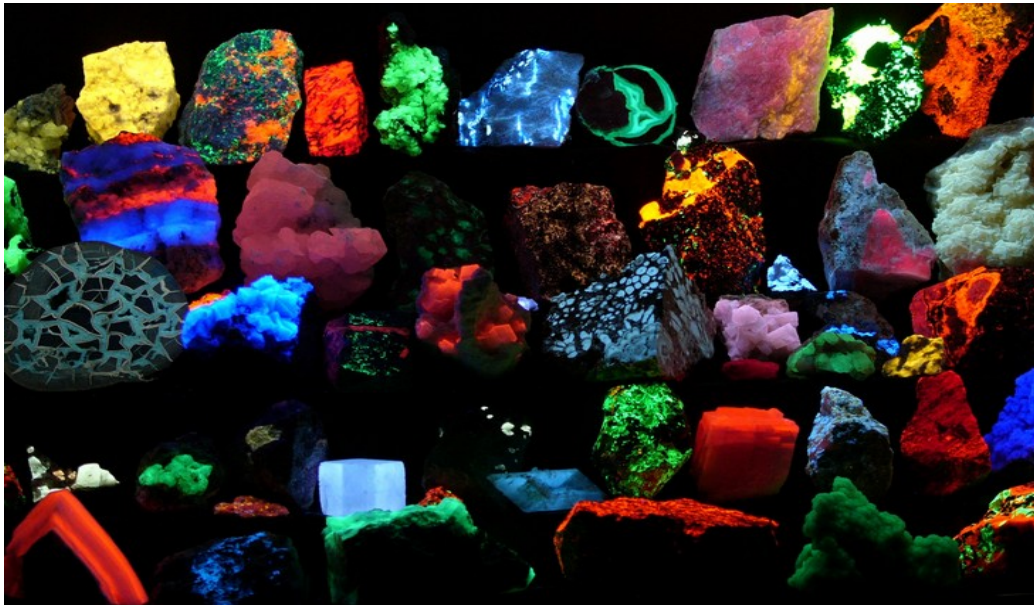
**Alexandre Castonguay's** practice is based in digital and conceptual art, his works uses obsolete technology and open source software. His installations and photographic work have been presented in Canada and abroad in New York, Beijing, Madrid, Berlin, Beyrouth, São Paulo and Graz. His works are included in the collections of the Canada Council Art Bank, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, the Canadian Museum of Contemporary photography as well as private collections. He is represented by the gallery Pierre-François Ouellette art contemporain (<http://pfoac.com/>). Professor at UQAM's École des arts visuels et médiatiques in Montréal, he studied at the University of Ottawa (B.F.A. 1991 and B.A. 1993) and at Concordia University, Montréal (M.F.A. 2004). He is a founding member of the not-for-profit media lab Artengine.



<http://agitpov.net/>

## CITY-LIGHTS!

Living Lighs proposes to experience the importance of light in life. Hands-on activities explore the differences between fluorescence and bioluminescence, phosphorescence, electroluminescence and more.



Biolight, life and light, includes from photosynthesis to living organisms that produces light. KidZ will create their own pictures using bioluminescent bacteria (we will post photographs online the next day) plus glowing freebies to take home.



Duration: 3 day – 6hours



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### **Cristian Delgado AKA Neoangel (México)**

Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico

Molecular and synthetic biologist, from Faculty of Sciences UNAM CU, works on possibilities of applying biological aspects to technology, from biomimetics to bionanotechnology, also he worked on DIYBIO developing tools from synthetic biology, including collaboration with interdisciplinary projects like ARTE+CIENCIA, BIOSCENICA, PDI UNAM, UNESCO, ICTP, 3DMJMAKERS among others, with a special emphasis on art and science, with works awarded by MIT, UNAM, and others.