



Plenary Session
Monday 11 August 2008
12.45-13.45

Hervé Fischer

The 2008 IFLA welcomes Hervé Fischer as a speaker for its plenary session, to be held Monday, August 11th.

An artist and philosopher, Hervé Fischer was born in Paris in 1941. He taught the sociology of culture and communication at the University of Paris V - Sorbonne for many years and was senior lecturer in 1981. While still in Paris, he was a professor at L'École nationale Supérieure des Arts décoratifs from 1969 to 1980. He is the author of many numerous specialized articles, and has participated in collective works and conferences in the area of the arts, science and technology and in relation to society. During this period, he also pursued a career as a multimedia artist. In 1971, he was one of the founders of "sociological art", initiating many public participation projects involving radio, print media and television in many European and Latin American countries, before relocating to Québec in the early 1980's.

In 1985, Hervé Fischer was one of the Franco-Canadian participants in the Marco Polo electronic novel project which involved writers from Africa, Europe and Canada under the sponsorship of such writers as Umberto Eco and Italo Calvino.

He is co-founder and co-president (1985), with Ginette Major, of **La Cité des arts et des nouvelles technologies de Montréal** the venue for several exhibitions including **Café Électronique** (1995) was held, the **International Computer Animation Competition - Images du Futur** (1986) and **Cyberworld** (1995).

In 1990 he created the **Téléscience Festival**, of which he was the executive director until 2002, and in 1993 he launched the **M.I.M.** (Multimedia International Market). He is also co-founder and president of **Science Pour Tous**, a network of Quebec's science and technology institutions, and of the **International Federation of Multimedia Associations** (1997). He is currently working as an associate professor and director-founder of the **International New Media Observatory** at the Université du Québec à Montréal and a researcher at Hexagram. Hervé Fischer has published numerous articles and books on art and communications, notably: *Art et communication marginale* (1974); *Théorie de l'art sociologique*, (1976); *L'Histoire de l'art est terminée* (1981); *Citoyens-sculpteurs* (1981); *L'Oiseau-chat* (on Québec's identity, 1983); *La Calle ¿ A dónde Ilega?* (1984); In 2000 he published *Mythanalyse du futur* online, followed by *Le choc du numérique* (2001), *Le romantisme numérique* (2002), *Les défis du cybermonde*, (2003), *CyberProméthée; l'instinct de puissance* (2003); *La planète hyper, de la pensée linéaire à la pensée en arabesque* and *Le déclin de l'empire hollywoodien* (published in English as *The Decline of the Hollywood Empire*), both in 2004. Recent works include *Nous serons des dieux* (2006) and *Québec imaginaire et Canada réel : l'avenir en suspens* (2008).

Hervé Fischer was awarded the honours of *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres* and the *Ordre national du mérite* by the French government.