

press release

For Immediate Distribution

THE CCA PRESENTS "ABC : MTL", A SELF-PORTRAIT OF MONTRÉAL

Montréal, 12 November 2012 — The Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) presents *ABC : MTL*, an open-source initiative that draws on the participation of individuals and institutions to produce a multi-faceted portrait of today's Montréal. The result is a collection of projects, installations, and public programs on the CCA's home city whose contents will be periodically updated.

ABC : MTL is an experiment in the representation of the contemporary city built on an open call for submissions launched during the summer of 2012 and still ongoing as the program opens. Spanning the winter months until the end of March 2013, *ABC : MTL* brings together the voices and visions of locals and tourists, individuals and collectives, videographers, musicians, architects, artists and writers who contribute to a collective portrait of the spatial, social, and architectural character of the city. As curator Fabrizio Gallanti explains, "Territory is not just a physical object but rather a complex reality, made up of the multiple representations that try to describe it. The control of these narratives becomes a political issue. We wanted to open the discourse on Montréal, considering *ABC : MTL* as a dynamic platform where alternative points of view could be put in dialogue and taking a critical position around some of the transformations that are happening right now. For us this is a form of democracy: the identity of one site is not the privilege of a few but rather a perpetually unstable condition that is the result of a real polyphony of voices."

A CURATORIAL EXPERIMENT

Focusing on Montréal as a natural test case for the CCA, this project combines a bottom-up process of conceptualization with a collective notion of authorship. "With this project the CCA is testing new models of curating and producing exhibitions and programs in an institutional framework, and we do so by focusing on the exploration and representation of the contemporary city," says CCA Director and chief curator Mirko Zardini. "The city is the realm that grounds architecture in society. *ABC : MTL* suggests a new urban lexicon, showcasing alternative lifestyles, ways to reinvent our daily lives, and allowing us to rediscover the urban space through innovative ideas, practises and experiences. This experiment is conducted on our home-city of Montréal, but could be applied to any other city in future iterations of the project."

EVOLVING CONTENTS

Out of the nearly 250 proposals that the call for submissions has produced to date, over 90 contributions will be displayed or presented in the CCA galleries during the project's life. These proposals cover a wide range of formats and media, including photography, video, architectural projects, installations, workshops, lectures, and performances. Together, they form an evolving new lexicon of the CCA's home city and a platform for its creative talent.

The proposals on view in the first installment of the project, until the end of January and representing approximately one-third of the shortlisted submissions, are presented under

keywords such as Data, Electrosmog, Arrivals, Montroyalite, Hippodrome, Hyper-bâtiment, Partition, Ruelles, Threshold, Bridge, Métropole, Turcot, Citoyens, Continuité, Mobilisation, Urgence, Culte, Soccer, and Exile.

For instance, under the headline Hyper-bâtiment, the collective SYN have filmed the subterranean city of downtown Montréal as a heroic megastructure. Under the rubric Arrivals, photographers Arjuna Neuman and Ramak Fazel record their discoveries while incessantly scanning Montreal during their first encounter with the city. The art cooperative Audiotope have imagined Montréal as a musical composition. Their work will appear under the title Partition. Other contributors include local architecture firms such as Atelier Big City, FABG Architectes, and Saucier + Perrotte Architectes.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

A series of free public programs on Thursday evenings and during the weekends will facilitate communication with the contributors and the public's involvement in the project. A complete list of the programs scheduled for the first phase of this project (until 31 January) can be found below.

These public programs comprise presentations ("Meet the author"), discussions ("Talk of the town"), workshops and family programs. This series begins with a lecture by photographer Gabor Szilasi on Thursday 15 November at 7 pm. Szilasi will present work that bears witness to the evolution of Montréal and its singularity (free admission, Paul Desmarais Theatre). Also, free tours ("capsules") of the content on display will be offered every Thursday at 5:30 pm (English) and 6:00 pm (French). The full list of programs is listed in the appendix.

The vernissage for *ABC : MTL* will take place on Tuesday 13 November from 7 pm to 11 pm, featuring talented musician and producer FOXTROTT along with DJ Psyquébécoise.

ONLINE COMPONENT

ABC : MTL is complemented by a mobile site and the web page www.cca.qc.ca/abc, which will be featuring the nearly 250 works submitted to the open call for proposals launched by the CCA last summer. The mobile site, optimized for smart phone use and conceived as an alternative guide to Montreal's urban and cultural fabric, will feature information on the displayed proposals, video interviews to their authors, and a map that facilitates the location of the projects and the exploration of the city. These tools are also meant to inspire and invite users to share their feedback and thoughts on what Montreal is today.

FUNDING AND PARTNERS

The CCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, le Conseil des Arts du Canada, le Conseil des arts de Montréal, and Hydro-Québec.

In addition, the CCA is also grateful to l'arrondissement de Ville-Marie, Proment, Divco, Saputo, Tourisme Montréal, Claridge, Bleublancrouge Design, Cromwell Management Inc, Sajo, P&R Desjardins Construction Inc and Journal Métro.

The participating institutions are Avenue 8 - Groupe Conseil, CUTV, DHC/ART, Darling

Foundry, Drawn and Quarterly, Elektra, Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, Galerie de l'UQÀM, Héritage Montréal, IPAM, National Film Board of Canada and SPACING Montréal.

ABC: MTL is a project conceived and managed by the CCA's curatorial team led by Fabrizio Gallanti, with Simon Pennec and Émilie Retailleau and with the collaboration of Victoria Bugge Øye, Alexandra Courcoulas, Elsa Lam, Sheehan Moore and Maya Soren. Montréal-based graphic design firm FEED has conceived the project's signage, developing for this occasion a particular typeface based on the city's traditional street signs.

ABOUT THE CCA

The CCA is an international research centre and museum founded in 1979 on the conviction that architecture is a public concern. Based on its extensive collection, the CCA is a leading voice in advancing knowledge, promoting public understanding, and widening thought and debate on architecture, its history, theory, practice, and role in society today.

ABC : MTL, is the fourth in a series of exhibitions at the CCA investigating the major formative periods in the history of Montréal. *Opening the Gates of Eighteenth-Century Montréal* (1992) studied the building of the military and commercial fortified town. *Montréal Métropole, 1880-1930* (1998) examined the city's emergence as a behemoth of trade and industry; *Montréal Thinks Big* (2004) explored its infrastructural transformation during the 1960s to meet the demands of a new era. *ABC: MTL* addresses the larger urban region as it is today: not a historical artifact but an everyday constellation of experiences of almost limitless variety.

These projects collectively reflect the CCA's commitment to the urban phenomenon – how cities have been imagined, realized, inhabited and perceived over time. This initiative also reflects the CCA's ongoing exploration of key issues in contemporary architecture with a specific focus on social and environmental aspects.

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TURCOT

[tyʁk.ɔ̃] n. m. Échangeur de trois étages, situé au sud-ouest du centre-ville de Montréal.
/tər:kɑt/ n. A three-level interchange located southwest of downtown Montréal.

#HIPPODROME #BRIDGE

Le travail documentaire de Victor Arroyo témoigne de l'échec et de la transformation imminente d'une construction emblématique de la modernisation de Montréal : l'échangeur Turcot. Ce projet dévoile l'impact profond qu'a eu le discours urbanistique moderne sur la communauté locale. L'installation présente un scénario complexe reflétant le paysage urbain social et humain qui entoure ce projet d'infrastructure, voué à une transformation imminente.

L'une des vidéos donne la parole à un habitant des environs affecté par la reconstruction de l'échangeur et qui sera contraint de déménager. En offrant sa caméra à Pierre Zoville et à d'autres habitants du quartier, Arroyo donne à voir l'entrelacs complexe des décisions politiques et le conflit entre les intérêts et les visées des différentes parties porté au point de non-retour où toute négociation devient impossible.

Turcot 2.0. Récits de déplacements, 2010
Installation de deux canaux vidéos, projetés en boucle, 19 min.

This documentary addresses the failure and impending transformation of an icon of Montréal's modernization, the Turcot highway interchange. Victor Arroyo's project investigates the ways in which the discourse of modernist urban design has had a profound effect on the local community. In a contemporary reading of the transformations at play, Arroyo's work paints a complex picture of the social and human landscape around this controversial infrastructure project.

The installation gives voice to a local resident who will be affected and ultimately displaced by the forthcoming reconstruction of the interchange. By offering his camera to Pierre Zoville, one of many citizens living in the area, Arroyo demonstrates the intricacies of policies and political processes in the area surrounding Turcot. The interchange has become an incendiary topic, with different stakeholders taking divergent, non-negotiable positions.

Turcot 2.0. Narratives of Displacement, 2010
2 channel video installation, loop, 19 min.

VICTOR ARROYO, DOCUMENTARISTE
NÉ À LEÓN, MEXIQUE, 1977

VICTOR-ARROYO.COM

VICTOR ARROYO, DOCUMENTARY
FILMMAKER
BORN IN LEÓN, MEXICO, 1977

VICTOR-ARROYO.COM



Robert Burley, *Rock in the woods, Mont Royal*, 1990. CCA Collection. © Robert Burley, From the Viewing Olmsted series. Chromogenic colour print, 27.9 x 35.5 cm.

CCA Presents an Open-Sourced, Self-Portrait of Montreal



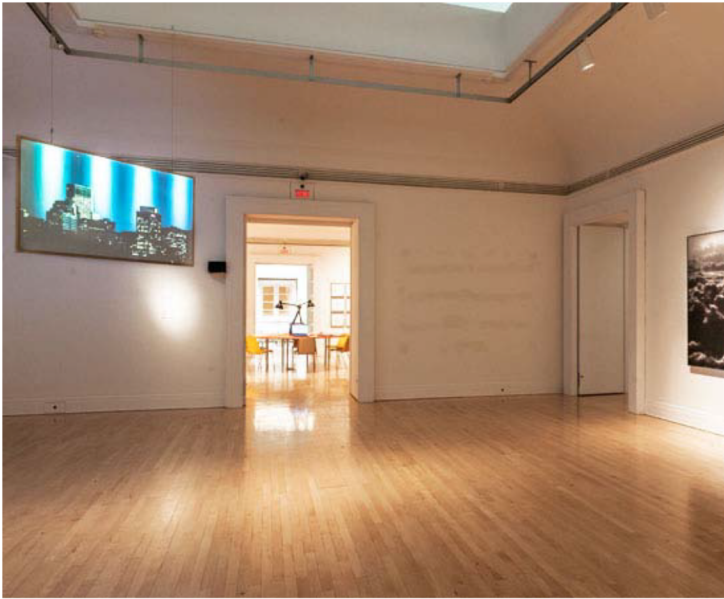
ABC : MTL, installation view, 2012. © CCA, Montréal.

Canadian Centre for Architecture
1920 Rue Baile
514-939-7000
Montreal
ABC : MTL

A Self-Portrait of Montreal
November 13, 2012-March 30, 2013

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ABC : MTL, installation view, 2012. © CCA, Montréal.



ABC : MTL, installation view, 2012. © CCA, Montréal.

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Publié le 23 décembre 2012

Centre canadien d'architecture: Montréal vu par Montréal



Gabor Szilasi, Série denseignes lumineuses, La Fierté a une ville, Montréal. 1983. CCA Collection. © Gabor Szilasi



[Éric Clément](#)

La Presse

Le Centre canadien d'architecture (CCA) a lancé l'été dernier un appel au public, aux artistes et aux experts pour tenter d'esquisser un autoportrait de Montréal. Quelque 250 idées et réalisations ont déjà été soumises sous forme de textes, films, photos, plans, projets et objets. Le tout donne *ABC: MTL*, qui n'est pas une exposition, mais un abécédaire de la métropole qui évoluera jusqu'à la fin du mois de mars.

Une photo du «tunnel de la mort», à l'angle de la rue D'Iberville et du boulevard Saint-Joseph, prise par Jonathan Sa'adah. Les nuages inquiétants de Nicolas Baier avec sa photographie *Réminiscence*. La cartographie de toutes les ruelles de Montréal réalisée par Claudia Delisle, Emily Young et Thomas-Bernard Kenniff. La bataille pour l'appropriation du Bâtiment 7 des anciens ateliers du CN par la communauté locale, expliquée par Quartier Éphémère/Fonderie Darling et le collectif «7 à nous».

Voilà quelques exemples de ce qui est proposé actuellement au Centre canadien d'architecture, soit une sorte d'expression libre et multidisciplinaire sur la vie de notre métropole. *ABC: MTL* poursuit en effet la réflexion du CCA sur Montréal, après l'exposition présentée en 1998 sur la cité au tournant du XX^e siècle et celle de 2004 sur le foisonnement des années 60 avec Expo 67, etc.

«Cette fois, on voulait voir quels étaient les imaginaires collectifs sur la ville, explique Fabrizio Gallanti, commissaire de l'exposition. Et, finalement, on a reçu tellement de propositions qu'on a décidé d'organiser une expo qui va changer dans le temps.»

À voir et revoir

ABC: MTL comprend en effet quatre phases de présentation de visions et d'interprétations de ce qu'est Montréal. Une phase est en cours jusqu'au 27 janvier. Deux autres lui succéderont, en février et en mars, avec du nouveau matériel. Si bien que les citoyens et les artistes sont encore invités à participer à cet exercice muséal à la fois vivant et sans cesse mutant... jusqu'au printemps.

Actuellement, les propositions exposées ressemblent moins à une critique de la ville qu'à une documentation du réel. Citons la présentation de divers objets de l'ATSA récupérés dans le cadre de leur événement annuel, les 17 lieux de culte situés dans le quartier Parc-Extension, définis et dessinés par Audrey Wells, le projet d'un stade de soccer dans l'ex-carrière Miron par le cabinet Saucier + Perrotte Architectes, un documentaire de Victor Arroyo portant sur le dossier controversé de l'échangeur Turcot et projeté sur des cartons assemblés au sol, ou encore la vidéo du Centre d'histoire orale et de récits numérisés de Concordia, qui donne la parole à des réfugiés qui évoquent leur première impression de Montréal. Fascinant.

Parmi les tout nouveaux projets installés, signalons *Concrete*, une sculpture en béton de David Butler comprenant des éléments récupérés de nos viaducs en décrépitude, Polyuréthane, des photos du collectif belge Rotor qui évoquent l'omniprésence du polyuréthane dans notre paysage urbain, et Mouhajerinn, des entrevues d'Emmanuelle Sonntag faites dans la communauté libanaise.

L'art et le futur de Montréal

Les sujets sont variés. La visite s'avère une découverte ou une redécouverte de la beauté et des laideurs de la ville, en même temps qu'une illustration de sa diversité - à tous points de vue-, qu'elle soit sociale, esthétique, économique, architecturale, culturelle, linguistique, géographique, gastronomique, etc.

Il ne s'agit donc pas d'un récit exhaustif, loin de là, mais la démarche est originale, accroche notre sensibilité et, disons-le, notre attachement à Montréal.

Toutes les entrevues des participants au projet et toutes les propositions soumises sont en ligne au www.cca.qc.ca/abc. Chaque jeudi, dès 17h, des débats sont organisés dans l'aire d'exposition sur des thèmes liés à *ABC: MTL*.

«Le présent de la ville est difficile à comprendre aujourd'hui, estime Mirko Zardini, directeur et conservateur en chef du CCA. Ces discussions, ces hypothèses et ces idées différentes présentées avec *ABC: MTL* représentent la seule façon pour comprendre les possibilités futures de la ville. D'ailleurs, on constate que le monde de l'art et de la photographie est plus prêt à comprendre la transformation de la ville que le monde de l'architecture.»

ABC: MTL - Un autoportrait de Montréal, au CCA jusqu'au 31 mars 2013.

From protests to poutine, ABC:MTL introduces the city

The Canadian Centre for Architecture presents a multifaceted, mixed-media portrait of Montreal

Written by: [Lauren Wray](#) Posted date: November 19, 2012



A selection of publicly generated images portray Montreal's dynamic nature in CCA's latest project. (journalmetro.com)

There are the usual famous attractions—the view from Mount Royal, a stroll through Old Port, the obligatory late night poutine. Yet Montreal is a city of multiplicities that extend beyond its tourist tropes. The Canadian Centre for Architecture's (CCA) newest project, *ABC: MTL*, offers an invitation to the deeper realities of Montreal.

While previous exhibitions at the CCA have focused on the city as an historical artifact, *ABC:MTL* speaks of Montreal as it is today—an evolving urban hub composed of various styles, structures, and social landscapes.

To meaningfully capture the nature of the metropolis, the CCA launched an open call for submissions in June 2012. Public submissions served as an integral feature in creating a comprehensive narrative that matched the CCA's pluralistic vision.

Curator Fabrizio Gallanti notes that “for us, this is a form of democracy: the identity of one site is not the privilege of a few, but rather a perpetually unstable condition that is the result of a real polyphony of voices.” This perspective results in an exhibit from the everyman's point of view, outside of the traditional top-down approach associated with urban space.

Out of 250 proposals, 90 contributions will be presented over the course of the project, which runs until March 2013. This longevity allows for ongoing submissions to accurately represent a city in flux. However, not all the submissions are new. Some works have been previously included in other galleries. Gallanti explains that *ABC:MTL* is “not obsessed with originality,” but rather concerned with how well the works describe the city today.

Videos, photos, architectural mock-ups, lectures, and performances constitute the first installment of the project, on view until the end of January. Together, they result in a mixture of media depicting the city's most indelible impressions. The works touch upon both the abstract and physical elements of Montreal —the ephemeral hums and buzzes of daily life, the fleeting moments the metropolis holds, and the people, buildings, and places that define the present-day city.

The pieces range from immigrant interviews to cell-phone photography. Overall, the works remind us that Montreal is more than a city defined by numbers; it is its own unique entity with its own metabolism, heart, and life.

With the breadth of formats, the term ‘exhibition’ may be a misnomer. Instead, *ABC:MTL* is a fully engaging experience. It is not a fixed exhibition, but an ongoing project with changing content. Public participation, lectures, and performances are equally valuable and relevant to the main

gallery showing. An online component features all 250 works submitted, including a map that pinpoints the locations of the projects to promote city exploration. The complete project, therefore, encourages interaction and participation on all levels.

Discussion is also an important ingredient. Amidst the student protests of last year, the question of Montreal's identity was thrown into the spotlight. *ABC: MTL* comes at a pertinent time of questioning who and what makes up its population.

"There was a high level of engagement, no matter what side people were on," Gallanti notes.

ABC:MTL profits from this recent engagement, asking its audience to partake in self-reflection, conversation, and discussion. It's a worthwhile visit; if not for its interesting aesthetic, historical and social qualities, then at least for inspiration. After all, they're still accepting submissions.

ABC:MTL is showing at the CCA (1920 rue Baille). Public programs are mainly held on Thursday nights and weekends, with guided tours every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. (English) and 6:00 p.m. (French). Free admission for students.

UN AUTO-PORTRAIT DE MONTRÉAL

D'après le recensement de 2011, la population de la zone métropolitaine de Montréal est de 3,824,221 habitants – 40 % de plus que les 2,742,208 recensés en 1971. Métropole cosmopolite en perpétuelle transformation, Montréal rassemble une variété de territoires, de types d'espaces, et d'activités, de modes de vie et d'identités. La ville est un carrefour international traversé par un flux constant de personnes, de marchandises et d'idées. La ville physique est le lieu où, au fil de l'histoire, les particularités qui composent sa nature profonde et les trajectoires qui la traversent laissent leur empreinte.

ABC: MTL – Un autoportrait de Montréal est un projet de plateforme ouverte dans lequel la ville se donne à voir à travers les contributions de nombreux auteurs différents. Des mots-clics correspondant à des éléments de la configuration de Montréal et de l'expérience de la ville forment un abécédaire dynamique. Plus de deux cent cinquante propositions ont été soumises entre juin et septembre 2012 en réponse à l'appel à projet. Nous avons invité le public à décrire les espaces quotidiens de la ville, autrement dit, à nous parler de la vie de Montréal. Nous avons reçu des projets architecturaux, des essais photographiques, des films, des enregistrements sonores, des histoires, des objets trouvés dans la rue et des correspondances privées – autant de fragments qui s'ajoutent pour former une vision plurielle. L'exposition est d'ailleurs à l'époque contemporaine le récit amorcé en 1998 par le Centre Canadien d'Architecture avec Montréal métropole, 1840-1930, une exposition qui examinait une période fondatrice pour Montréal qui, à la fin du 19^e siècle était la quatrième plus grande ville d'Amérique du Nord. Cette recherche s'est poursuivie en 2004 avec l'exposition Les cités A2: Montréal voit grand, qui se concentrait sur les développements qui ont posé les bases de la ville future et sur lesquels repose encore sa structure actuelle.

De novembre 2012 à mars 2013, le CCA présente en plusieurs temps de multiples entrées d'un glossaire évolutif. Comprenant plus de soixante-dix projets exposés, des conférences, des séminaires, des performances, des débats et des ateliers, cette exposition a pour ambition d'alimenter un forum de réflexion sur Montréal.

ABC: MTL est une fenêtre dans le temps. Pendant ces quelques mois l'exposition présente un abécédaire de Montréal évoluant à la même vitesse que la ville qu'elle cherche à décrire – un récit collectif qui devient un cadre de référence dans lequel nous pouvons ancrer nos discussions sur l'avenir.

A SELF-PORTRAIT OF MONTRÉAL

According to the 2011 census, the population of the greater Montreal area was 3,824,221 – 40 percent more than the 2,742,208 tallied in 1971. A constantly changing cosmopolitan metropolis, Montreal consists of a variety of territories, types of spaces and activities, modes and identities. It is a world full, with people, merchandise and ideas constantly travelling through it. The physical city is the where, over the course of history, the differences that constitute its profound nature and the trajectories that cross it have left their mark.

ABC: MTL – A Self-Portrait of Montreal is an open-volume project in which the city represents itself through the contributions of multiple authors. Keywords that correspond to elements of Montreal's structure and experience form a dynamic dictionary. More than two hundred and fifty proposals were submitted between June and September 2012 in response to the general call. We invited the public to describe the spaces where they work, move and study. In other words, to tell us about the life of the city. We received architectural projects, photo essays, films, sound clips, films, objects found on the street and private correspondence – fragments that add up to a pluralistic vision. Our intention was to extend into the present the narrative initiated by the Canadian Centre for Architecture in 1998 with the exhibition Montreal Metropolis, 1840-1930, which explored a formative era for what was then North America's fourth largest city. This narrative was furthered in 2004 with the exhibition The City, Montreal Thinks Big, which focused on developments that laid the groundwork for the city's future and still support its structure today.

From November 2012 through March 2013, the CCA is presenting the entries to this evolving glossary in progressive stages. More than seventy works are complemented by a program of public lectures, seminars, performances, debates and screenings that provide context for an ongoing public forum in which Montrealeans can reflect on their city.

ABC: MTL is a window in time. For a few months, it displays a Montreal vocabulary that is evolving at the same rapid pace as the city it seeks to describe – a collective narrative that defines a common framework upon which to base discussions of our future.

ABC:MTL

- ARCHITECTES FABG [5] **ARRIVALS** RAMAK FAZEL, ARJUNA NEUMAN [7] **BRIDGE** FIONA ANNIS, ROBIN PINEDA GOULD [5]
- CIToyENS** EMMANUELLE LEONARD [6] **CONDO** AVENUE B, SPACING MONTREAL
- CULTE** AUDREY WELLS [7] **ELECTROSMOG** JEAN-PIERRE AUBE [2] **EXCHANGE** JONATHAN SA'ADAH [5]
- DATA** NICOLAS BAIER [2] **HIPPODROME** MYRIAM YATES [3] **HYPERBÂTIMENT** SYN-ATELIER D'EXPLORATION URBAINE [4]
- EXILE** CENTRE FOR ORAL HISTORY AND DIGITAL STORYTELLING [7] **INTERFACE** NEIL CLAVIN **ISLAND** GABOR SZILASI [5]
- INDEPENDENT** VARIOUS ARTISTS [3] **INTERSTICE** ATELIER BIG CITY [4] **MONTROYALITE** ROBERT BURLEY [2] **PARTITION**
- MÉTROPOLE** [3] **MOBILISATION** FONDERIE DARLING, 7 À NOUS [6] **SOCCER** SAUCIER + PERROTTE ARCHITECTES [7]
- AUDIOTOPIE** [4] **RÉGION** FRANCISCA INSULZA [5] **RUELLES** THOMAS-BERNARD KENNIFF, CLAUDIA DELISLE, EMILY YOUNG [4] **VOYEUR** GWENDOLINA GENEST, CELINE HUYGHEBAERT [4]
- THRESHOLD** JOSÉ VARGAS-HIDALGO [4] **TURCOT** VICTOR ARROYO [5] **URGENCE** ATSA [6]

B 2012.12.12 - 2013.01.27



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