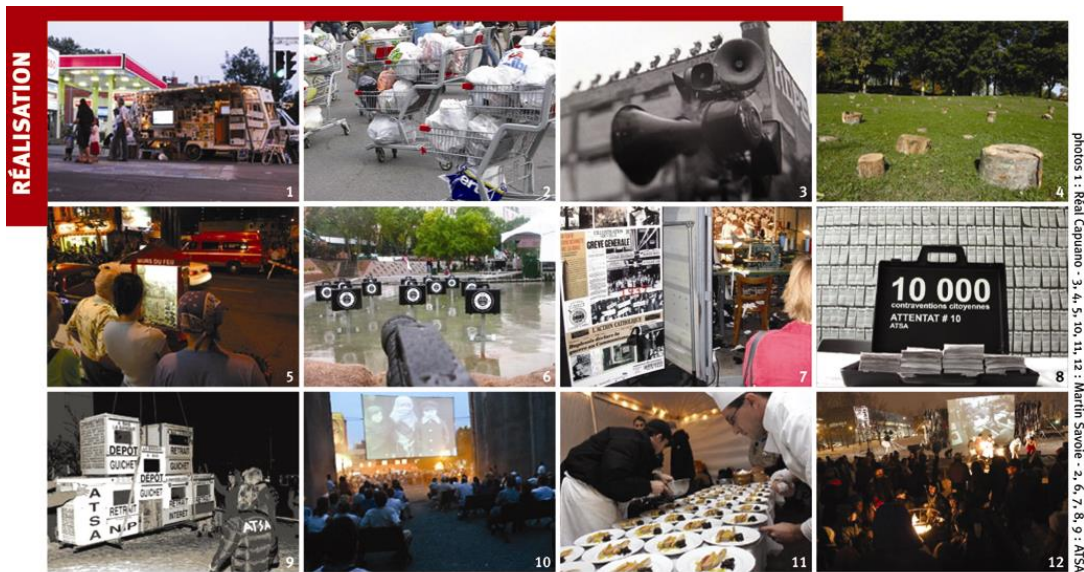


ACTION TERRORISTE SOCIALEMENT ACCEPTABLE – ATSA
10 YEARS OF URBAN INTERVENTION
October 2 to December 11, 2008, in Montreal
www.atsa.qc.ca



1. Squat Polaire 2007 - 2. 500 Millions 2007 - 3. Parc Industriel 2001 - 4. Attention : Zone Épineuse 2002 - 5. Murs du Feu 2002 - 6. Wild Capitalism Hunting Games 2005 - 7. SHMATA / Frag 2004 - 8. Attentat # 10 / La contravention 2005 - 9. La Banque à Bas 1997 - 10. Murs du Feu 2002 - 11. État d'Urgence 2005 - 12. État d'Urgence 2006

Montreal, Wednesday, August 27, 2008— In December 1997, ATSA let out its first cry of moral indignation by organizing with all haste in front of the Musée d'art contemporain its first artistically, politically and socially engaged intervention, *La Banque à Bas*, in the process defining its so-called “terrorist” strategy: waging a full-on attack on poverty, exclusion, waste and pollution, and delivering impactful messages by means of attention-grabbing titles, art that is dynamic, engaged and interactive, and spectacular interventions where the urban space is transformed into both a stage and a forum for debate.

Since that first outing, ATSA’s founders, artists **Annie Roy** and **Pierre Allard**, have produced more than 20 engaged urban interventions on issues of social, environmental and patrimonial justice, while inviting citizens to experiment with and discover their own capacity for action.

Between October 2 and December 11, 2008,
three events to celebrate ATSA’s 10th anniversary

- October 2 to December 11, 2008, the CHANGE temporary store

On October 2, ATSA opens its own retail business to the public and for the ten weeks that follow will be a willing guinea pig as it immerses itself in the marketing universe. While constituting a retrospective of ATSA’s body of intervention work, the store will sell archive photos, artifacts and derivative products. A unique opportunity to discover or revisit ATSA’s iconoclastic brand of activism and to ponder the evolution of the issues investigated by this socially engaged artistic team. **CHANGE**’s address will be announced in September 2008.

- **Thursday, October 2, launch of the publication *ATSA: Quand l'Art passe à l'Action***

Launched at the **CHANGE** store, this bilingual anniversary publication breathes new life into ATSA's 10-year output. In addition to archive photos, a select group of today's high-profile commentators weigh in on a variety of topics: Sami Aoun (political scientist), Patrick Beauquin (marketing expert), Dinu Bumbaru (architect and Héritage Montréal pillar), Guy Sioui Durand (art sociologist), Steven Guilbeault (spokesperson for Équiterre), Louis Hamelin (writer), Louis Jacob (art historian), Jean Lemire (biologist and filmmaker) and Laure Waridel (sociologist and co-founder of Équiterre) were all asked to provide their thoughts on engaged art and on the social and environmental issues of the day. The work is prefaced by an interview Sonia Pelletier (art critic, curator and independent publisher) conducted with ATSA's two founding artists. Look for it at the CHANGE store and in bookstores this October.

- **November 26–30, the 10th edition of *État d'Urgence***

In 1998, ATSA organized its very first *État d'Urgence* ("State of Emergency"), creating an urban refugee camp for the homeless in Montreal's downtown core. The event marked the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; 2008 marks its 60th. For the occasion, ATSA is partnering with Amnesty International. The 2008 edition of this five-day, around-the-clock "manifestival" will open its arms to homeless people, involve a large team of dedicated volunteers and provide, free of charge, pluridisciplinary and engaged artistic programming inspired by the Declaration's preamble and 30 articles. *État d'Urgence* is the recipient of the 2008 Prix citoyen de la culture (cultural citizen award) handed out by not-for-profit network Les Arts et la Ville.

"ATSA is a venerable artists' collective. What sets them above the rest, morally speaking, is that they have the world's greater good at heart. They are artists and activists at once, bypassing the creative ego in an effort to protest, make homage to, draw attention to, or otherwise treat subjects of social import." HOUR - 24 août 2006, "Tricks of the trade", Isa Tousignant

ATSA's accomplishments at a glance

ATSA puts forth a proactive, responsible vision of the artist as a participant in society's sustainable development. Among its numerous activities, which have left an indelible impression on many citizens in Montreal, Paris, Vancouver and Toronto, let us mention: *La Banque à Bas* ("The Sock Bank") (December 17, 1997 to February 12, 1998) — a structure made of stoves welded together, whose doors serve as an ersatz ATM distributing warm socks to the homeless, cast as the victims of heartless banks; nine editions of *État d'Urgence* — an interdisciplinary and solidary artistic "manifestival" providing a camp for the homeless in downtown Montreal; *Parc Industriel* ("Industrial Park") (August 17 to September 4, 2001) — an archaeological site made of rubbish and a contemplative look at our consumer society; *Attention : Zone épineuse* (October 5–15, 2002) — a thoughtful stroll on Mount Royal raising awareness of the precariousness of our ecological heritage, and a reminder of the site's natural vocation; *Les Murs du Feu* ("Walls of Fire") and *FRAG* (since 2005) — two permanent, site-specific trails on the history of St-Laurent Blvd., "The Main"; and *Attentat* ("Attack") (since 2003) — a series on our collective addiction to fossil fuels, involving among other things citizen parking tickets handed out to SUVs.

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