



Home | About | Contact

GREYSCALE RAINBOW SHOWCASED AT POP MONTREAL

[Robin \(robin\)](#)

The 8th annual POP Montreal independent music, art and film festival took place in Montreal from September 30 to October 4. Once again Film POP and Art POP hosted a variety of screenings, workshops and installation art pieces. This included an early screening of *It Might Get Loud* directed by Davis Guggenheim, *Goblin Market* directed by Adam Leith Gollner, and film and video installations *A Dragnet for Lost Feelings* by Kim Kielhofner and *Mr. Gowrie* by Crush Inc.

In both forums interdisciplinary installations could be found, which created a fascinating platform upon which artists and filmmakers could experiment across the visual arts. The *Greyscale Rainbow Project*, which ran through out POP Montreal, is a perfect example of an imaginative installation piece that played with ones notions of 'studio' and 'exhibition space' by incorporating elements of documentary filmmaking.

Created for POP Montreal in partnership with **Article 30** (www.article30.org (<http://www.article30.org>)), a center run by artists that produce works that are experimental and provoking, this installation stood out for its stark beauty and tangible quality – audiences were allowed to touch the work! For a month artists **Matt Shane** and **Jim Holyoak** worked, ate and slept in Article, transforming this nondescript room into a landscape of images. Reams of white paper were attached to the walls and two tables of black and grey pens, paints, and crayons were laid out for whoever wanted to collaborate with them. Advertisements were sent to local elementary and highschoools, and over the course of the month large groups of children came in to participate.

As the piece evolved, the audience was asked to question whether participants were audience members or artists, and whether they were invited into a studio to work or were integrated into an ongoing exhibition. With this in-between world Shane and Holyoak created a very unique space. Their only rule was that all the drawings had to be in black or grey, but otherwise the children could go crazy, and did. As Shane stated, they expressed themselves "without any inhibitions".

Shane and Holyoak documented the creation of *Greyscale Rainbow*, and for the final exhibit projected this short film onto the window leading into Article. With it's toned down colours and gritty texture from the glass it blended in perfectly with the drawings around it, and became a natural part of the installation. By using the film Shane and Holyoak were able to integrate the process back into the work, transforming the community's participation into a form of performance art. In a way it answered the audience's unposed questions, defining the process as performance, and placing it on an equal footing with the art product.

Greyscale Rainbow combined an experimental edge with a desire to have fun. With Shane and Holyoak dancing around the space in a skunk costume and playing with a ball of string, combined with the stalagmites made out of hospital bed sheets, floating women waving from across the room and fantastic trees growing up from the floor, the audience couldn't help but laugh. By effectively combining documentary film with fine art they created an exciting and unique installation that anyone could enjoy that challenged the boundaries between process and product.

For more information visit www.popmontreal.com (<http://www.popmontreal.com>)

By DOCspace writer Helen Kotsonis. Helen is a Toronto based writer and designer/director for film and theatre. She is also the artistic director for Created Independently, a collective experimenting in multimedia events that express human stories and reveal hidden connections

Photo of *Greyscale Rainbow* courtesy Robin Sharp (<http://robinsharp.blogspot.com> (<http://robinsharp.blogspot.com>))