

# *LE FESTIVAL*

21 October – 23 November 2009

**"Galerie Sud" is the working title for the Centre Pompidou's new festival of contemporary arts – a lively, cross-disciplinary event showcasing new work and promising new movements on the contemporary art scene.**

Over a five-week period, the festival will occupy and transform part of the Centre Pompidou, encouraging the public to discover new, entertaining approaches to the contemporary arts. Conceived as an ephemeral "laboratory of the arts", the festival programme will include theatre, screenings, exhibitions, lectures, performance works and concerts.

The festival aims to create a lively forum for emerging artforms and bold experimentation – an unprecedented opportunity to take a fresh look at the creative arts, and key issues in today's world, straddling the boundaries between different artistic disciplines, generations and statements to offer a comprehensive survey of today's diverse, constantly-evolving modes of artistic expression.

Conceived as a broad, all-embracing landscape, the festival setting is a flexible, responsive, modular environment, adaptable to each day's programme of events, offering visitors a variety of options at any one time, over a 30-day period.

The festival's cross-disciplinary approach aims to break down the barriers between artforms and expressive modes: lectures become performances, concerts are presented as "promenades", sculpture shapes the exhibition space itself... Pictures come to life, daily exhibitions of paintings give rise to discussions and debate, poetry is experienced as sound.

As a forum and meeting-point for the contemporary arts and their audience, the festival will also showcase design, new interactive technologies, film and the latest innovations in video art.

With hindsight, the intuitive, intellectually "undisciplined" approach of visual and performing artists, writers, musicians, dancers and film-makers has often proved visionary, and strikingly prophetic. With this in mind, the festival aims to provide a particular focus on the most experimental, ground-breaking forms of contemporary creative expression.

Its motto may be summed up in Arthur Rimbaud's marvellous phrase: "*Traffic in the unknown, to find the new.*"