



Payne Whitney Mansion Lights Up for *La Francophonie*

PATRICK RIMOUX LIGHT SCULPTURE MARKS 400TH BIRTHDAY OF QUEBEC CITY
ONE NIGHT ONLY ON FIFTH AVENUE



New York, March 21, 2012—A spectacular outdoor display will light up the façade of the **Payne Whitney Mansion** on Thursday, **March 19**, to celebrate *la Francophonie* and the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City by French settlers. For **one night only**, the installation created by celebrated French light sculptor **Patrick Rimoux** for the **Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques** in Quebec City will work its magic on 972 Fifth avenue, illuminating a New York City historical landmark designed by architect Stanford White, which is now the headquarters of the French Cultural Services in the United States. Mr. Rimoux will also present an indoor video installation, specially designed for the occasion.

Two high-powered projectors, giving off 20,000 lumens each, will display an **intricate video** over the building's entire façade. The video will combine elaborate visual effects with **animated excerpts from francophone literary works**, and will run from 7pm to late, constantly evolving as the night progresses. According to artist **Patrick Rimoux**, "Transposing my creation to New York gives more force to the project initiated by the Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques of **promoting French throughout**

the entire American continent. For me it's a wonderful opportunity to adorn the iconic Payne Whitney façade, facing Central Park, with words of light from francophone poetry—Quebécois, Canadian, American, Creole, Acadian... It's a beautiful continuation of this project between Quebec and New York." Patrick Rimoux's installation in Quebec City, initially meant to be temporary, has been so successful that it will become a permanent fixture at the **Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques**, which was inaugurated on October 18, 2008, in the presence of French President **Nicolas Sarkozy** and the Premier of Quebec, **Jean Charest**.

The lighting of the Payne Whitney Mansion on March 19 is being organized by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, la Maison Française of Washington, D.C., le Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques, the Québec Government Office, the Belgian Tourist Office, the Consulate General of Canada, the Consulate General of Switzerland, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, and TV5. This event is placed under the patronage of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and will lead up to the **International Celebration of la Francophonie** which will be celebrated, as every year, on March 20 by over **200 million French-speakers** in **68 countries** across the world. The language they share embodies their solidarity as they cooperate to promote a globalization that is respectful of cultural differences.

Media Resources:

Video Presentation: www.patrickrimoux.fr/ny.exe
High resolution photos: www.patrickrimoux.fr/ny.zip

For more information:

www.20mars.francophonie.org (French only)
www.patrickrimoux.fr
www.francophoniedesameriques.com

Partner Websites:

www.la-maison-francaise.org
www.visitbelgium.com
www.swissworld.org/fr/
www.franceonu.org

www.frenchculture.org
www.quebec-newyork.org
newyork.gc.ca
www.un.int/canada
www.tv5.org/usa

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Patrick Rimoux

Patrick Rimoux has created installations throughout the world, particularly in francophone countries such as Belgium, Canada, France and French Guyana, but also in India and South Africa. This is his **first installation in New York**. Highlights of his work include the illumination of Quebec City's town hall (Canada, 2008), of the Grand-Place in Brussels (Belgium, 2006 and 2003), of South Africa's Freedom Towers (Kliptown, 2005), of the St Lambert Square in Liège (Belgium, 2005), of Johannesburg's Mandela Bridge (South Africa, 2002), of the Roman Amphitheatre in Nîmes (France, 2000) and a permanent installation of starry fields on two of Montmartre's stairways (Paris, 1996). He is now at work on several projects, including the **permanent illumination of the entire Grand-Place of Brussels** and the **lighting of the grounds of Metz's Pompidou Center** (France). In development are the illumination of the Kora Awards in Lagos (Nigeria), and the illumination of an entire island in the Seychelles using renewable energy. This March, two retrospectives of his works will be held in Brussels, Belgium, at the Congrès railway station (March 5-26) and at the Café Français gallery (March 26-May 20). In **June-July 2009, one of his works will be featured in a PS1 exhibit in New York** (pending confirmation).

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the New York Police Department and the Special Events Division of the Parks Department.