



MEDIATIONS *Virtual Threads of Reality*

a lecture by **Valérie d. Walker**
 at OBORO

February 19, 2008, at 6:30 pm

Lecture given in English with bilingual Q&A

Médiations offers a program of lectures, workshops and customized clinics to artists of diverse cultural communities of Montréal.

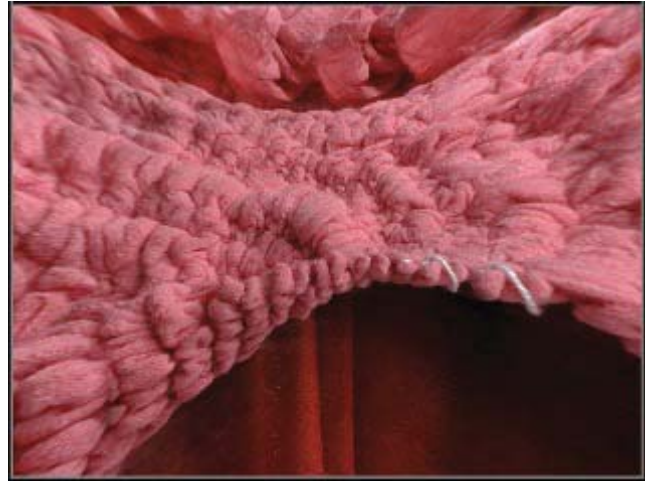
Textile artist Valérie d. Walker will open the *Médiations* activities with a flavourful conference during which she will speak about her journey as a female artist and product of diversity.

Indigo Dyer, Shibori-zomé Thread-Bender, Virtual Reality Spinner: Valérie Walker's transmedia artwork arises from the combined abilities and experiences of both textile and computer science hands-on explorations.

Shibori-zomé, a traditional Japanese dyeing technique, involves the repetition of tying nearly identical knots, repeatedly dipping and massaging the fibres in the natural Indigo dye vat. This process serves to create memory; the artist generates a time-based narrative through the pressure of her hands as though signing dimensional motifs in a tactile language. The fibre-based sculptural techniques of Shibori-zomé transmit Valérie d Walker's (VdW) daily observations, morphing them into imagined places and littoral life forms.

Valérie d. Walker's craft based art work has a process-centric obsession with the mundane moments and repetitive actions which build memory, identity, community. "Stitching" Shibori-zomé (thread resist) and hand-woven Jacquard" textiles into haptic VR panoramic environments, VdW attempts to re-dress our techno-desires into a universe laced with the unexpected, the stimulating and tactually interactive. [VDW]

** A woven fabric created by hand on a loom whose threads are controlled by a computer.*



corps rose © V. Walker, 2007

With a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science from the University of California at Berkeley, with time served in the HI-Tech realm, **Valérie d. Walker** received her MFA on Earth Day April 2007 from NSCAD University, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. As the first QuickTime Virtual Reality (QTVR) Artist in Residence at OBORO in 2000, VdW created *Circadian Textures*; It is touchable online @ <www.oboro.net/webproj/VdW>. In 2006, Valérie was awarded the Brittingham Foundation Visiting Scholar grant from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Based in Montréal, VdW teaches in Fine Arts/Computation Art at Concordia University, while pursuing her fibres research and trans-media art practice. Her take on cyberculture can be heard on *The XX Files*, a weekly radio show on CKUT (online at <www.ckut.ca>).

Developed in collaboration with DAM (Diversité artistique Montréal) and MAI (Montréal, Arts Interculturels), Médiations receives the financial support of the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine and Ville de Montréal within the framework of the Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal 2005-2008.

For complete program of *Médiations* activities, see press release: <<http://www.oboro.net/oboro/news.html>>

