

[See It](#)[Report a problem](#)

Pierre Gallais: Laser Quest

CIRCA, MONTREAL JUN 11 TO JUL 9 2011

by BRYNE MCLAUGHLIN



Pierre Gallais *MathÉrialisation* 2011 Installation view Courtesy the artist

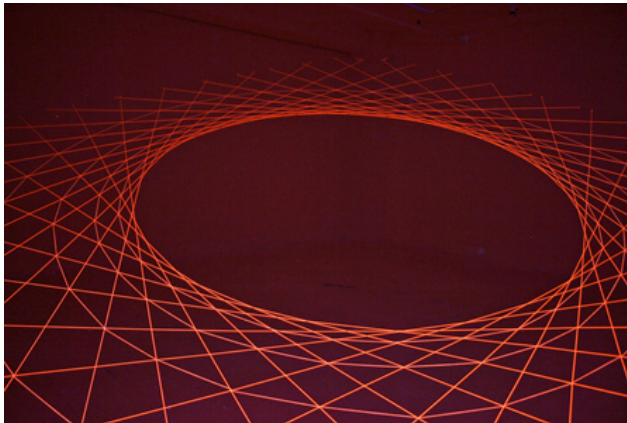
Pierre Gallais *MathÉrialisation* 2011 Installation view
Courtesy the artist

While some of us may still think of [Led Zeppelin laser shows](#) and other planetarium-based psychedelic spectacles as the ultimate realization of laser light's aesthetic power, there are those, such as French artist [Pierre Gallais](#), who have taken this concentrated form of energy to even higher poetic levels. With his installation *MathÉrialisation*, Gallais has transformed Montreal's [Circa](#) into an immersive environment where laser projections aim to redefine the physical and psychological limits of time, space and form. Trained as an engineer and mathematician, Gallais produces work grounded in a precise understanding of the mechanics behind lasers and built space—but his intention is to create a zone of fluctuating mystery rather than a calculated scientific display. To that end, Circa's main gallery has been cast in near darkness, with freestanding sculptural forms spread throughout the room. A varying projection of laser lines plays off these shapes while viewers negotiating the obscured space enact what Gallais sees as a spontaneous ballet of light, one that becomes increasingly complex as intersections between darkness, light and form are disturbed and reoriented. A soundscape partly recorded in a massive cave by French avant-garde musician and composer [François Bayle](#) adds an abstract, elemental dynamism to Gallais' spatial disorientation. In a second gallery, viewers are confronted by another laser work, this time coordinated by Gallais in a web-like array. Seen from the gallery doorway, it promises to upend visual and mental perspectives, drawing viewers into a vortex of seemingly infinite proportions and endless daydream possibilities.

- www.circa-art.com



Pierre Gallais *MathÉrialisation* 2011 Installation view Courtesy the artist



Pierre Gallais *MathÉrialisation* 2011 Installation view Courtesy the artist

[Subscribe to Canadian Art today and save 30% off the newstand price.](#)

RELATED STORIES

Jeanie Riddle

This year, Montreal has seen a surfeit of shows focusing on the connections between art, music and clubbing. In a solo exhibition at Centre d'exposition Circa, Jeanie Riddle brought a very different tone to the party with a work of silent grandeur called California.