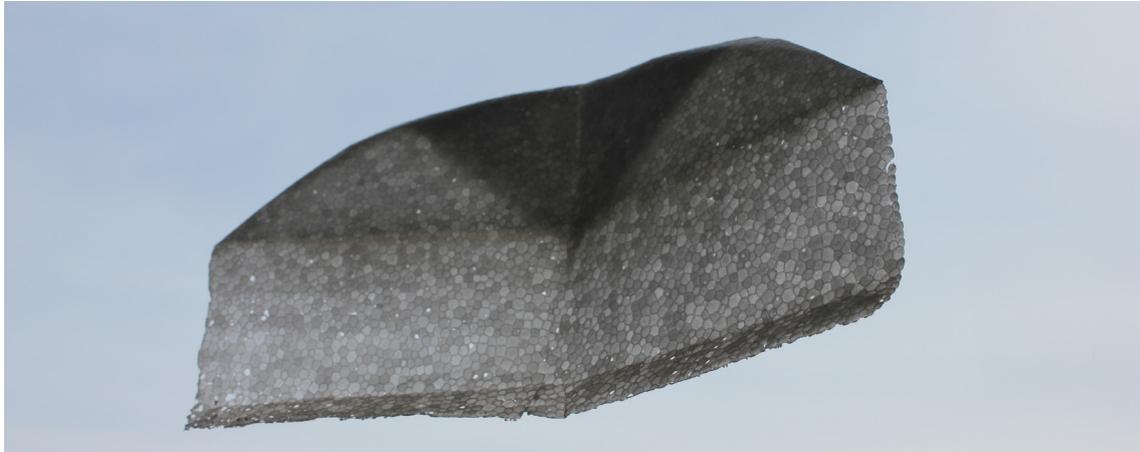




center for digital cultures  
and technology



iMAL, Center for Digital Cultures and Technology is proud to announce *Terrain d'Envol*, the exhibition of Etienne Cliquet (FR), presented from September 19th till October 20th, 2013.

## **Terrain d'Envol exhibition**

### **Fold, Walk, Fly (Documentation and DIY workshop)**

Since the beginning of time, humanity has dreamed of being able to fly. We've come a long way since the myth of Icarus, from lighter than air aerostats, to heavier aircrafts; from dream machines to war machines; from fearless pilots to anonymous drones full of electronics and computers. These aircrafts devoid of human beings curiously crystallise the paradoxes of our super-technological world: both scary and heartening, both surgical killing machines and dream machines for a whole new generation of hackers, who share the know-how and techniques of quadcopters and other artificial buzzing insects.

Etienne is an aerial character and his work - all in folds and unfolds, in gentle lifts in the subtle whirlwinds and in delicate shaping of the matter - even with the most advanced machinery - is far from those super-technological machines. He inspires us to practice the exercise of flying in all its poetry; his air gliders, weightless as butterflies, move only thanks to our energy... you just have to walk and.. the aeroplane flies!

*Terrain d'Envol* presents a set of micro-gliders prototypes that can float in the air thanks to very light air movements produced by a placard that visitors hold in front of them as they walk. This practice is known as "walkalong gliders".

This exhibition is the result of Etienne's artist residency, this summer, at iMAL and FabLab.iMAL. The micro-gliders, partly built with the help of digital fabrication machines, are assembled by the visitors and tested in iMAL exhibition space. The documentation, like plans and research made during the residency, will also be presented.



center for digital cultures  
and technology

## Micro-forces and materials

Unlike sculpture, Etienne's origami volumes rely more on faint, small scale micro-forces than on gravity, and this is particularly the case with this project at iMAL. In 2011, he shot *Flotille*, a video of origamis opening themselves thanks to the surface tension of water.

In the use of materials such as cardboard for the signs and polystyrene for the gliders, Etienne refers to the packaging of goods and their circulation across the world for consumption, especially hi-fi and technological equipments. Turning these packaging materials into fragile micro-gliders contrasts with their usual content: high-tech products that will soon just be long-lasting trash piling up in dumps.

Surprised and impressed by the symbolism and the gestures of micro-gliding videos on the Internet, they evoke for the artist the difficult balance between the values to which we aspire (the placard) and everyday's life, often difficult to handle (the glider). On the other hand, the signboard also seems to be used as a shield (these ideas that give a meaning to life but which sometimes block our prospect) above which a slight thing casually glides defying the gravity, like a poor man's metaphysics. Etienne tries to give an account of this duality by making placards on which images and symbols are laser-engraved, seeking some sort of balance between the lightness of the gliders and the severity of signs. One moderates or completes the other.

## About Etienne Cliquet

Etienne Cliquet lives and works in Toulouse. His work can be seen online, in art centers, museums and galleries. He is exhibited internationally. Co-initiator and animator of the online collective *Téléférique* from 1999 to 2004, he since then developed researches on folding in relation with informatic and networks.

[www.ordigami.net](http://www.ordigami.net)



center for digital cultures  
and technology

## Practical information

**Exhibition:** 19 September - 20 October 2013

**Opening:** 19 septembre, 18h30-22h30

**Visiting hours:** mercredi au dimanche, 13h00 - 18h30

**Free entrance!**

### **iMAL Center for Digital Cultures and Technology**

30 Quai des Charbonnages, 1080 Bruxelles

[www.imal.org](http://www.imal.org) +32 2 410 30 93

## Credits

*Terrain d'Envol* is an exhibition produced by iMAL with support from Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles in the context of Quinzaine Numérique.



Special thanks to the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and of Military History of Brussels and the AELR association (Brussels Air Museum Fund) for their support of the video shootings.

Etienne Cliquet Assistant: Louise Moraldy

Drone pilot : Christopher Teixeira Mota

## Contact:

### **iMAL, Center for Digital Cultures and Technology**

Audrey Brisack  
[audrey@imal.org](mailto:audrey@imal.org)

+32 2 410 30 93

[www.imal.org](http://www.imal.org)

## About iMAL

Ideally located in Brussels, iMAL (interactive Media Art Laboratory) is a centre for digital cultures dedicated to the meeting of artistic, scientific and industrial innovations. A place for contemporary artistic and cultural practices emerging from the fusion of computer, telecommunication, network and media. iMAL is the unique integration of an Art Centre producing various public events (exhibitions, lectures, concerts, performances,...) with a Media Lab for creative people to research, experiment, share and exchange with and about new technologies for the arts. Since October 2012 FabLab.iMAL is open, a creative workplace dedicated to digital fabrication where anyone can come and experiment machines such as 3D printers, a lasercutter and a CNC milling machine.

[www.imal.org](http://www.imal.org)