

**RENAULT**

PRESS RELEASE

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"RACCOON" A WORLD PREMIERE IN THE DOMAIN OF ANIMATED FILM

Renault's Industrial Design Department, in conjunction with the National Audiovisual Institute (INA), is presenting a world premiere of "Racoon" as part of the 12th Forum of New Images in Monte Carlo (Imagina 93*). It is a "factional" film, made out of doors while its main character, Renault's latest concept car, was still being built.

"Racoon" is the name of Renault's latest concept car, soon to be seen at the forthcoming Geneva motor show. For now, it is the star of a film shot at the beginning of June 1992, in town, on roads, against various backgrounds including a lake in the south of France, unknown to those sitting on cafe terraces, to drivers or strollers because, at that time, Racoon did not exist except in the form of styling sketches, engineering drawings and solid models which could not be transported.

The virtual image set amidst real scenery

The defining of the vehicle's shape by a powerful computer allowed the "construction" of a virtual three-dimensional Racoon which, just like a character in an animated film, is able to move in any direction. But to make it travel along streets and main roads, to be able to assess it in its future environment, alongside other vehicles, buildings and people, Renault's Industrial Design Department had recourse to a Synthetic TV (STV) system developed and put into operation by INA. And thanks to the improvements achieved by Renault in infographic quality and animation in the last four years, the impression is of an entirely "real-life" film, even though it was only the backgrounds which were shot by conventional means; the vehicle itself had no physical existence, even when the film was finished using computer-aided techniques. Thus for the first time, a virtual object performs without image retouching in a real-life world, without drawn animation, in fact with nothing other than a perfectly formed synthetic image.

**Imagina 93 takes place at Monte Carlo on the 17th, 18th and 19th February*

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Dynamic assessment of a styling proposal

Following "The Return to the Extraordinary" with the Renault Laguna, and the "Invitation to Travel" with the Renault Scenic, which moved within a computer-generated background (of the kind used in driving simulators), Racoon shows the possibilities of using a synthetic-image film as a way of assessing the value of a styling proposal without having to undertake the expensive and time consuming stages of model-making or the building of a rolling prototype.

This technique is already in use within Renault as an aid to decision as well as creation in car design, leading to a significant saving of time in the development of new models. In effect, Patrick Le Quément, Vice President of Industrial Design, is responsible for the cross-functional project aimed at shortening the design and industrialisation cycles.

And in the future, in the same exterior sequences run in the absence of their star, Racoon can be succeeded by another prototype, from the same mould, which must in the same way remain secret and yet be assessed dynamically before it has even been built.