

Maurice Benayoun, artist, plastician.

Has been exploring for several years the possibilities of computer graphic animation and virtual reality. Co-founder of **Z.A Production** where he works as an art director on numerous projects and special effects. With **the QUARXS** broadcasted on CANAL + and France 3, he directed together with François Schuiten one of the first 3-D high-definition series based on an original script. His work, presented in international exhibitions was awarded numerous prizes. His current activity concentrates on developing the artistic potential of virtual reality and interactive scripts. *Is God flat ?* and *Is the Devil curved ?* and *The Tunnel under the Atlantic* were the first visible manifestations of a vaster project for which he was awarded **the Villa Médicis Hors Les Murs** of the Foreign Ministry for his A.M.E. project, a contemporary art collection in virtual reality in 1993. Since 1984 he teaches « Art Video and New Images » at the University of Paris 1. He has also taught at the ENSBA (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Paris) in 1997.

Z.A Production is a Parisian production company, specialized in creating and directing 3D computer graphics and special effects.

Z.A has made a name for itself in producing the *Quarxs* series, the first animated series created in 3D, 35mm and HD, broadcast by Canal + and France 3, already awarded in many international competitions and festivals.

Z.A Production creates and realizes TV Credit titles, advertising, industrial films, special effects and television series and documentaries.

In a parallel direction, the company is very interested in applying Virtual Reality techniques to plastic arts (by the development of home made software dedicated to real-time animation, and virtual reality). Indeed, Z.A Production has already presented different artistic installations by Maurice Benayoun like *Dieu est-il plat ?* (Is God flat ?), *Le Diable est-il Courbe ?* (Is the Devil curved ?), *Le Tunnel sous l'Atlantique* (The tunnel under the Atlantic), a televirtuality event connecting Paris and Montreal for 5 days (September 1995), *Le Tunnel Paris-New-Delhi* (the Paris-New Delhi tunnel), televirtuality event connecting Virtual gallery exhibition in Delhi to NINR exhibition at la Villette (Paris) last February, and Worldskin showed at the AEC Center in Linz (Austria) and now at IMAGINA.

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Z.A : COMPUTER GRAPHICS, SPECIAL EFFECTS, VIRTUAL REALITY.

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