

Extreme Arts and Astronaut Analog trainings, a case study.



[From the Northernmost human settlement to the driest desert on Earth]
Earth Without Humans II Symposium , Kapelica Gallery, Ljubljana, 09/06/2017

Mr Benjamin Pothier.

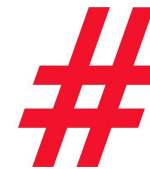
PhD Candidate , [C.A.I.I.A] Center for Advanced Inquiry in the Integrative Arts, Planetary Collegium, Plymouth University (UK)

Portfolio : <http://Benipi.com>

Expeditions : <http://Ace4.International>

Twitter : @BenjaminPothier

Instagram: @Mistaben4



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Personal Artistic Background



[Crow order] Found Materials and paint, 1996



[Cellule0038753k] interactive installation, Collective work, 2004

- Master in Fine Arts (Print, Etching, Photography and Film making)
- Founding member of French Artist Collective Cellule0038753k (Interactive installations and Vjing)
- 8 years of study of Contemporary Dance , Choreography and Scenography with Joseph Nadj
- Aikido and Budo practice and study since 2000. (Kendo, Iaido, Kyudo, Judo, Meditation, etc...)
- PhD Candidate in Arts / Architecture / Anthropology at the Planetary Collegium.
- Classical Anthropology
- Digital Anthropology / Technologist (COST, Colab Bio-Arch, Planetary Collegium conferences)

EXTREME ARTS EXPEDITIONS AND ANALOG ASTRONAUT TRAININGS: Similarities between Astronaut training and extreme [Arts] expeditions:



Hypoxia training and survey with Prof. Richalet before EBC Trek



Dr Ulyana Horodyskyj. Hypoxia Training during PoSSUM

- Danger
- Hypoxia (High Altitude)
- Physical endurance / training / performance
- Specific survival skills : First responder training, etc...
- Focus, mindset, meditation.
- First hand experiences of life on Hostile environments and Geological Landscapes similar to Mars / Moon / Asteroids. (Hymalayan Glaciers, Atacama Desert , Ojos Del Salado Volcano , High Arctic.

EXTREME ARTS EXPEDITIONS AND ANALOG ASTRONAUT TRAININGS:

- 2013 : THE ARCTIC CIRCLE RESIDENCY : Arctic Ocean, Svalbard and Ny-Alesund [Northernmost Human Settlement]



- Organized by THE FARM.INC a NYC Based Cultural organization
- First French Selected
- 15 Days on a Boat in the Arctic Ocean up to 20 from the North Pole
- Exploration of previously unexplored landscapes
- groupe of 20 people including armed Guides for Polar Bears protections.
- First First-hand study of Arctic Guides and Local equipments for survival in the Arctic.
- First physical training for exploration / expeditions
- Photographs exhibited in collaborations with the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the French Embassy in South Africa.

EXTREME ARTS EXPEDITIONS AND ANALOG ASTRONAUT TRAININGS:

- 2014 : ARS BIO ARCTICA / FRENCH-NORWEGIAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE GRANT:



Two Months in the Arctic during Polar night

- Creative Sparks Paris Second prize winner.
- more than a month at Kilpisjarvi's research Station near the Norwegian / Finnish Border
- Winter Ascent of Mount Saana
- Testing and Using various Audio-visual gears for a Cross-Media and Film Making project in cold environments
- Development of a deep interest into the Techwear mouvement.
- Published the same year a comparative study of body Adaptation to the Aquatic and the Zero Gravity. Including an interview of Astronaut-Artist and Diver Dr Sarah Jane Pell

EXTREME ARTS EXPEDITIONS AND ANALOG ASTRONAUT TRAININGS:

2015 : BENDING HORIZONS EXPEDITION.

- Technical Advisor and EBC crew member for Artist-Astronaut Dr Sarah Jane Pell attempt to climb the Everest.



Dr Sarah Jane Pell during PoSSUM Astronaut training



Everest Expedition Crowdfunding video , 2015

- 6 Months physical training for the EBC trek
- Hypoxia test with Professor Richalet
- Expedition cancelled 10 days before my departure due to Nepal Earthquake.

EXTREME ARTS EXPEDITIONS AND ANALOG ASTRONAUT TRAININGS:

2016 : SCIENCE IN THE WILD NGOZUMPA GLACIER. With Glaciologist and Astronaut Candidate Dr Horodyskyj



On the trail with Astronaut Candidate Dr Ulyana Horodyskyj

Emergency shelter at 5300 meters during a snow storm

- 4 months training & Second hypoxia test before departure . Civilian First responder level 1 Training
- First experience of long Helicopter flight .
- Ascent up to 5500 meters at the Nepal/Tibet border on an unexplored Glacier in the Himalayas
- Daily live blogging for a French Newspaper with a Satellite terminal (Iridium Go) LiveTracking Map of the expedition.
- Film making for a 4 Part Documentary broadcasted on PBS







EXTREME ARTS EXPEDITIONS AND ANALOG ASTRONAUT TRAININGS:

2017 : Science in the Wild / PoSSUM [M.A.A.R.S] Mars Atacama Analog Research & Simulation



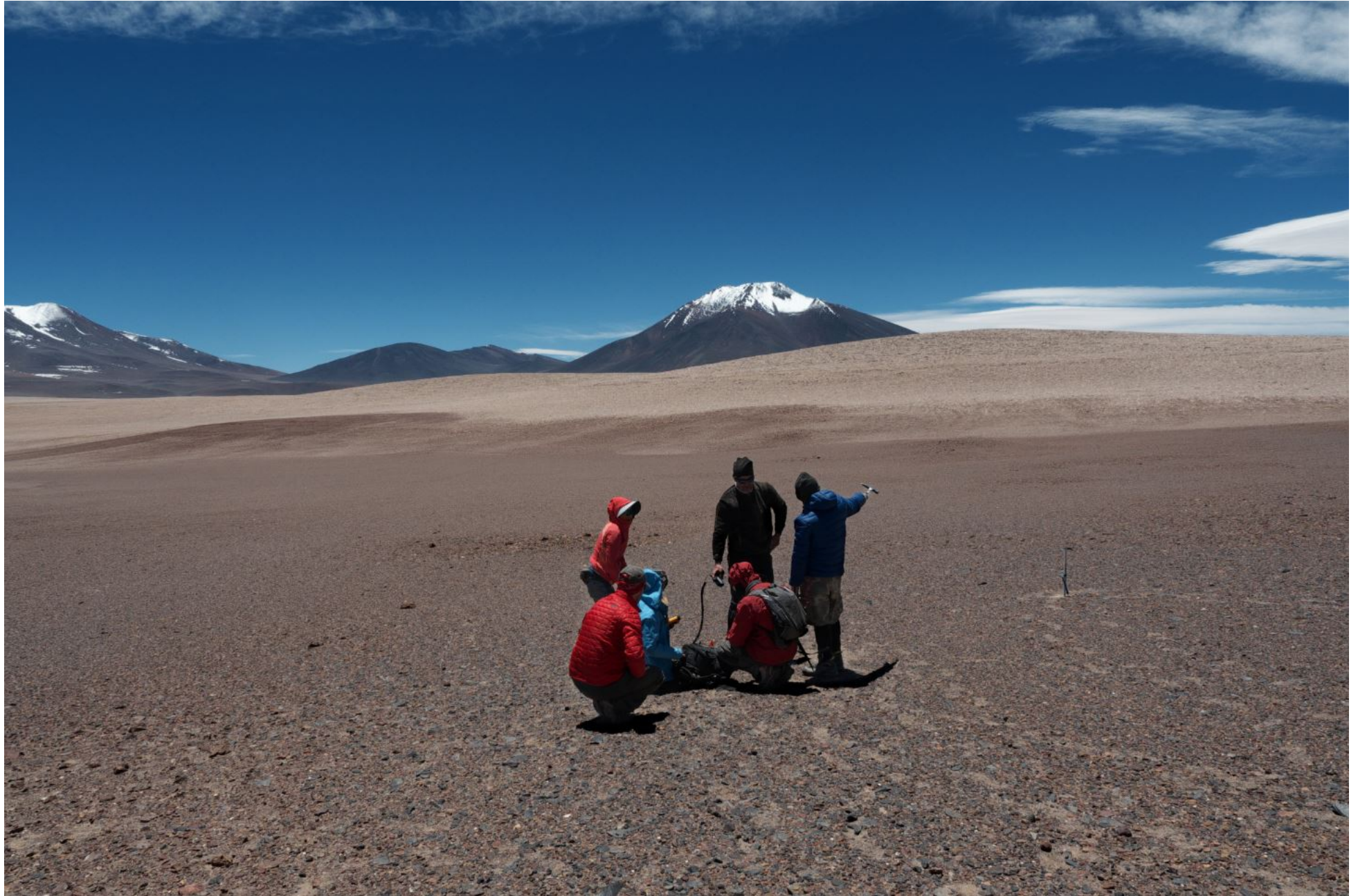
Self portrait, 5837 meters



a part of the M.A.A.R.S Crew, credits Thomas Edunk

- 3 Months training
- Astronaut Analog Training with Astronaut Candidates from the PoSSUM and MARS ONE program
- Climb up to 5837 meters (Refuge #3 of Ojos Del Salado , World's highest Active Volcano)
- 360 Film making (HERVE / Balance Unbalance 2017)
- On site training in Astrobiology, geology and Space Suits design.
- Isolation & Group cohesion in harsh environments.































EXTREME ARTS EXPEDITIONS AND ANALOG ASTRONAUT TRAININGS:

Why do I participate to this kind of expeditions ?

- Because I can
- Intellectual and Artistic Curiosity (interest in Arts/Technology projects, Sci-Fi, R&D, New materials, extreme performance)
- Self-inquiry, Study of my own creativity in extreme environments , Aikido spirit.

Do I Plan to go into Space ?

- Never say never but that's definitely not my goal. I am much more interested in the process of training and the way those experiences can enhance my Artistic approach and creativity at large.

FUTURE PROJECTS (Space Art and Expeditions) :

- Moon Bounce project in collaboration with Daniela De Paulis (sending to the Moon and Back landscape picture of the Mars Curiosity Rover test site from a Radiotelescope)
- Balance Unbalance Conference , Plymouth (UK) August 2017 . First presentation of the 360 documentary Film Project [MAARS]
- ANTARCTICA 2018 with the PoSSUM Program

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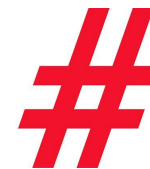
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**Hvala !
Merci !
Thank you !**

**Special thank you to :
Sandra Sajovic, Jana Putrle, Kapelica
Gallery and Ewen Chardronnet**

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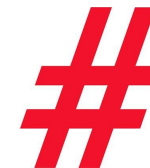
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