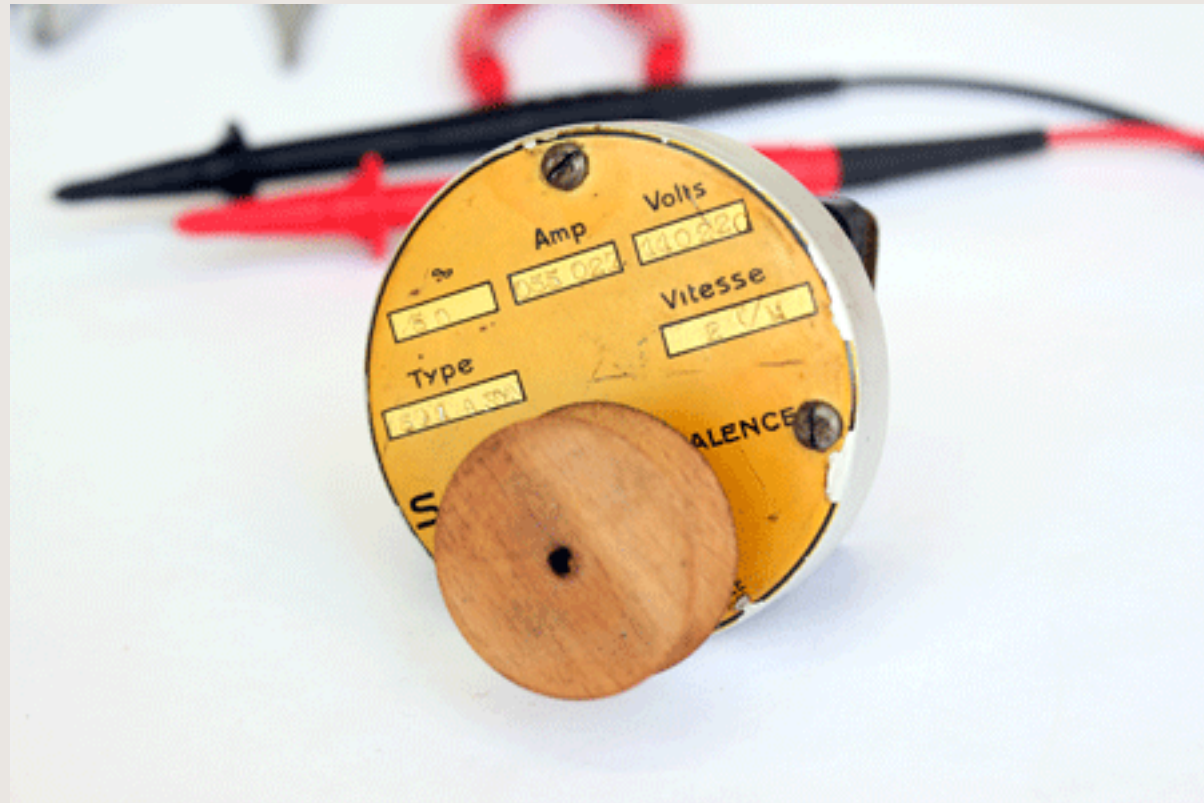


Maryse Lariviere

Maryse Lariviere's practice shifts between dreamed realities, psychoanalytic examinations, reposts to published work, reiterations and collaborations, and inhabits performance, video, sculpture, painting and other mediums.

Reykjavik, Iceland, May 25, 2011.

French author [REDACTED] — an interest of Maryse Lariviere's not yet obviated in her multi-layered, cross-referential practice—is giving a reading at the Nordic House (Norræna húsið) as part of the Reykjavik Arts Festival (Listahátíð í Reykjavík), co-presented by the Alliance française de Reykjavík. I arrive early at the Alvar Aalto designed Norræna húsið, opened in 1968. It's a true fetish spot, with all furnishings and fixtures—for the most part—original, and designed by Aalto. I need to hem in my strong desire to purloin a signature Aalto vase or ashtray. Take something. A compulsion. To have, take, claim what I cannot have. I've been developing a crush on a man I met in Montreal. He is francophone, and he speaks English in one of my favourite ways—with a hybrid accent that is part Quebec francophone, occasionally part London English. It melts my head. I think about him rather constantly while I am in the Norræna húsið waiting for [REDACTED]'s reading to start—this is one of the indulgent luxuries I find are afforded by well considered, clean, aesthetic spaces (austerity as indulgence). Reverie. Fantasy. Except no, this does not happen the way I think it will. In fact, at a distance, walking towards Nordic House, it seems to me there are far too few cars. Upon entering the building, far too few people. I ask a man in a rather creatively knit, brown Icelandic wool sweater if I've made a mistake, if the reading is tonight—a question which seems to pain him. The eruption of the volcano Grímsvötn has thwarted [REDACTED]'s flight. He is remaining in Ireland. He is not rescheduling. I cannot ask him to sign a copy of *The Impossibility of an Island* for Maryse.



still from two-channel HD video installation *My Dream of Tinguely*, 8m & 20m, 2010