

International  
Day of Light

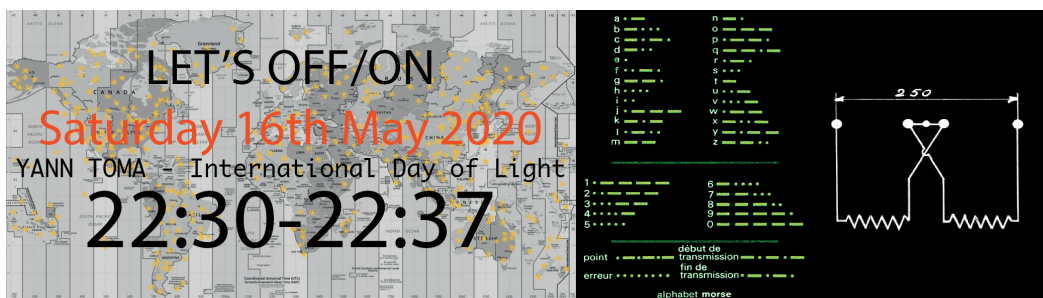
16 May

## PRESS RELEASE

International Day of Light 2020 / From everywhere in the World  
UNESCO - NATIONS UNIES

YANN TOMA

OFF/ON TRANSMISSION ... --- ...



ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT,  
ON MAY 16TH, BECOME TRANSMITTERS OF ARTISTIC ENERGY FOR SEVEN MINUTES!

IMAGINE A BILLION PEOPLE TRANSMITTING AT THE SAME TIME IN MORSE CODE, FROM THEIR APARTMENT, A MESSAGE OF THANKS FOR THE WORLD'S HOSPITAL STAFF BUT ALSO A MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR THE PLANET, SIMPLY BY TURNING ON AND OFF THEIR LAMPS. IT WILL BE A CONCRETE ACT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY AND THE PEOPLE CONCERNED BY THE CORONAVIRUS. A COLLABORATIVE AND VIRAL EVENT TO OVERCOME THE PERIOD OF CONTAINMENT AND MOVE US FROM «OFF» TO «ON», DEFINITELY DIFFERENT IN OUR WAY OF LOOKING AT THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD.

This participatory work of art is an act of life, specially made to express international gratitude to the medical community and to remind us of our duties for the planet. It will be a collaborative and viral event. The idea is to alternately turn on your indoor lights for seven minutes, a symbolic way to manifest to the world after they have been symbolically turned off for a long time due to containment. This work will be global, very simple and very close to people because everyone will have the opportunity to take part in it. All the people and companies who want to get involved will feel the same and will transmit in «Morse-light» (Scott codes) from their home or business. To do this, we will create a common expression together. All the peoples of the world will thus be able to transmit messages of solidarity with medical personnel around the world and to reformulate their hopes for the planet.

In the near future, we will no longer have to think in the same way about how we turn on our lamps and use the technology we all have. As you have all seen, two months of human inactivity will not have been good for our economy, but it will have been good for our environment and for the animals that inhabit the Earth. We must therefore rekindle our «activities» in a different way and allow ourselves to be carried along by a common and benevolent energy, an artistic energy.

YANN TOMA & the MORSE TRANSMISSIONS : DEBUT DE TRANSMISSION/Cité Universitaire de Paris (2001), TRANSMISSION OBERKAMPF/Nuit Blanche (2002), TRANSMISSION PERNON/Fêtes des Lumières/ARTER (2004), TRANSMISSION BREST/Centre d'art Passerelle (2005), TRANSMISSION ANNECY/Musée d'Annecy/Galerie Patricia Dorfmann (2007), TRANSMISSION TOURS/CCC DE Tours (2008), TRANSMISSION BUCHAREST/CLUJ/IASI/TIMISOARA/Institut Français (2019), TRANSMISSION OFF/ON (2020).

Contemporary artist and artist-observer in permanent residence at the UN since 2007, Yann Toma positions his work, the singular forms that it creates, as well as its reflection, at the frontier of artistic and civic expression and brings them into the political and media spotlight. His work is part of many collections. His work is notably included in the collection of the Centre Georges Pompidou. His personal participatory exhibition at the Grand Palais Dynamo-Fukushima (September 2011) brought together more than 24,000 people in nearly 3 days in resonance with the populations affected by the Fukushima disaster. Similarly with Human Energy (December 2015), the artist invested the Eiffel Tower in its entirety during all the week of the COP21 negotiations and added the calories of 80 million runners in one week. In 2016 he had 42,000 people dance around Human Greenery to raise awareness among the population of Beijing on the energy transition (French Institute, Beijing). As part of his university research, he is Full Professor at the Sorbonne School of the Arts and heads the research group Art&Flux (ACTE). Recently, he produced a series of plant coats that were exhibited and used in the framework of the United Nations General Assembly to raise awareness among heads of state about the relationship between perception and action (Sept.-Nov. 2019).

[www.yanntoma.com](http://www.yanntoma.com)

[www.ouest-lumiere.org](http://www.ouest-lumiere.org)

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