



PAUL ELSNER
selected works 2005 - 2015

NO REST
WITHOUT LOVE,

biography

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2012 | artist in residence grant in Rotterdam/Netherlands, by the Cities of Dresden and Rotterdam |
| 2011 | artist in residence grant in Columbus/Ohio/USA, by the Greater Columbus Arts Council |
| 2010 | studio grant in Leipzig, Baumwollspinnerei, by Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen |
| 2007 | formation of the independent work- and exhibition-space - geh8-Kunstraum + Ateliers, Dresden |
| 2003 | formation of Lumopol - light-art projects in public spaces |
| 1999 | formation of arBYTE - discourses and projects related to architecture, space and media |
| 1997 | diploma in architecture and urban design
several works in the fields of urban-, space- and perception-science, teaching at Dresden University |
| 1990 | studys of architecture, art-history, pilosophy in Dresden and Liverpool |

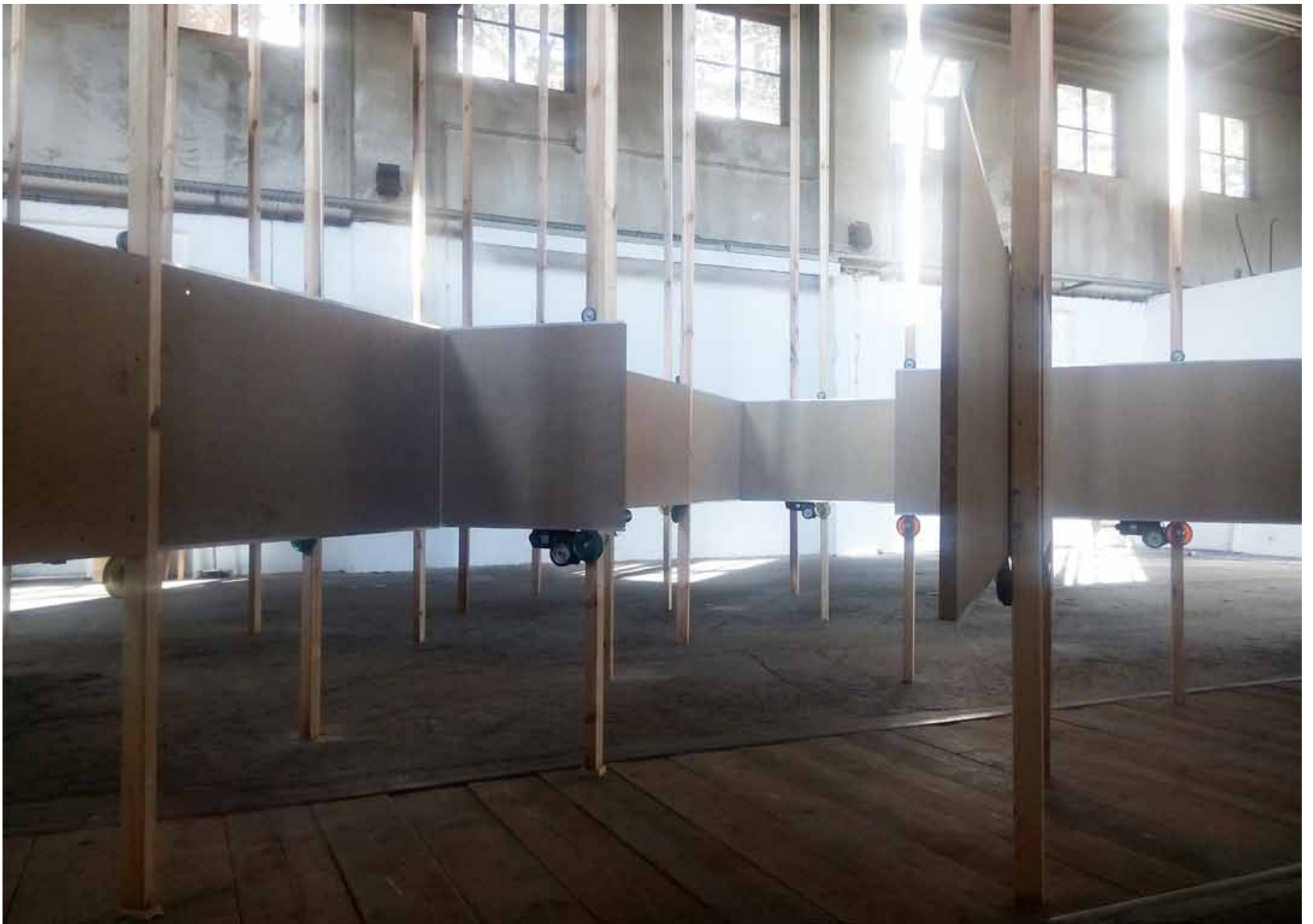
lives and works in Dresden, Germany

Day In Day Out - Störungen des Digitalen, geh8 Kunstraum, Dresden	2015
Restzeichen - Kraftwerk-Mitte, Dresden	2014
shining II - E-Werk, Freiburg/i.Brsg.	2013
SichtBetonUng 8 - FriedrichstadtZentral, Dresden	
Public Lighting - Farrow Building, Columbus/Ohio, USA	2012
The Couple - Goethe-Institut, Rotterdam, NL	
Inlight Richmond - Richmond/Virginia, USA	2011
rooms to let II - Columbus/Ohio, USA	
holy things holy places - Kraftwerk-Mitte, Dresden	
Scheinbar sein. Faktisches und Virtuelles. - Altana Galerie, Dresden	
Unverhofft ins Blaue - geh8 Kunstraum und Ateliers, Dresden	
house warning - Hopkins Hall Gallery, Columbus/Ohio, USA	2010
Our House Is Your House - Galerie Dolmen, Prague, Czech Republik	
Fallstudie, Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Dresden	
Unser Haus ist Euer Haus - Domagk-Ateliers, Munich	2009
Nichts mit -ung - Villa Eschebach, Dresden	
all about... Dresden - whiteBox, Munich	
nei loro occhi - Palazzo Albrizzi, Venice, Italy	
OPEN 2008 - 11. International Exhibition for Sculpture and Installation, Venice/Lido, Italy	2008
Klang, Raum Licht - permanent building installation, concerthall, Hochschule für Musik, Dresden	
geh8 zeigt: WAS - geh8 Kunstraum und Ateliers, Dresden	2007
Der lichte Wald - Kunstraum Delikatessenhaus, Leipzig	
depart - Georgentor, Dresden	

works 2015

untitled - kinetic installation 8 x 8 m (in cooperation with Sebastian Hempel)

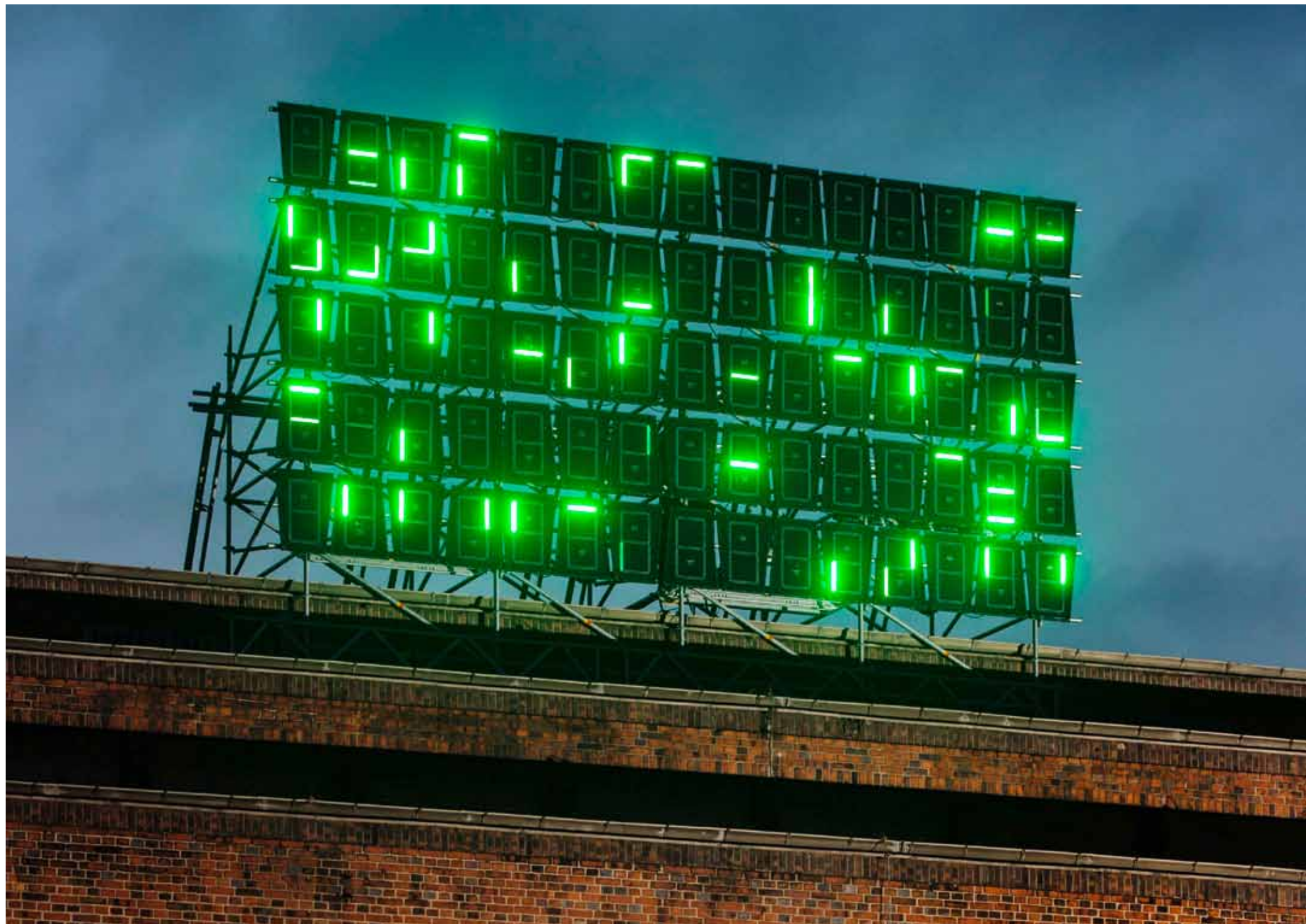




works 2014

Restzeichen - Installation in public space / 9m x4,50m

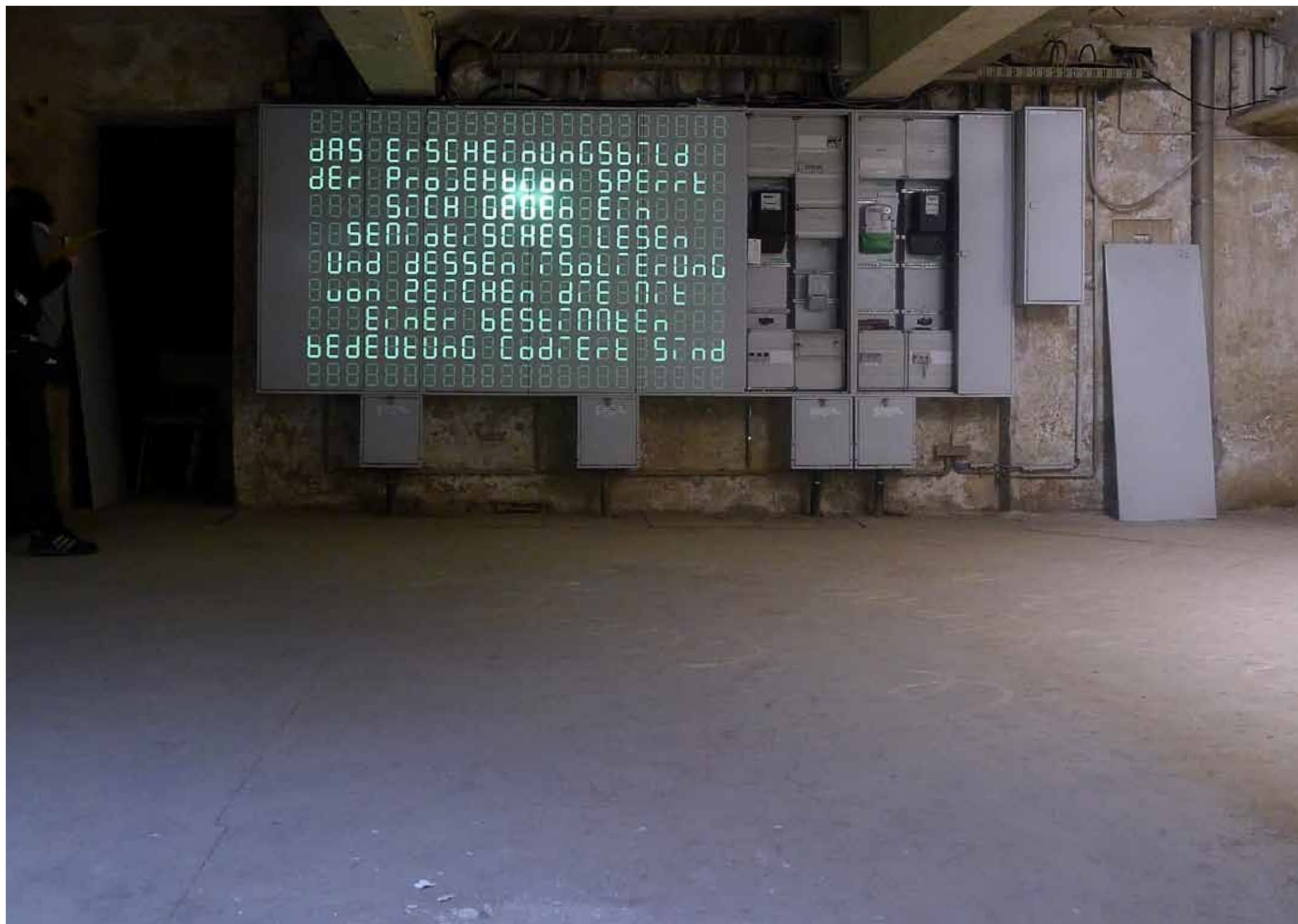




works 2013

Figur und Grund - Installation / Projection / Flash-Animation 2013, 3,80m x1,60m





works 2012

The Couple / 2012, installation 3mx1,50m





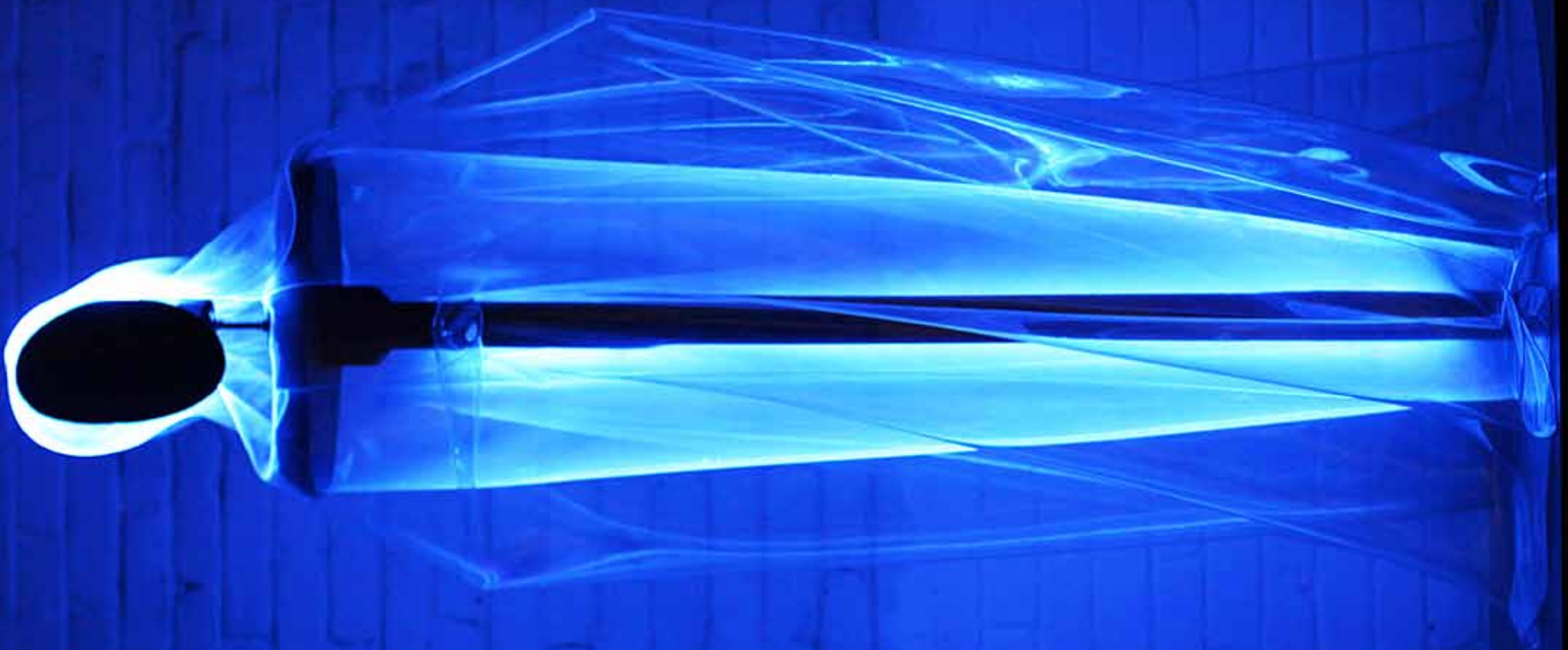
works 2011

Construction of a Maria, 2011, sculpture, 170x75x75cm, base 110x80x80cm



Construction of a Maria is a life-size sculpture placed on a base. The work is made of Soft-PVC which is lit blue by a hidden blacklight tube and bulb. It was inspired on occasion of being invited to the exhibition *holy things holy places* and its concept, the artistic construction of myth, aura and meaning.

Furthermore it was the place, a former power station and its specific architectural character, which influenced the arrangement of a sculpture which deals with the look and meaning of holy images. The work questions the substance of those collective projections of meaning known from similar situations in churches or places of pilgrimage. It opposes aspects like construction and magic/divinity, content and appearance, the seeming and the real.



works 2011

Sphere / Unexpectedly into the Blue, installation 12mx3mx2m



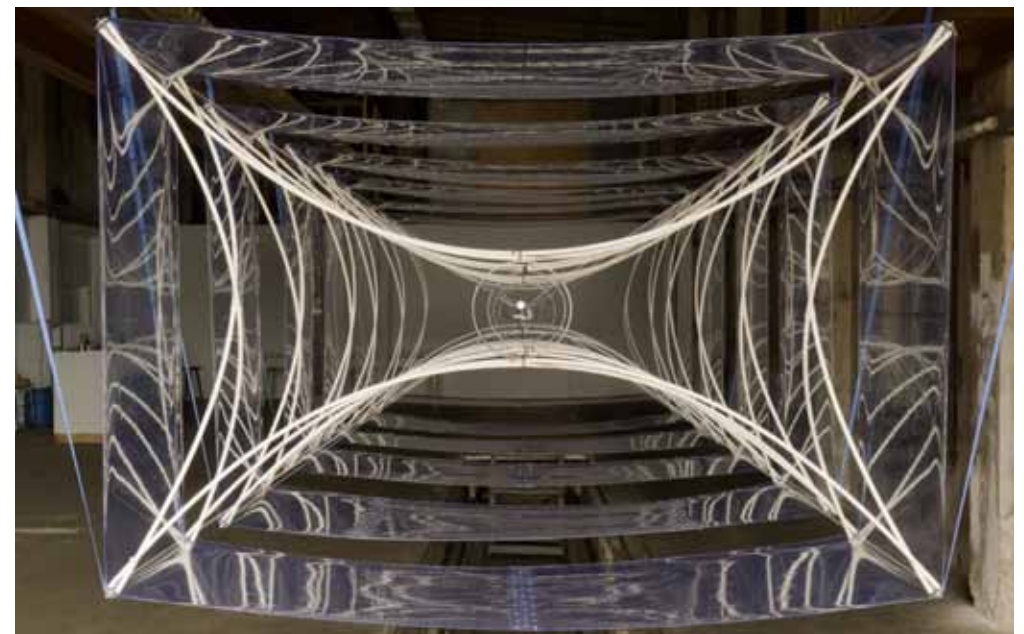
Sphere is an extensive site specific installation on occasion of a solo show called *Unexpectedly into the Blue* in geh8 Kunstraum & Ateliers.

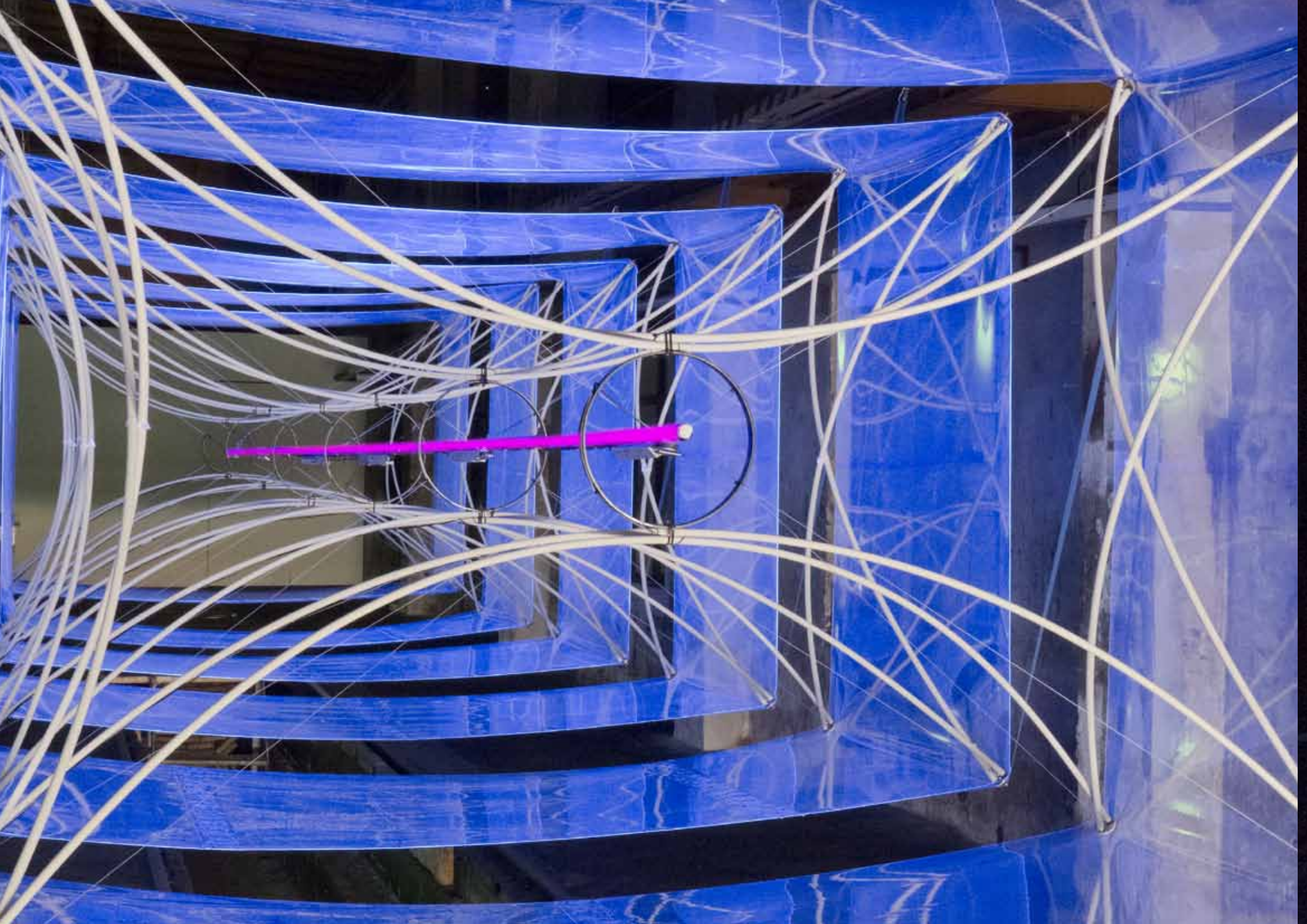
The installation is the result of a year lasting artistic survey on (collective) hope and its search for a formal expression.

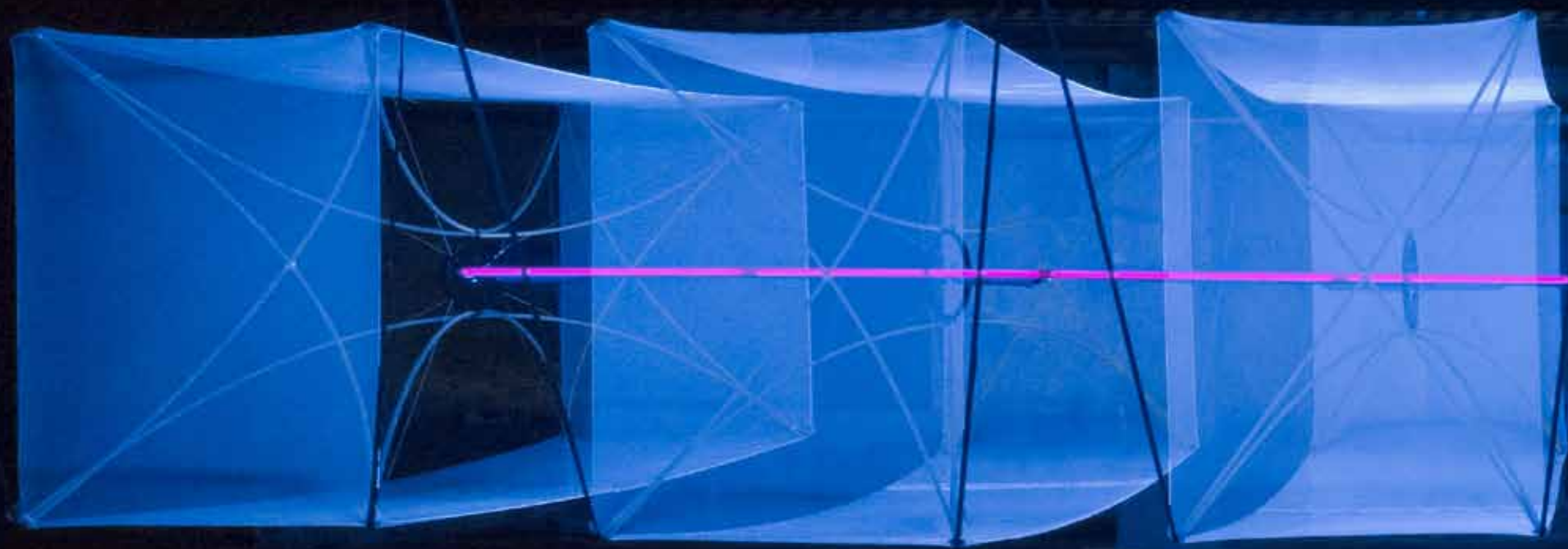
Between the poles of desire and reality the phenomenon of hope is oscillating. Six blue-skinned self-sustaining segments of Soft-PVC, strongly stretched by bended fiberglass-rods and joined by a spinal cord of blacklight-tubes, create a sphere of high tension.

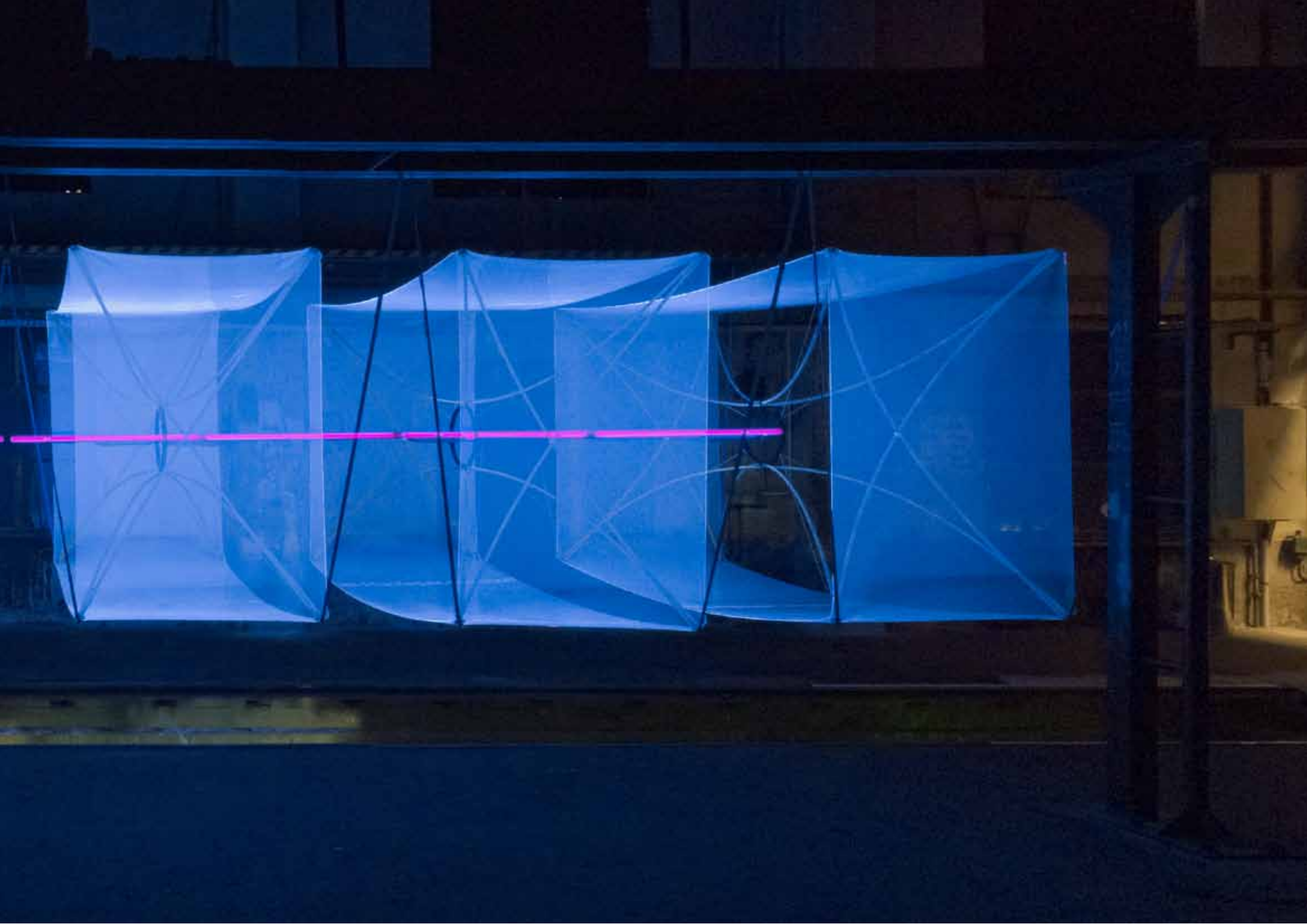
Hanging in an old work stand above a former walkable repair ditch the large blue opalescent object is arranged in the showroom like put on a testblock with a variety of options to be inspected by the viewer and exposes its interior sphere.

A five-channel sound-installation intensifies the impression of being caught in an utopian but past technology with its fear and longing calling temptations.









works 2010

HOPE Generator, 2010, mirror light object, 70x70x10cm



The hope-generator is a quadratic object of black acrylic glass with a convex semi-reflecting mirror of acrylic glass in the middle. Due to a winding-inductor on the lower right hand side the viewer is allowed to generate the word HOPE in green flickering light reflexes behind the mirror. The speed of the flickering is synchron to the speed of winding. The hope-generator allows self-awareness and self-assurance and emboldens the viewer in relation to reality.



works 2009

Der gegebene Raum, 2009, kinetic mirror object, 734x418cm (proposal for an object-installation, New Financial Departement, Chemnitz, Germany)



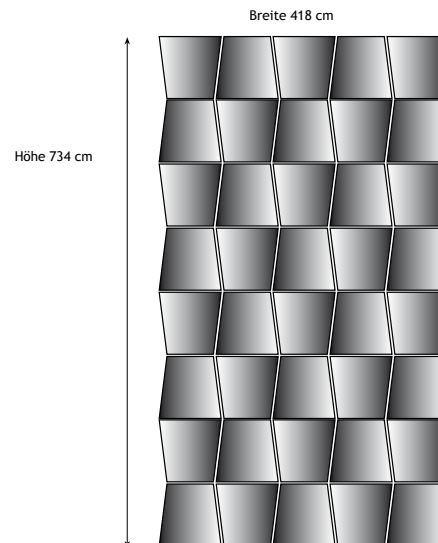
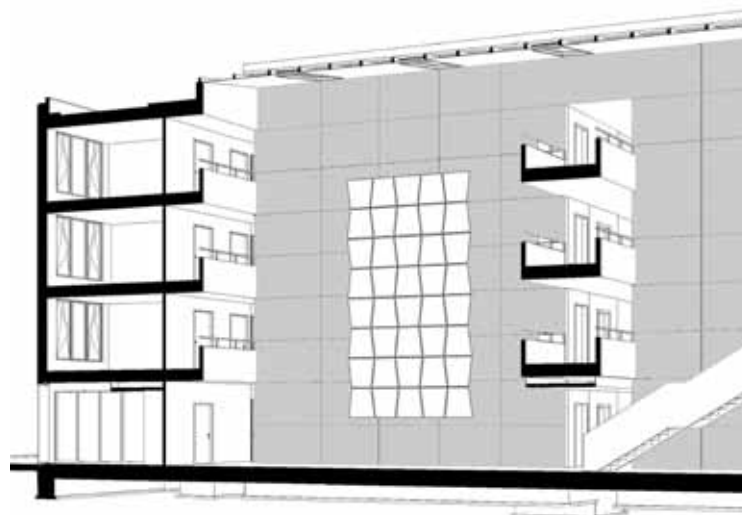
A huge mirror-object as a permanent installation consisting of 40 moveable reflectable polycarbonate-panels was proposed to be installed in the future building of the Financial Departement of Chemnitz. With connected electro-mechanical drives behind the panels it was possible to move each one of the panels in two directions (horizontal + vertical).

Due the slow movement and the different tilt angles a permanent shifting, caleidoscopically fragmented reflection of the surrounding space resulted impressively.

So the given space becomes immediately tangible and is put into question at the same time. The symbolic of the mirror offers the viewer the opportunity of self-awareness but also of delusion, deception and false pretences - an optical illusion of reality.

The proposal is waiting to be realized.

mirror-object in the atrium of the future building as 3d-visualisation - in passive state (left) and movement (right)



Drive
24V-DC-motor
with driving rod



cardan-joint and
aluminium-cou-
pond-panel



mirror-panel
(polycarbonate)
sticked with alumi-
um-coupond-panel

position of the mirror-object on the exposed concrete wall in the atrium of the future building



works 2009

HOPE, 2009, light installation, 400x240cm, Villa Eschebach, Dresden, Germany



Inspired by my work „Volle Fahrt Voraus“ (see next page) and by the condition of displaying art in a bank the context-related work „HOPE“ deals with aspects of fear and desire. My voice reading stock-market-prices can be heard from a hidden loudspeaker. The rythm and volume of my voice controls the flickering and flashing of fluorescent light-tubes forming the word „hope“ in the windows of Villa Eschebach the place of residence of Volksbank/ Raiffeisenbank in Dresden whose managers have invited the artists of *geh8 artspace and studios* for a group-show.

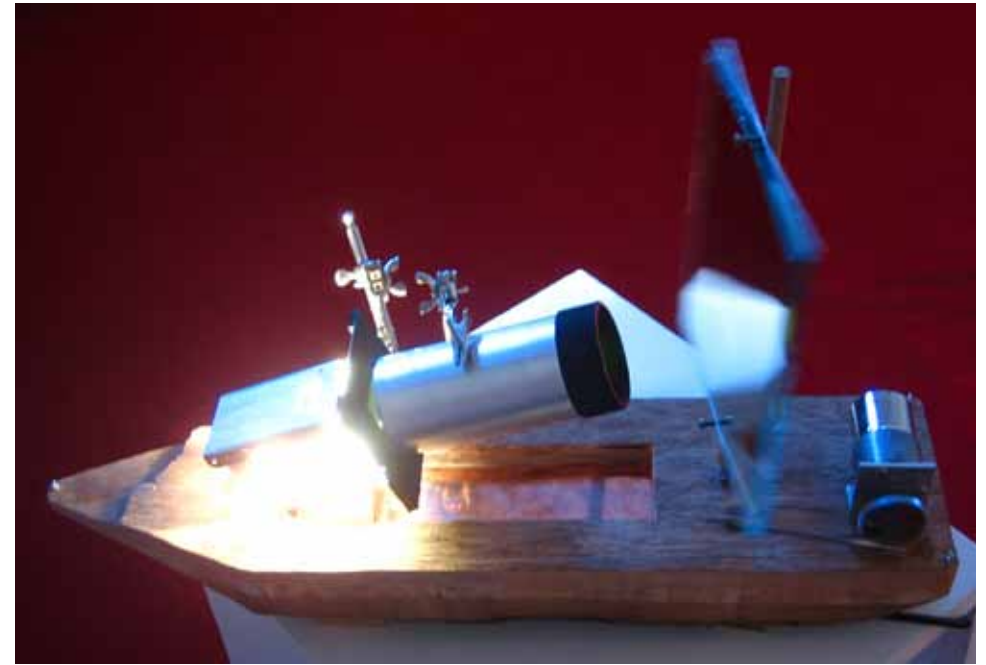


works 2009

Volle Fahrt voraus, 2009, kinetic light sculpture, 45x35x10cm



„Volle Fahrt voraus“ is a ship-like object which projects ahead the permanently moving word „Hope“. The work reflects about several aspects of everyone's life such as fear and desire. While we navigate the ship of our life through the unknown of our future we find ourselves in projections of hope and wishful thinking for better times ahead.



THE GREAT WALL



works 2008

paradise paralyze, 2008, kinetic object-installation, 160cm in diameter x 30cm, Venice/Lido, Italy

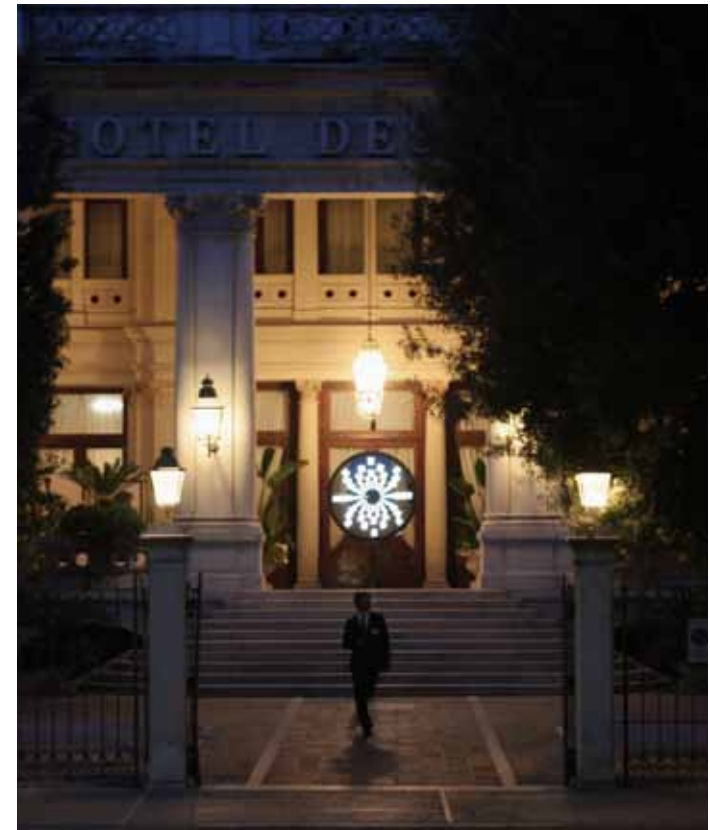
A round large convex mirror was planned to hang above the steps of the main entrance-portal of Hotel des Bains in Venice/Lido, a place well known by Thomas Mann's Novel „Death in Venice“.

The Visitor and the surroundings are mirrored overhead in a slightly deformed reflection. With a closer look and shrinking daylight one can get aware of a shining constant circular motion, which in its appearance recalls the steady movement of a clockwise kaleidoscopic rotation or the abstraction of a large electronic eye.

Unfortunately the management of the Hotel refused their „Okay“ to hang up the work at the place already agreed.

The artwork came into being on invitation to OPEN 2008, the 11th International Exhibition for Sculpture and Installation in Venice/Lido.

The participation was curated by Nevja Pizzul-Capello from the Italian-German Culture-Association in Venice and patronized by the German Embassy in Rome as well as partly supported by the German General-Consulate in Milan.





works 2008

Leviathan_1, 2008, 650x650x800cm (proposal for an installation in public space, Meissen, Germany)

On the occasion of an art-competition for the campus-area of the Saxonian Administration College Meissen an extensive walk-in-installation in the form of a complex pavillon-structure was proposed in which the significance and the functions of today's administrative structures with its effects on social relations were artistically transformed.

The installation is made of 3 main elements:



- Four large semi-mirrors, 6m high, with their optical properties of reflection and refraction which allow to „reflect“ the placing of the individual within the society according to the necessity of individual self-assertion.



- The 8m high geometrical steel-structure as a supply-system, which allows and supports the natural overgrowth of evergreen-plants



- The vegetation out of ivy as a lively green touches questions concerning the placing of man in between nature and culture.

That place of desire within these opposites as an ideal and also philosophically caused place to live in will be represented through the „Garden“.



works 2008

Klang. Raum. Licht., 2008, (1st prize competition) interactive sound/light-installation, Concert-Hall, College for Music, Dresden, Germany





works 2007

Der lichte Wald, 2007, light installation, 600x400x250cm, Kunstraum Delikatessenhaus, Leipzig, Germany



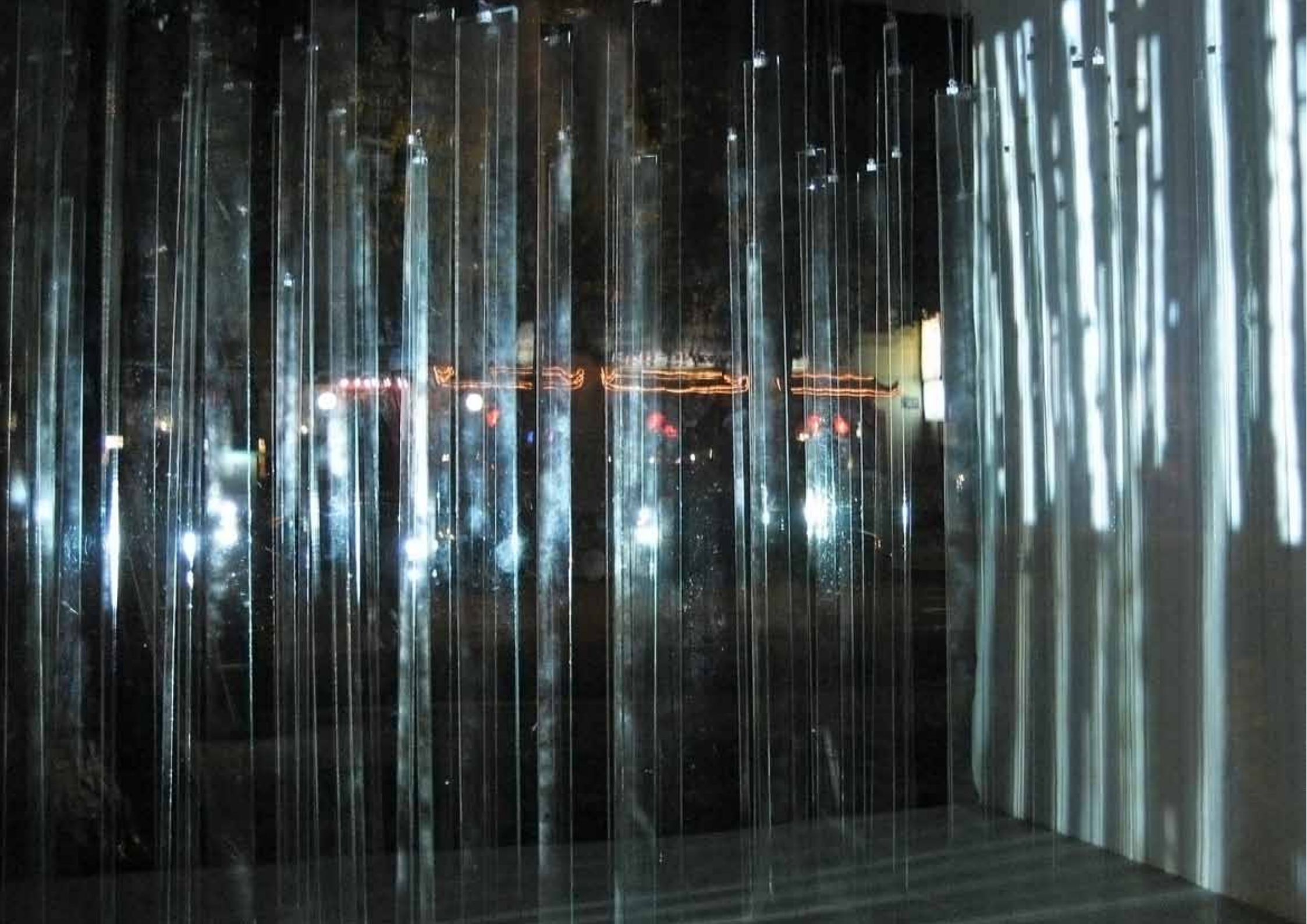
In summer 2007 an installation of vertical stripes of glass was set up in the gallery-space of the Delikatessenhaus in Leipzig. The stripes differed in width 20-30cm and height up to approx. 2.50 m. They were spatially arranged to give the visitor the impression of a (vitreous) forrest.

From sideways the computer-manipulated image of a birch-forrest was projected on the stripes of glass, which were slightly moving in a breeze of a hidden ventilator.

The installation was set up for a second time double-sized in the geh8-Kunstraum in october 2007 in Dresden.

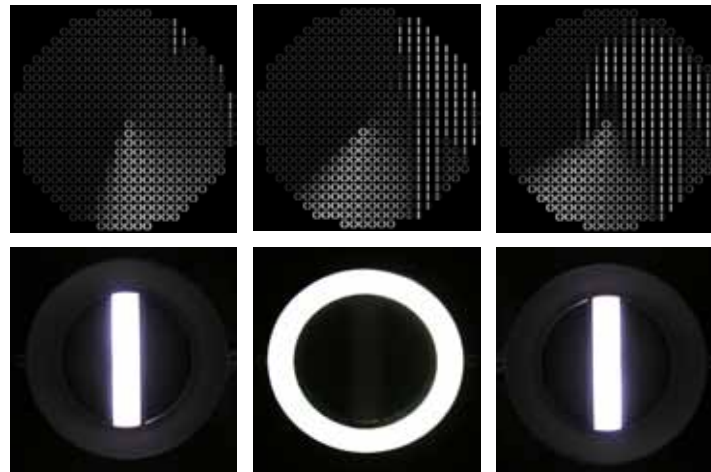
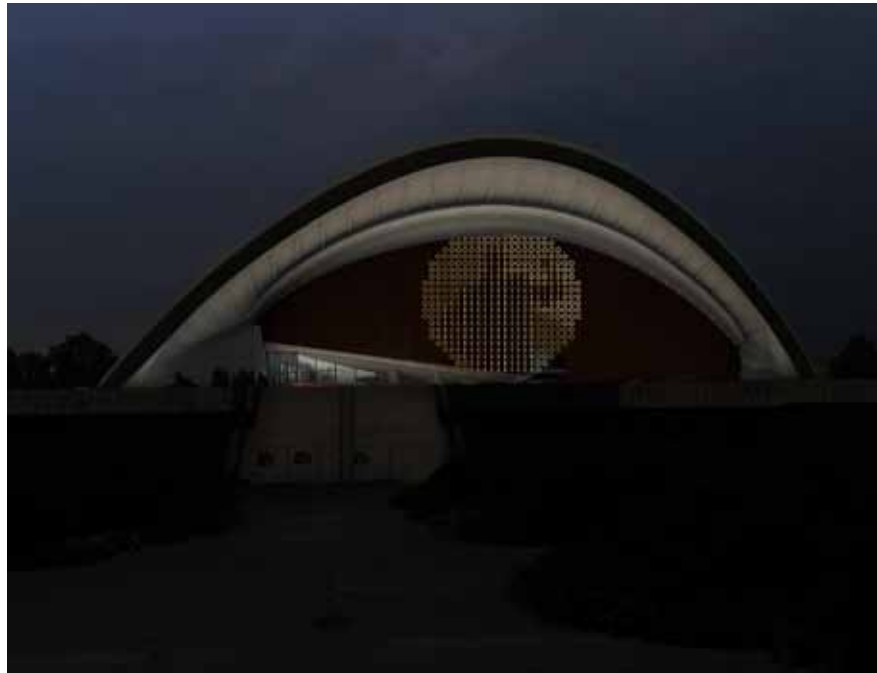
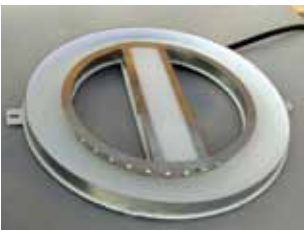
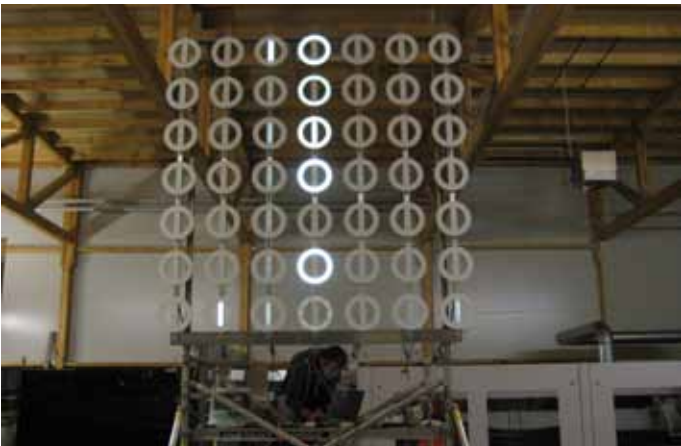
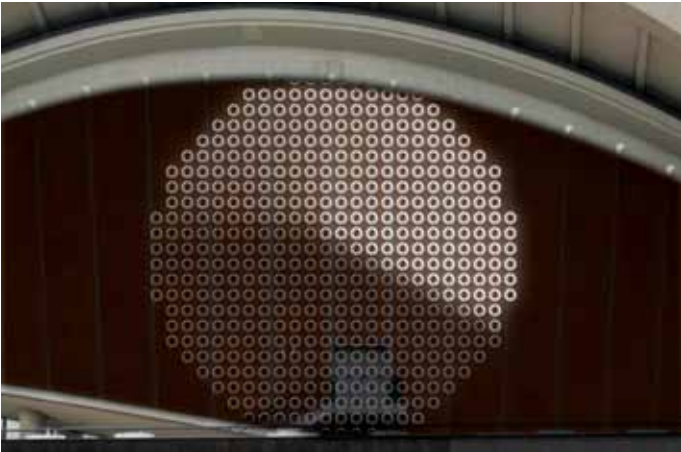
Caused by reflection and refraction of the projection in the glass-stripes broken bits of image and space arose - fragments of the seeming and the real, virtuality and reality, fear and longing.





works 2007

conspire, 2008, transmediale 08 - International Media-Art-Festival (proposal for a facade-installation), Congress Hall, Berlin (*with Lumopol*)



It was suggested to install an interactive light-display for transmediale 08, the international festival for art and media which takes place in the former Berlin-Congress-Hall.

Due to its round shape and position the facade-installation corresponds with the expressive architecture of the building and provides its transformation into a distinctive shining architectural eye.

These pupilla of the eye is able to real-time-reaction on several activities. Visitors and guests of the congress-hall can interact and influence its varying appearance.

With the extraordinary possibilities of communication-technologies the project touches sensitive questions about the condition of (media-)society and asks for potentialities of social change including the use of future-technologies.

The installation is made of a 25x25 LED-matrix by single controllable pixel. These pixel are made of white coloured aluminium-rings and vertically strips in which LED are inset. They are connected to the building-facade with an aluminium-construction.

The matrix will be controlled in a way that every single ring and strip can be lit independently.

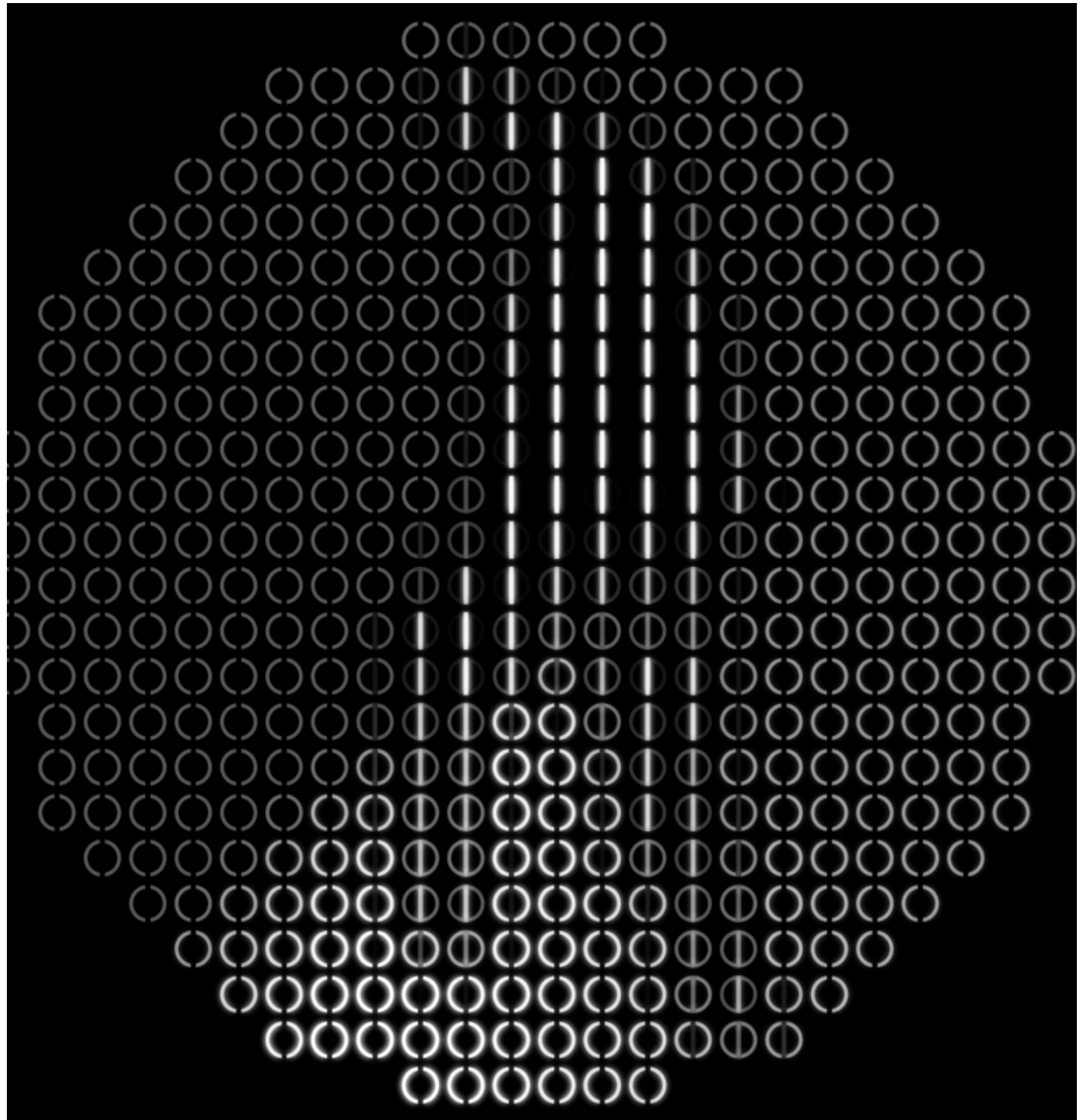
The rings symbolize the number „0“ and the strips the number „1“ = 1 Bit, as the smallest unit of information a computer can deal with.

The installation is interactive and reacts in realtime on persons coming towards and leaving the building. An identification of persons is not possible and was wittingly avoided.

A camera with an infra-red-spotlight on the entrance of the building captures captures persons and other moving objects. Out of the recorded pictures outlines/silhouettes of persons and objects will be screened and displayed in realtime as moving light-shadows made of the numbers „1“.

In the idle condition the matrix shows an constant movement like on a radar-display with a spinning shadow of luminous zeros.

Unfortunately the installation couldn't be realized since financial problems of the involved sponsors occurred.



works 2007

depart, 2007, flash-video-projection in public space, Georgentor, Dresden (with Lumopol)



Animated texts and text-fragments were projected on the facade of the *Georgentor*, a building on which from 1534 until 1700 a danse macabre as a sandstone bas-relief was hanging. Therefore poems by Allen Ginsberg and Ingeborg Bachmann were used.

The appearance of the projection memorized (former mechanical) departure-displays on train-stations or airports. Life and death as a grand voyage, departure and return were thematized in varying reasonableness and images.

The literal decay of the projected text between sense and senselessness visualized the permanent deformation of all information - of the meaning of ones own existence - its fragmentation, trans- and reformation. Arrival and departure as metaphorical images for the constant flow of arisal and decease.





? 0 * 2 # KEIN STERBENS WORTV 8628 6 72
42 0 # IHR 2 WORTEN 0, 2 * 7 7, - 37242

works 2006

Nebelbrunnen, 2006, proposal for a water play in public space, Postplatz, Dresden (*in cooperation with Sebastian Hempel*)



For a water-play on a square in Dresden called „Postplatz“ a befogged sculpture was proposed as a walkable and useable landscape made of Elbsandstone.

Like the curved back of a mountain-range harmonious elevations loom out of the fog. Fog floats and laps around the outer form and partly hides it from the views of the passers-by.

In its interplay between convex and concave forms the sculpture provides an impressive experience in the public space.



The square „Postplatz“ with the suggested sculpture transforms into a mythical place in the middle of the centre of Dresden - a city with its self-conception as a myth itself.

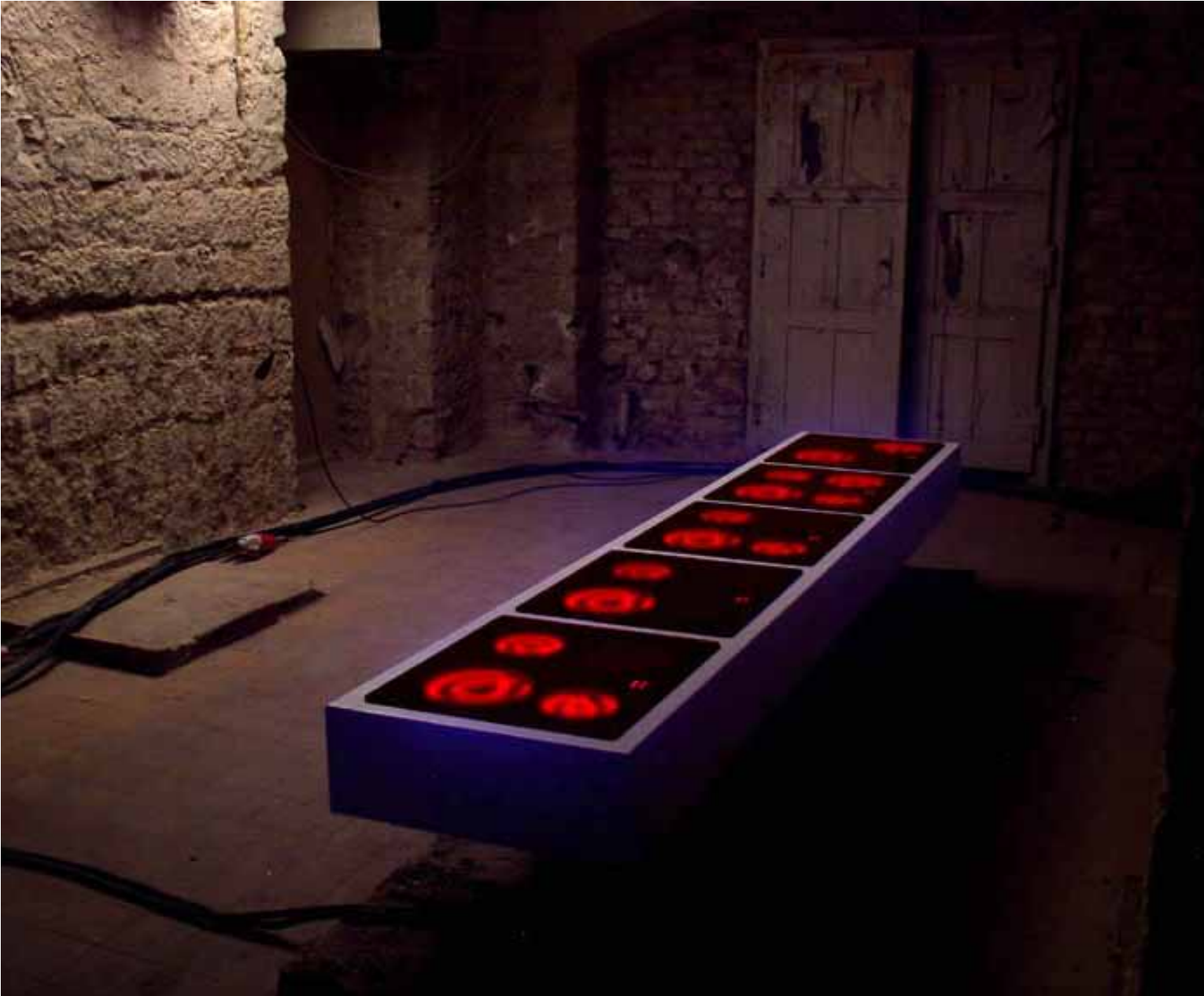
In terms of history the square was a place of visions and change - where during the civil revolution in 1848 p.e. Wagner and Semper fought on the barricades. Especially with the „Schauspielhaus“ the main Dresden-theatre in direct neighbourhood it is a place of current reflection of social conditions.

Here, different eras and building-styles overlap like almost nowhere else in the city. This vibration-field what arose out of multiple interferences manifests itself in an oscillating up and down landscape of the centrally set fog-sculpture in the middle of the square.



works 2005

Testament, 2005, installation, Lingner Schloss, Dresden (with Lumopol)



The object-installation *Testament* was a contribution for the light- and media-art-exhibition LICHT IM SCHLOSS, which took place in summer 2005 in the partly vacant Lingnerschloss in Dresden.

The object-installation was made of 5 Ceran-glass-hobs with 4 hotplates each, arranged in a row and built in a wooden white coloured box with app. 30x65x320 cm. It hovered 30 cm above the floor and was set in the basement of the castle on the very place, where formerly the stoves of the old kitchen were situated.

The hotplates of the ceramic-hobs were switched on and glowed red while heating. When reached a certain temperature they switched off for a while and shined on again automatically. The 20 hotplates of the 5 hobs have generated permanently changing patterns of red glowing circles in the dark and additionally heated up the room.

The installation was focussing on two thematic levels - the architectural one, after which the stove-fire is among the floor, the walls and the roof, one of the four elements of architecture.

The open-hearth, as a symbol of hospitality, where in archaic times the community gathered around, typifies warmth as a social ability.

Additionally the work also refers to the „social“ legacy of Karl August Lingner.

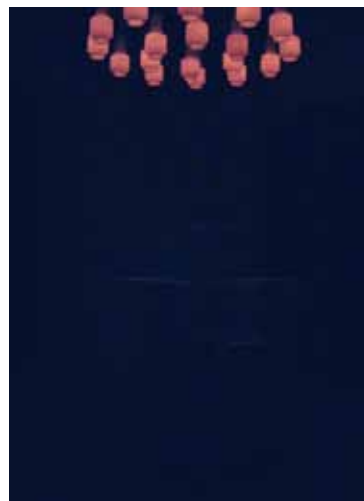
Lingner was inventor of the mouthrinse ODOL and founder of Deutsches Hygienemuseum, Dresden. In the beginning of the 20. century he was the owner of the castle in which he also lived in. Now called LINGNER SCHLOSS. He advised to run a public reasonably priced restaurant in the ground-floor. Also the park of the castle was open to the public.

After Lingners death his social projects were put in a foundation whose establishment he has testated. That foundation financed the building of Deutsches Hygienemuseum in 1930, which is still today an almost unique institution worldwide.



works 2005

Erbe, 2005, installation, Lingner Schloss, Dresden



The installation *heritage* was developed as a result of the work on *testament*, in continuation of the interest on Karl August Lingner and the Lingnerschloss. It was presented on invitation to the exhibition *Goldene Invasion* by the artists Katja Wiechmann and Sarah Pfrommer.

The work was made of 19 cardboard-boxes, wrapped in brown paper. Their surfaces were treated with phosphorescent colour and placed in a darkened quadratic room under a chandelier. This was controlled by a dimmer in a 3min-intervall. So that the room appeared in a constant change between light and darkness, in which the packet-pile was phosphoresce.

In the shift of light and darkness, the seeming and the real, the artwork reflects on the ambivalence of legacy between benefit, responsibility and burden.



c o n t a c t

Paul Elsner
Gehestraße 8
D-01127 Dresden

T.: +49 351 821 47 15

F.: +49 351 821 47 16

M. +49 172 913 87 46

c o n t a c t @ o l e s n a . d e

w w w . o l e s n a . d e