

Simon Wunderlich



2008-2016

relations series

further video and foto interpreting imagery under [www.simonwunderlich.com](http://www.simonwunderlich.com)



*relations series (windhütte), Dem Leben Zuhören, Fabrik Culture, Hegenheim, France, 2016*

## relations series (windhütte)

There is a big fan to ventilate bigger spaces. It is installed in the center of an octagon shaped wood structure that is covered hermetically with transparent plastic sheets. The floor is filled with a 10 cm high layer of styrofoam pellets. Then fan can be switched on with a foot switch. Therefore the visitors have to pass a type of lock in order to avoid not to carry out all the pellets which is actually impossible. The people carry them into their homes. When the fan is switched on it blows the pellets to the ceiling of the structure and then they fall down again to the ground. It reminds of a snow storm. Kids and adults have quite a lot of fun to play with the styrofoam balls and observe their circulation. how they are blown up to the sky to get sucked in again underneath the big fan through a little vortex. It is quite fascinating to observe the wind circulation through the pellets how they fly and how they move on the floor. It's a work about to be caught up in curiosity and observing things in playful manner together with other people. You have to try and not just watch.



Plastic, fan, wood, cable, styrofoam pellets

Dem Leben Zuhören, Fabrik Culture, Hegenheim, France, 2016



*relations series (containment)*, Forum Wallis, Castle of Leuk, 2013

## relations series (containment)

The copula on the top of the tower of the castle in Leuk functions as a weather and sound protection hood. At night the light of the copula serves to spotlight the castle. From inside one enjoys the soft play of the little spots of the other emitting light sources from the slopes of the Valley and their reflections in the windows of the copula in the soothing dark of the night, until the observation is violently interrupted by dazzling flashes of a temporary installed stroboscope. The observer's perception is massively confused deep to the body by the increasing flickering of the warped self in the mirroring window, which acts as a invincible barrier in between oneself and the outer world. The culmination is complete when the dizziness is felt due to the high-speed frequency of the flash perceiving nothing but the bright-distorted self. The relief comes after the stroboscope stops and one can merge again with the landscape through the transparent boundaries of the protection hood.



*Fotos: Marie N. Guex*



4 stroboscopes, dmx controller, diverse cables

Forum Wallis, Castle of Leuk, 2013





*relations series (meander)*, Galería Metropolitana, Santiago de Chile, 2012



## relations series (meander)

The meander is a small maze in which one can lose oneself to regain oneself, drawing away from the exterior and returning from the interior. It's an experiment about the vulnerability of the intimacy and the public display .



5 cm x 5 cm x 300 cm slats of wood, plywood, screws, 5 wheels, white and turquoise acrylic paint, transparent sheets of polyethylene, transparent scotch

233cm x 233cm x 233cm

Galería Metropolitana, Santiago de Chile, 2012



*relations series (membranes)*, Forum Wallis, Brig, Switzerland, 2011

## relations series (membranes)

It seems that the plastic sheets are alive and float through space as two smart membranes. In the dialogue of the back and forth of each one can observe the ephemeral play in between the approaching, touching, and moving away. This setup seems to describe the subtlety of which way relationship happens and it can be perceived.



Wood, masking tape, plastic, lights, four fans, arduino, relay, cable

240 cm x 240 cm each one of the frames

Forum Wallis, Brig, Switzerland, 2011



*relations series (orientation)*, Forum Wallis, Brig, Switzerland, 2010

## relations series (orientation)

The position, shape and material of the frames caresses the architecture of the room, and when viewed from one end to the other through the frameworks it seems to have this infinity effect between two mirrors. The way it is curved remember it to a path that is vanishing in the haziness of da Vinci's sfumato. At night, when it is dark, the situation changes seriously. Only after some time of observation one is able to locate oneself in the chaos of flashing lights and the multitude of reflections of oneself and other visitors.



Wood, masking tape, plastics, broken fluorescent tubes, cables

240 cm x 240 cm each of the thirteen frames

Forum Wallis, Brig, Suiza, 2010





*relations series (breathing cubes)*, La Minoterie, Orbe, Switzerland, 2011

## relations series (breathing cubes)

The best time for this experience was the silence and light a few minutes before dawn on a Sunday morning. As some lungs two cubes pumped life into the empty industrial building. It seems as a metaphor for the cycle of life and death, where silence has a major role. Everything returns to silence and is protected there and everything can be reborn in the silence, can come back to life from the silence.



Plastics, wood, tape masking, 8 halogen bulbs, cable, 2 fans, 2 machines of artificial smoke, Arduino, relay

First cube 390 cm x 390 cm x 135 cm. Second cube 320 cm x 320 cm x 135 cm

La Minoterie, Orbe, Switzerland, 2011



reflections series

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*reflections series (radiant)*, Forum Wallis, Brig, Suiza, 2012



## reflections series (radiant)

Through an observation under the same light a soothing balance is established between the brightness of the source and the brightness of the converted. Slowly it is understood that oneself is reflected in the midst of this experience in the beams of potentialities and outcome.



16 lights, white wire, flanges, connectors, male and female, pyrite, glue, canvas, strips, sheets of metal, paint primer, metallic paint, glitter colors, rivets, putty, fiberglass, different types of resins and varnishes

wood pieces: 144 cm x 89 cm x 21 cm. metal pieces, the largest 168 cm x 60 cm x 30 cm

Forum Wallis, Brig, Switzerland, 2012



*reflections series (light painting)*, H & R Block Art Space, Kansas City, Missouri- EEUU, 2009

## reflections series (light painting)

Here the visitor is located in a field of tension of the illusion of his imagination and the real, which is reflected in the surface. The big sized canvas is actually just grey and covered with a highly reflective surface color. But because of a little trick of light it is believed that beneath the surface is a delicate and formless figure that is not even a painting, drawing or photography. Its existence seems to have only a “spiritual explanation”. Until suddenly you notice that there are only rays of light coming out of a slot of an old cardboard box, that create the supposed supernatural phenomenon. This recognition creates a smile on the face of the viewer, because he realizes that his leg has been pulled by his own imagination.



Slats, canvas, white paint for the background layer (gesso), charcoal powder, polyurethane varnish, recycled cardboard box, magic, spot light, aluminum foil

230cmx150cmx10cm

H & R Block Art Space, Kansas City, Missouri, USA 2009



*reflections series (thousand suns)*, USEGO, Sierre, Suiza, 2011

## reflections series (thousand suns)

This work is a tribute to my hikings through the mountains of the Wallis in the South of Switzerland, where the sunlight is reflected in the stones lying all over on the trails and next to them. All living things absorb energy from the sun, maybe therefore our ancestors gave the sun divine characteristics. If there is no reflective surface the light can't be seen. That divine spark, this impulse necessarily reaches the matter, to jump on and to put something in motion. In the same way our ideas and occurrences function, born from the depths of intuition, we can transform them into actions and form. If not they stay only fantasies and concepts. And if it is true that there was something divine in light, then it is a fantastic game to play to perceive each reflection as a heavenly idea. Perhaps this is the reason why we all do like the glittering, shimmering, shining and sparking...



7 bulbs 75 Watt, white wire, flanges, pyrite, glue, canvas, slats, staples, screws

240 cm x 145 cm x 40 cm

USEGO, Sierre, Switzerland, 2011



other

further video and foto interpreting imagery under [www.simonwunderlich.com](http://www.simonwunderlich.com)



*Ethereally*, Auf in den Süden, Zug, Switzerland, 2015

# ethereally

The light figures are made in with just common protecional plastic sheets. They are fixed to lightnng sockets of the floors of the intensive care unit in the cantonal hospital of the Swiss town Zug, . The hospital is out of use. The empty rooms and and floors where most of the lights are broken are perfect to produce creepy movies. The atmosphere is filled with an energy in between life and death of the clients suffering their illness even for the building it is not decided yet if it is going to be torn down or used for cultural needs. Interesting is that next to the intensive care area, where the people fight that their light does not go out, is the baby unit where mothers bring their babies to the light. The colours of of the walls in the dark intensive care unit are in muddy earth tones and the baby units light blue painted walls are enlightend by transoms. The ethereal light figures play with the ideas of energetical form of the soul, not able to decide if they want to leave the earth or stay trapped like ghosts in the floors. Stiff and only moving by a little air current when visitors pass by. Why staying, why suffering?



mixed media

Auf in den Süden, Zug, Switzerland, 2015



*I am with you, Auf in den Süden, Zug, Switzerland, 2015*

# I am with you

This work takes also place in the empty cantonal hospital of Zug like *ethereally*. In one of the long floors I fixed speakers all along the floor that are used to announce information in public spaces. In aletorial manner jumping from speaker to speaker a voice comes out the speakers that says *I am with you*. It is my voice when I was ill and it was almost gone. It is very dark and low that it can be perceived as demonical and mean. But the intonation is very long, soft and benevolent. Therefore the voice from above creates a creepy feeling in between fear of what comes next, death and pain or by the words and intonation being looked after and protected. Probably a feeling of people that are in intensive care units where death and life are very close together. Depending in their belief systems might have the feeling that there is something that is looking after them or that they are lost in the vortex of suffering.



6 speakers, cable, soundsystems

Auf in den Süden, Zug, Switzerland, 2015





*view of the exhibition in lokal int, Biel, 2015*

# I am with you in observation

Using elements of *in the stillness of observation* and *I am with you* I create a space of observation. The very loud and heavy voice creates a certain mantra. The light is violet, a colour associated with higher consciousness, calmness and depth. The fog that is blown behind the projection screen in small amounts dilutes the borders of the room and creates more depth and endlessness that emphasizes the observation of the black and white projection of the video with the water. The powerful and fast movement of the water seems to come out of itself and never stands still. This is a heavy experience for the observer. One can be taken away in a stressful way by the loud, dark and heavy voice, the distortion and depth of the violet background or the restlessness of the projection. But one can also find in itself the calm place of observation and taking part without being overwhelmed. The words *I am with you* create trust into this idea.



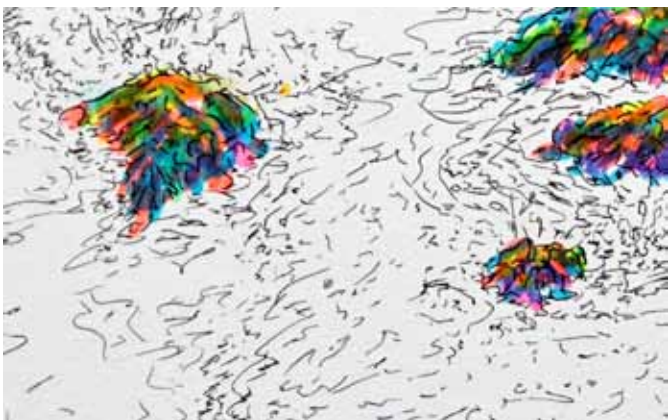
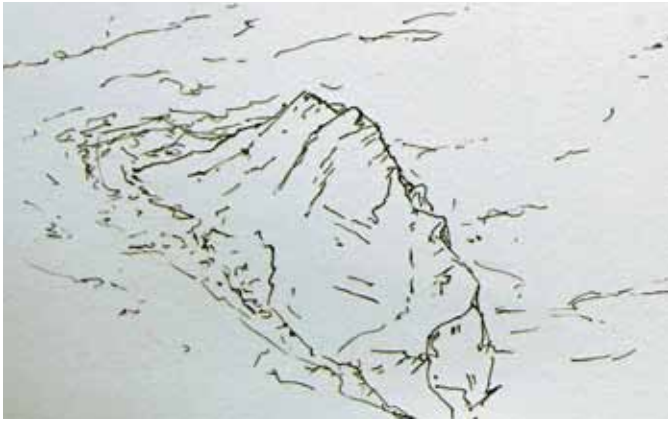
*photos: Lamosa*



wood, sound system, video projector, violet light and smoke

Lokal Int, Biel, Switzerland, 2015





*Details of the drawings and videoestills during the residence in casapoli. Coliumo , Chile, Winter2014/15*

# Casapoli Residence

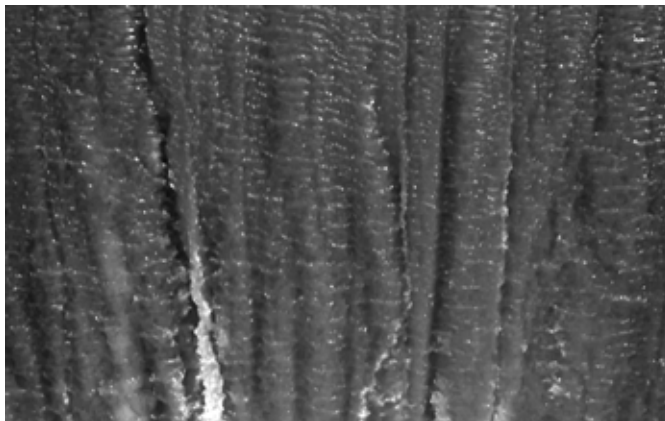
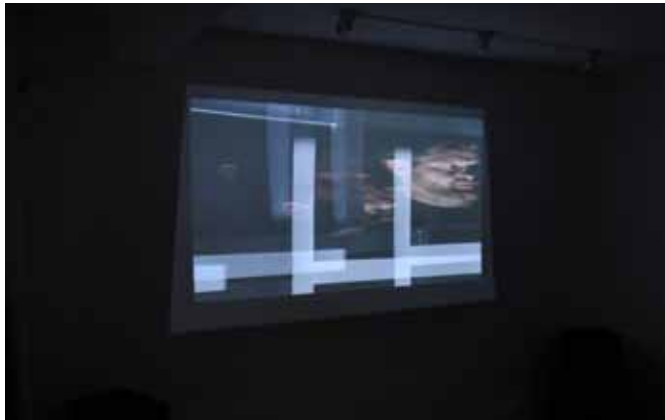
Impressions of the stay at the Casapoli residence in the Winter 2014/15, where I took photographs and filmed a lot in the nature. I took drawings from the rocks in the Ocean. And I have been all the time accompanied by five lovely dogs that are living as wild dogs at the house of the residence.



drawings, video and photography

Casapoli, Coliumo, Chile 2015/14





*In The Stillness Of Observation* , Lamosa, Cuenca, Spain, 2014

# In the Stillness of Observation

The first part of the work is the video interpretation of the work relations series (containment). The volume and flickering images produce a strong emotional restlessness and disorientation, which act rather uncomfortable and make biased.

The other part is three black and white video projections of the flow behavior of water interrupted by violet light and ground fog.

The videos act as extremely threatening bubbly masses of something very enormous. The movements are repeated in the waveform current flowing ground fog. In the air, the light of the projectors reflects in the fog in a similarly moving way. Supported by the violet light, slowly tranquility pairs up to the observation, inhibition can dissolve, so more space is created for seeing.

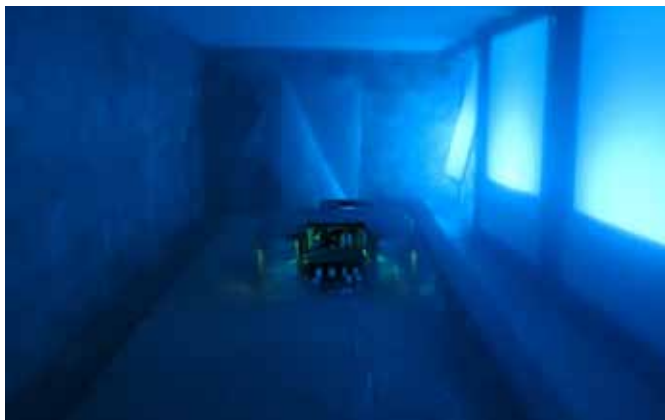


*photos: Lamosa*



beamer, fog machines, coolers, tubes, hose, light filter

Lamosa, Cuenca, 2014



*season 2 Galerie Harry Mugwumps, espace libre of the Pasquart, Biel, Switzerland, 2013*



## season 2 Galerie Harry Mugwumps

The collective Galerie Harry Mugwumps had the idea to organize an exhibition that is changing four times during a six weeks span. The continuous change is based on the idea of the television series. Every episode is based on the one before. I realized the major intervention in the exhibition space and at the beginning the stage, where one can put oneself into the scene and one can bring oneself down from the stage by deflating the shaky compressed air lift.

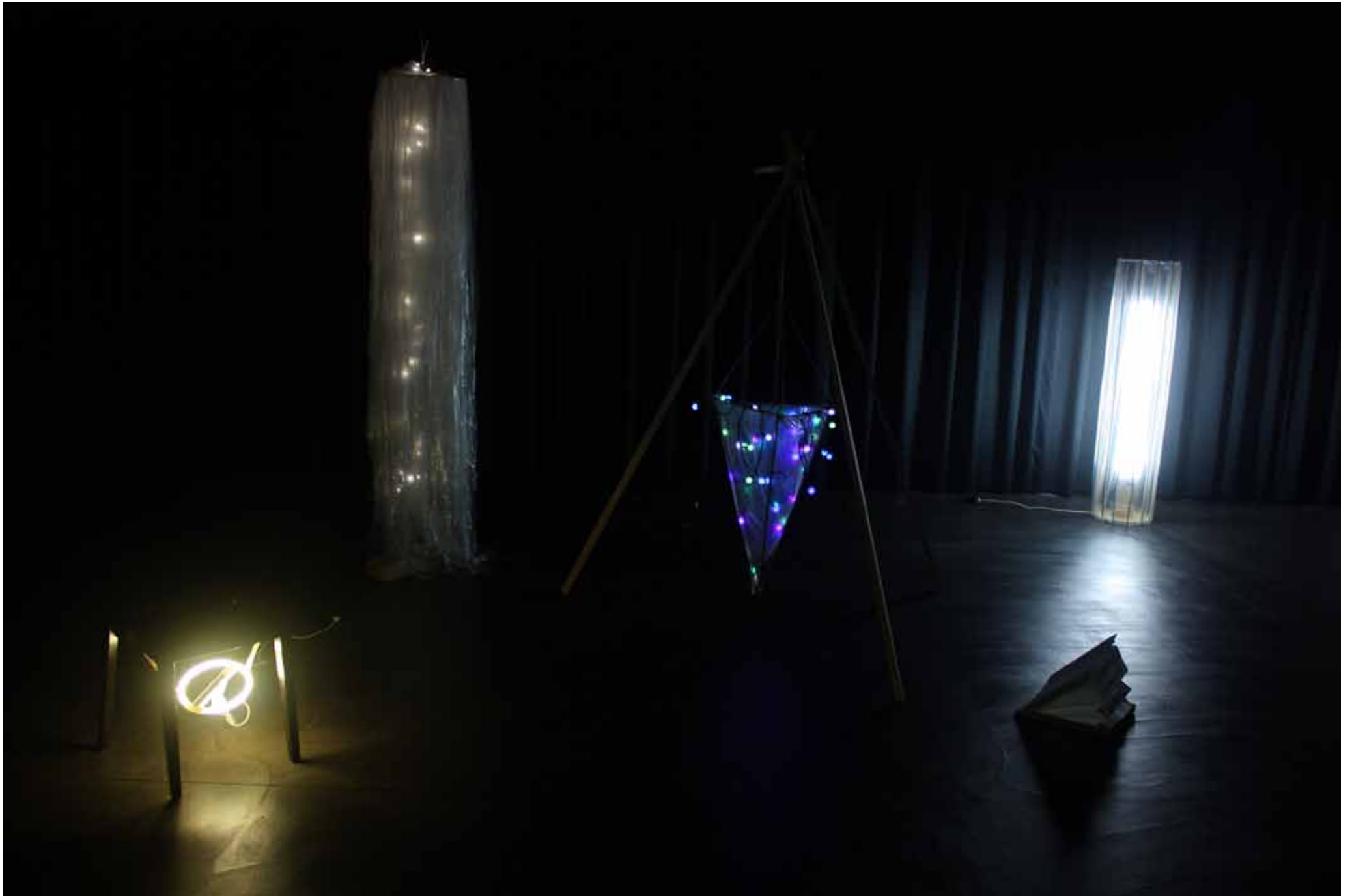


*photos: Galerie Harry Mugwumps*



scrap wood, nails, screws, plastics, diverse light sources, compressor, tubes

espace libre of the Pasquart, Biel, Switzerland, 2013



*lamps for the stage design of five by umsnjip, Zeughaus, Brig, Switzerland, 2013*



## stage design for five by umsnjip

I have worked together with umnsjip, a duo for contemporary music, for several times and helped them to develop easy transportable stage designs. The lamps are part of the scenery of our last project *five*.



different light sources, cables, plastics, tape, pizza box, chair, wood

Zeughaus, Brig, Switzerland, 2013



*smoke wall*, KCAI, Kansas City, Missouri- EEUU, 2008

# smoke wall

Because of a fan and a fog machine, the middle of a transparent wall is filled and emptied with fog within an irregular cycle. Smoke is coming out of the wall creating a cloud in the room. Inside a gray mass of smoke swirls around. Right in the center a cotton candy like cloud is trapped and turns and twists in a peculiar manner until the fan stops. Then the cloud evaporates and the wall is clear again. It is fascinating to observe the spinning spiral, which creates all the time new forms. It is a reminiscent of our Galaxy, the universe of which we are part, where everything exists, everything is possible and just transitory.



Wood, OSB, masking tape, special plastics to cover windows, fluorescent tubes, ventilators, artificial smoke, arduino, machine relay,

244 cm x 244 cm x 30 cm

KCAI, Kansas City, Missouri, USA, 2008