

# Claire Williams

2012-2021  
Selected works

[www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com](http://www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com)

[clairewiwi@gmail.com](mailto:clairewiwi@gmail.com)  
+33 766503531

# Biography

Claire Williams/ From the hacked knitting machine to textiles transformed in sensing surfaces, the artworks of Claire Williams are at the crossroads of craft, sound and electronics. Her artworks try to sense the multiple variations in our electromagnetic spectrum taking the form of woven antennas or embroidered radios. Data of radio scanners or radio telescopes materialise themselves in knitted stitches, sound vibrations or through luminous plasma. She creates installations that combine craft and electronics where she sculpts her electronic components to make visible the electromagnetic movements of our magnetosphere or the solar activity. She is currently working on the exploration of ether, at the crossing of popular beliefs and occult science. In this way she explores our relationship to the world of the invisible and their scientific instruments by reviving abandoned scientific leads of the 19th century.

Claire Williams (1986) lives in Brussels. after a master degree in textile design (La Cambre) she followed a post master at Le Fresnoy studio national des arts contemporains. She exhibits in international venues and gives workshops in digital art festivals, museums and cultural organisations, she also regularly teaches in an art and design school in Roubaix (France).



Research, antenna construction.

# The æthers

2019-2020

Computers and smartphones, and all declination's of our modern technologies make our electromagnetic doubles travel from one place of the planet to another. Sometimes they wander indefinitely in the atmosphere; we have all become mediums. From cosmic rays to gamma rays that saturate the emptiness through which we communicate, to whom we can add human voices, personal messages, collective discussions and data.

From the second half of the XIX th century the invisible starts to be seen. Chemists, physicians, engineers, inventors, mediums, theosophists and other erudite collectively immerse themselves in a big bath of substances. This environment that some may call "ether" or others "fluids" or "bodies" are woven by forces, fluids and waves that emanate from animated or inanimate beings: cosmic rays, human thoughts, vital fluids of plants, mediumnistic energy's or the voices of the dead..to which we can add our modern telecommunications such as satellites, WiFi signals, radio waves and telephone conversations.

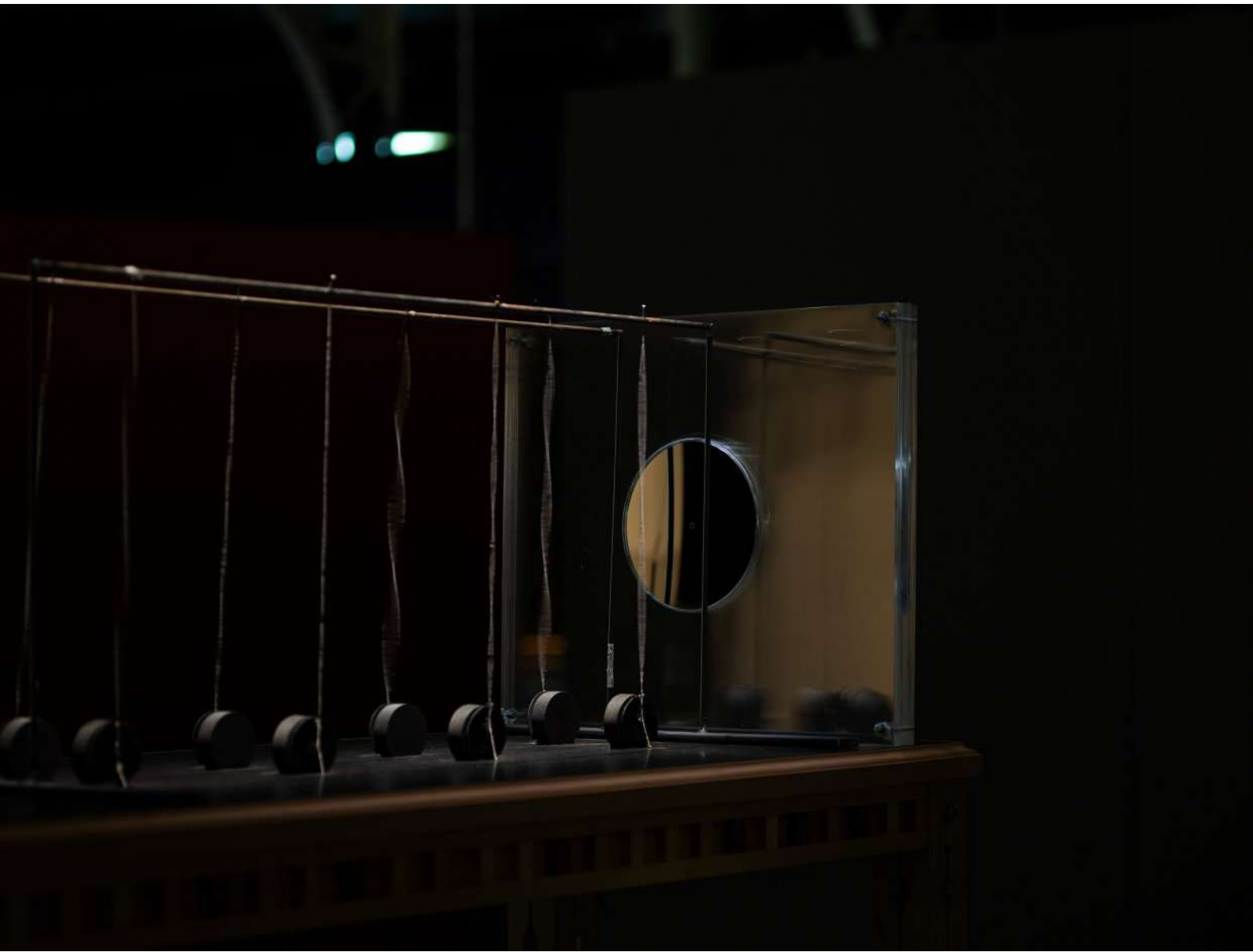
Each in their manner, chemists, physicians, engineers, inventors, mediums, doctors and theosophists imagine, sometimes together, devices to detect and explore all of these forces. They hack freshly invented devices or discover new ones that can be assembled and used for other purposes: biometer, dynamometer, stenometer, psychoscope, necrophone, psychophone, perpetual movement machines, phonograph, telegraph, telephone...All these devices are composite assemblies of measuring instruments, chemical substances, physical devices, human bodies...They do not hide that they are shaped by the forces they detect as much as they shape them.

Forces become tangible as their effects are translated in the form of photographic images, plotted lines, movements of objects or strange sounds... This episode of the XIXth century conceals unexplored possibilities of ways we communicate through the void.

Production Le Fresnoy studio national an Ososphère.

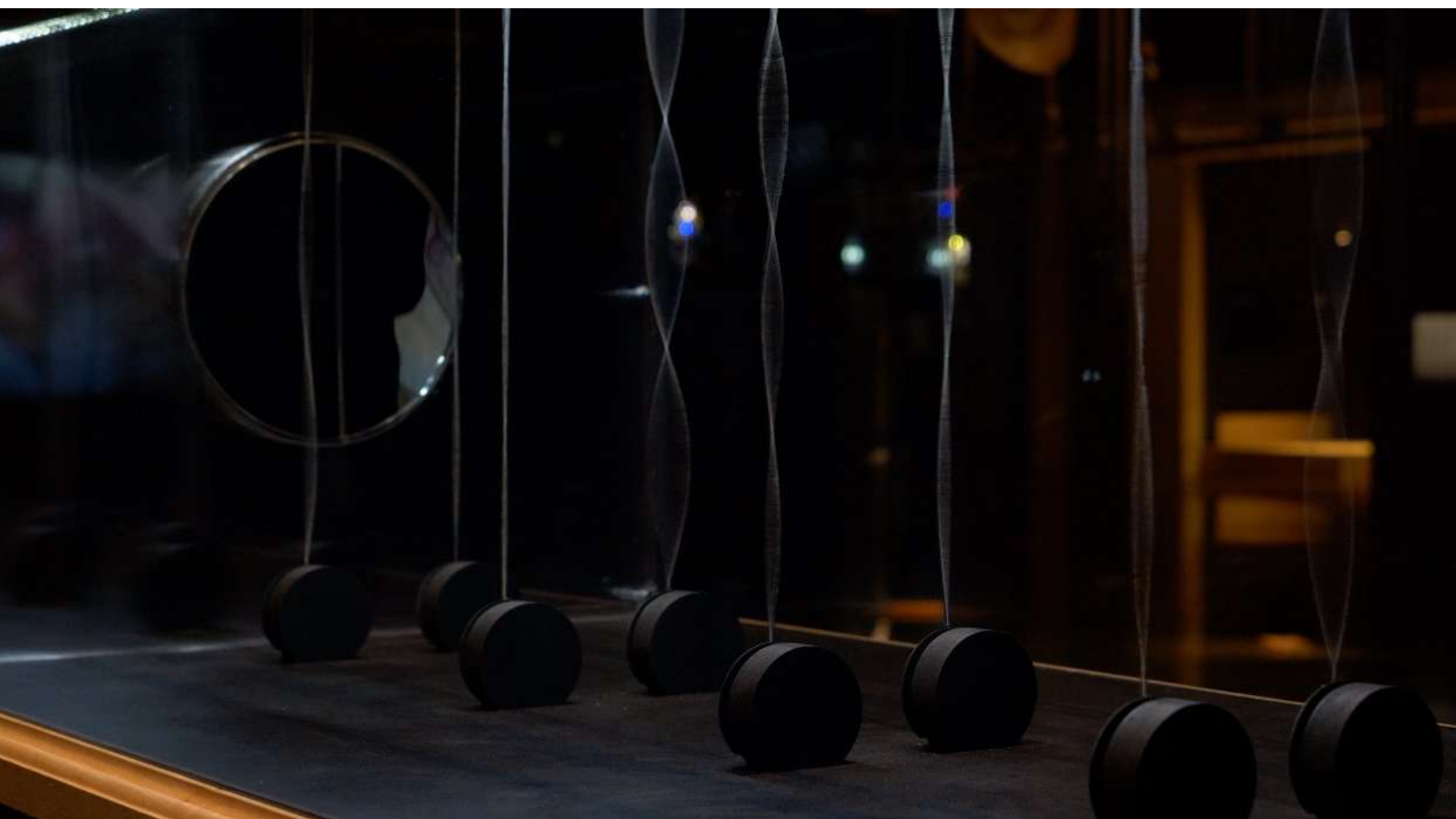
Site: <http://www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/les-aethers/>





The installation Ondoscope materializes in real time the electromagnetic variations of the exhibition space. An antenna scans the space searching for our electromagnetic ghosts. A code translates these fluxes in mechanical vibrations, made visible through 8 strings that are modulated by the intensity and nature of these waves.

An eye hole invites the spectator to look through and perceive minuscule vibrations in the air, at the origin of a physicality of sound that takes place in front of our eyes.





# Zoryas

2018-2019

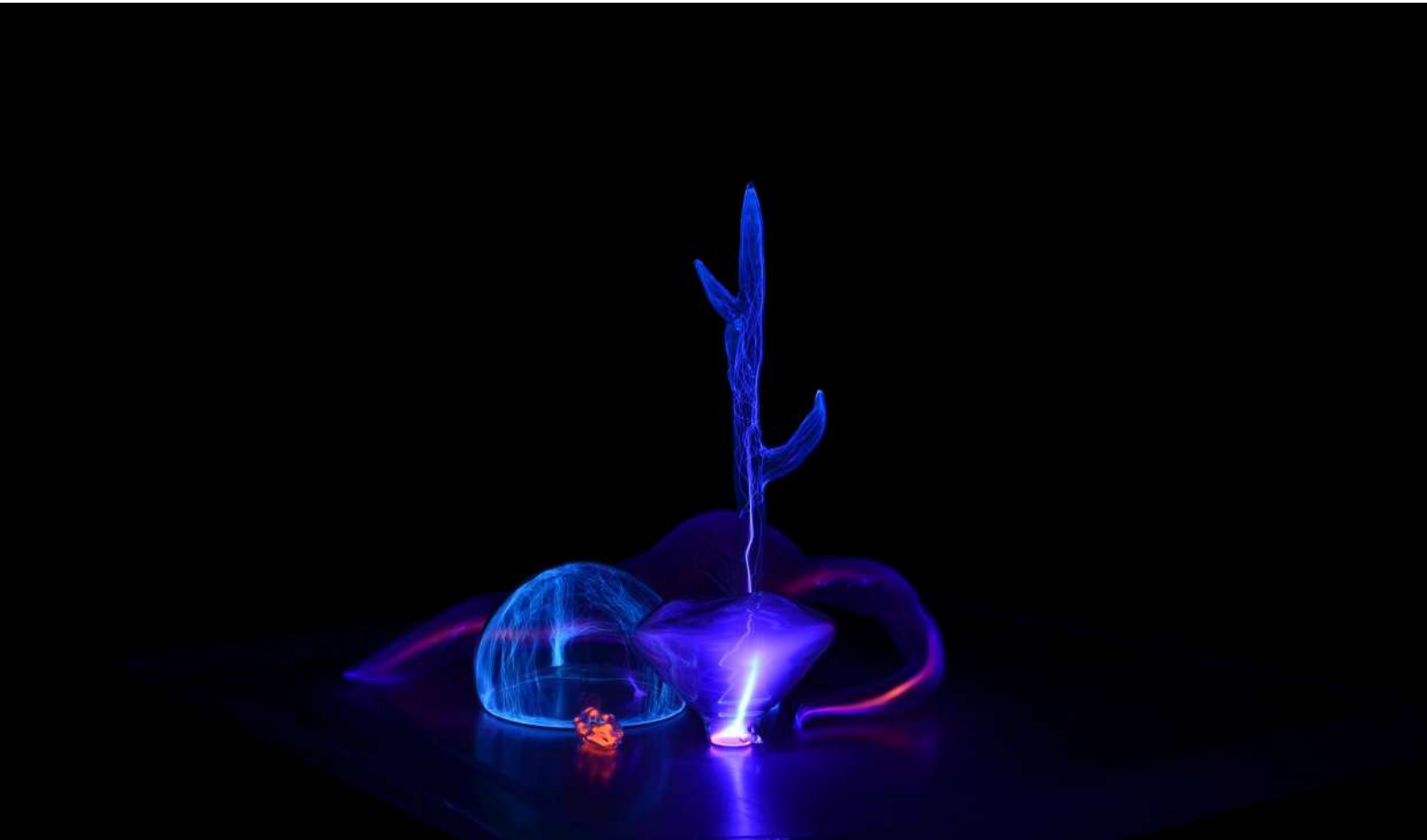
Six shapes rest in the center of a big flat disc. One recalls the amorphous pieces of silicon produced by the impact of lightning strike on sand, while the others may resemble to jellyfishes, corals or seaweeds living in the depths of unknown seas. Each one is filled of a matter-energy which shades and structure are unique.

These six shapes are all different but they no doubt belong to the same class of objects, the same category of things. To physicists they recall the tubes used by Heinrich Geissler to experiment on the behavior of certain gases when electrical current flows through them. To those who visit shops in science museums they remind the luminous globes that react to touch. To explorers of the northern latitudes, they recall the aurora borealis. They are at once all of these and at the same time neither of them.

They are filled with noble gases that compose the interstellar environment: argon, neon, krypton, xenon, nitrogen. They are made of the same matter of the sun: plasma. Plasma is the fourth state of matter, it composes 99 % of our visible universe but none of the 100 % of the one we evolve in. What is strange is to hear its activity as if it came from inside our bodies, when we place our elbows on the ring that surrounds the disc. The entire installation pulses to the rhythm of the sun's electromagnetic activity.

Production Le Fresnoy studio national





# Chants Magnétiques

2017

Silicon, carbon, metalloid's have been formed in 3.5 milliards years ago in the earth's crust. Their layers can inform us of the evolution of our planet but also on our galaxy. These minerals have been excessively transformed by men to become the essential matter that composes our electronic components and circuits in which our personal and collective data transits, where our modern history inscribes itself.

Chants Magnétiques is an installation that can take different forms. The system created allow us to visualize and materialize inaudible frequency's coming from recordings of earthquakes, brain waves, the earth magnetic field, VLF or low frequency's. The physical interaction between the different electronic and magnetic proprieties of the components creates a vibration revealing the electromagnetic forces between the different elements..

Production Le Vecteur & Transcultures

[www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/chants-magnetiques/](http://www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/chants-magnetiques/)





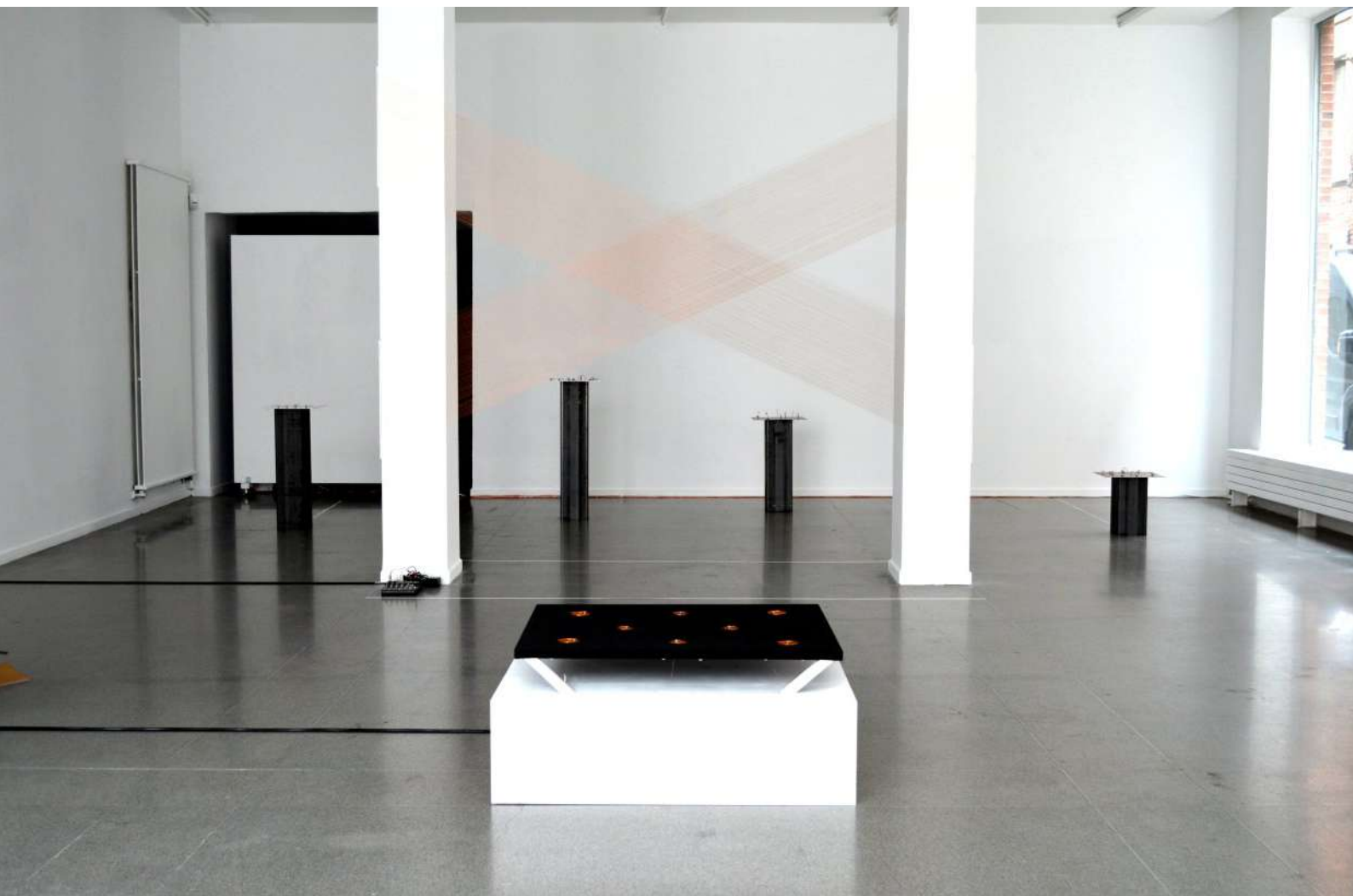


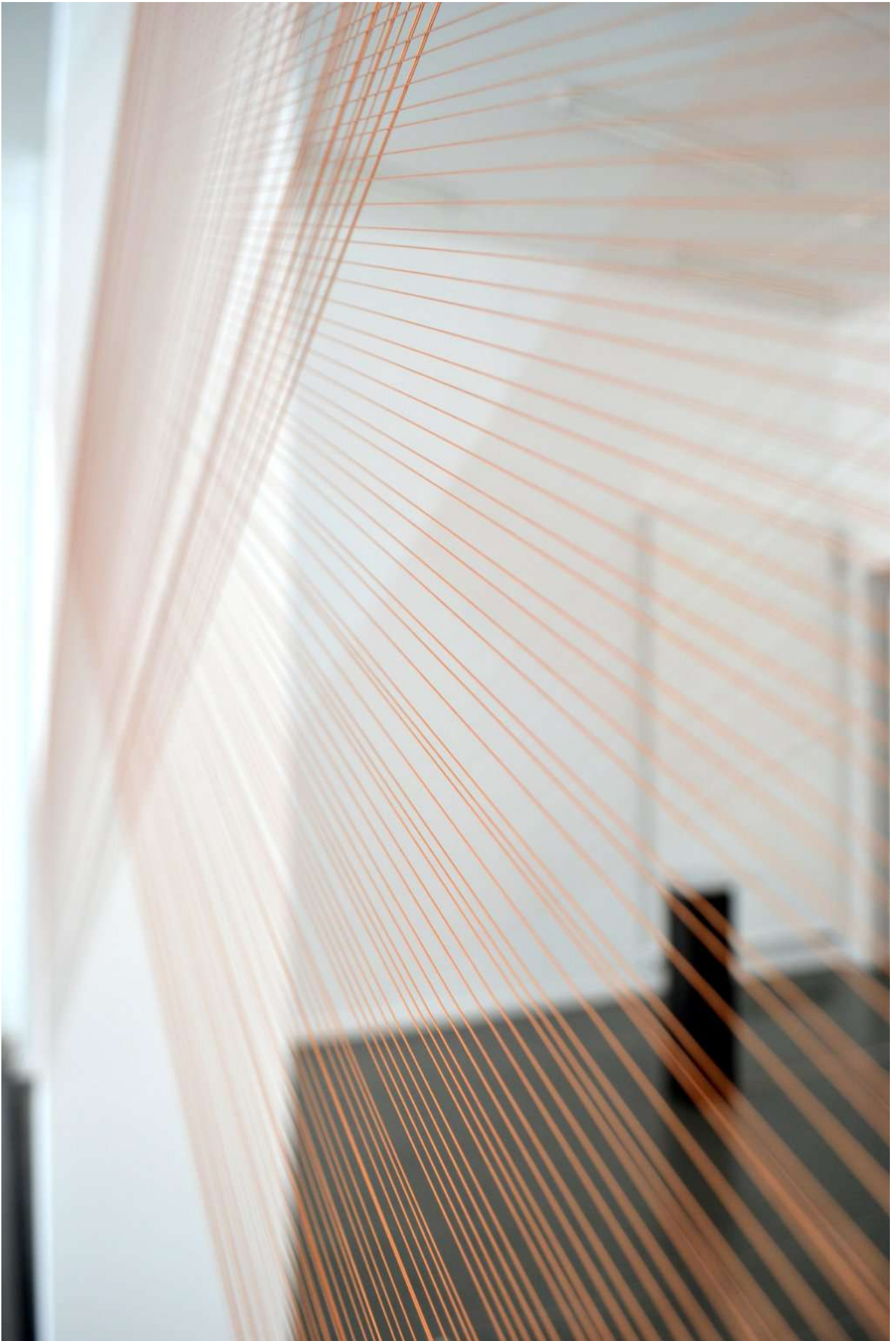
# Antennas

2014-2015

Antennas is a series of woven sculptures created according to the architecture of the space. These antennas, made of copper wire, can sense the electromagnetic activity present in the room. Invisible but being part of our everyday environment, these waves cross us continuously. The frequencies are amplified and played in the space to making their activity tangible to the human ear. Artificial waves such as wifi, radio, electrical appliances etc. and natural waves that come from meteorological phenomenas can be heard..

[www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/antennas/](http://www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/antennas/)





The antennas sense the electromagnetic activity of the space.

# Spectrogrammes

2014-2015

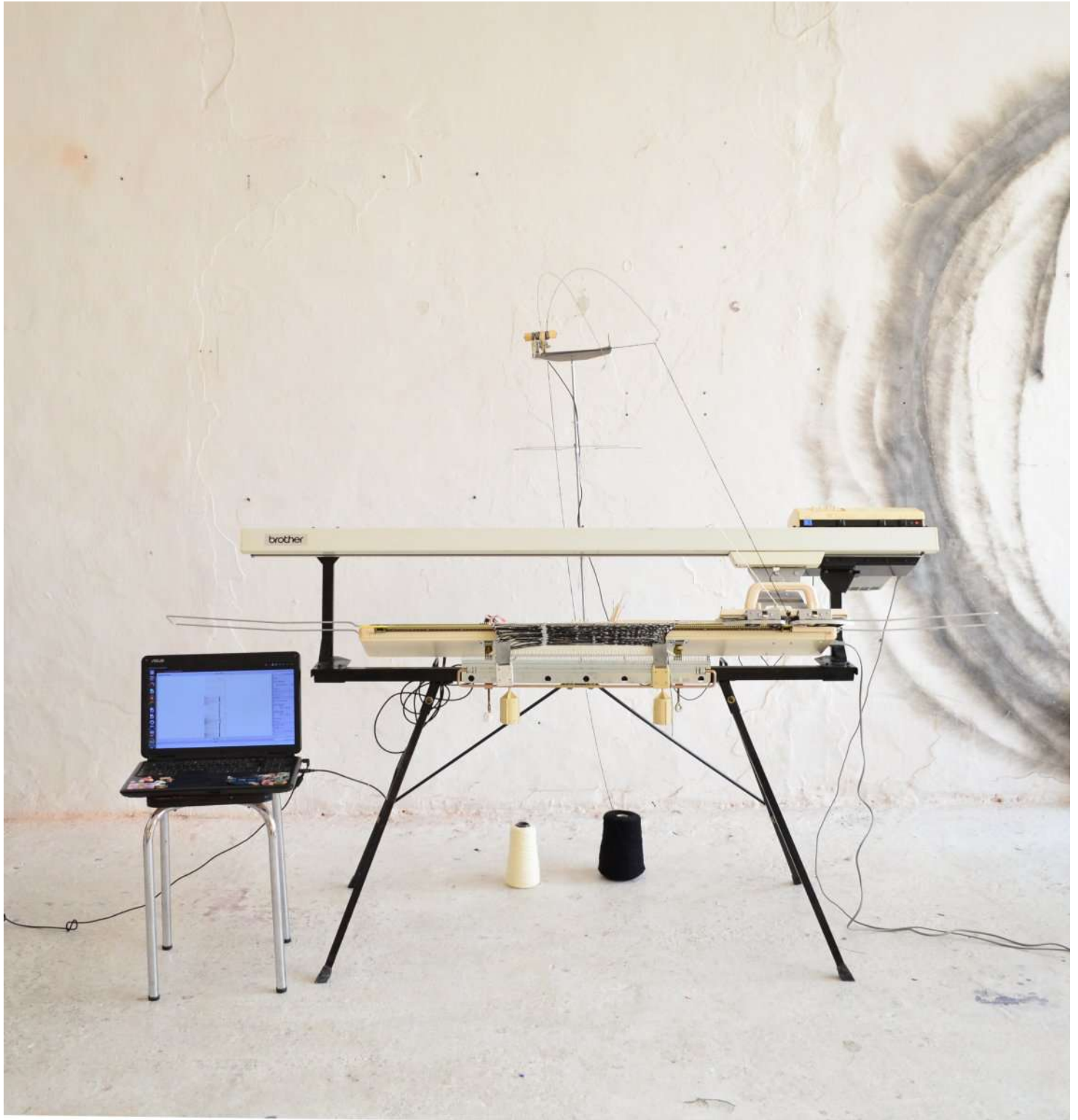
The computer transmits electromagnetic fluxes sensed by the antennas to a knitting machine. Hacked into a spectrogram, the knitting machine translates from 0 & 1's to stitches the electromagnetic variations of the space or the activity recorded elsewhere: at the corner of the street, in a forest, or in our magnetosphere... the knitting machine knits and encodes row by row a spectrum of the sound frequencies. A code was programmed to give the possibility to these four languages to communicate with one another (sound, digital, electronic and textile) materializing their mathematical conversations.

Residency TAMAT 2014-2015

[www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/knitted-spectrogrammes/](http://www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/knitted-spectrogrammes/)







Hacked knitting machine from the 80's. She has been modified to connect to a modern computer.



50°60'64.42% N 3°38'63.94% E



# An Electromagnetic Walk

2014-2015

An Electromagnetic Walk is an installation comprising a series of everyday objects, each one connected to a headset and an electronic device manufactured using textile techniques, a fine copper mesh overlaps with the familiar objects creating antennas that can pick up electromagnetic waves present in our daily environment. Amplified and translated as such by the sound, these antennas give us access to a portion of the sound spectrum usually subtracted to the human ear.

Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to use these strange artefacts, wearing or handling them, to walk in the space or in the street and to capture and collect the various sound sources. They will discover their electromagnetic environment revealing the extremely dense soundscape of the electronic devices that surround us.

Résidence TAMAT 2014-2015

[www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/an-electromagnetic-walk/](http://www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/an-electromagnetic-walk/)









# Broderies Sonores

2014

Sound Embroidery is an installation where speakers have been made using embroidery techniques. Visitors are invited to activate the speakers by placing a magnet in the center of the copper shapes creating a magnetic field. A sound and vibratory composition is played between the eight embroidered shapes making a palpable experience of the sound phenomenon.

[www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/sound-embroidery](http://www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/sound-embroidery)





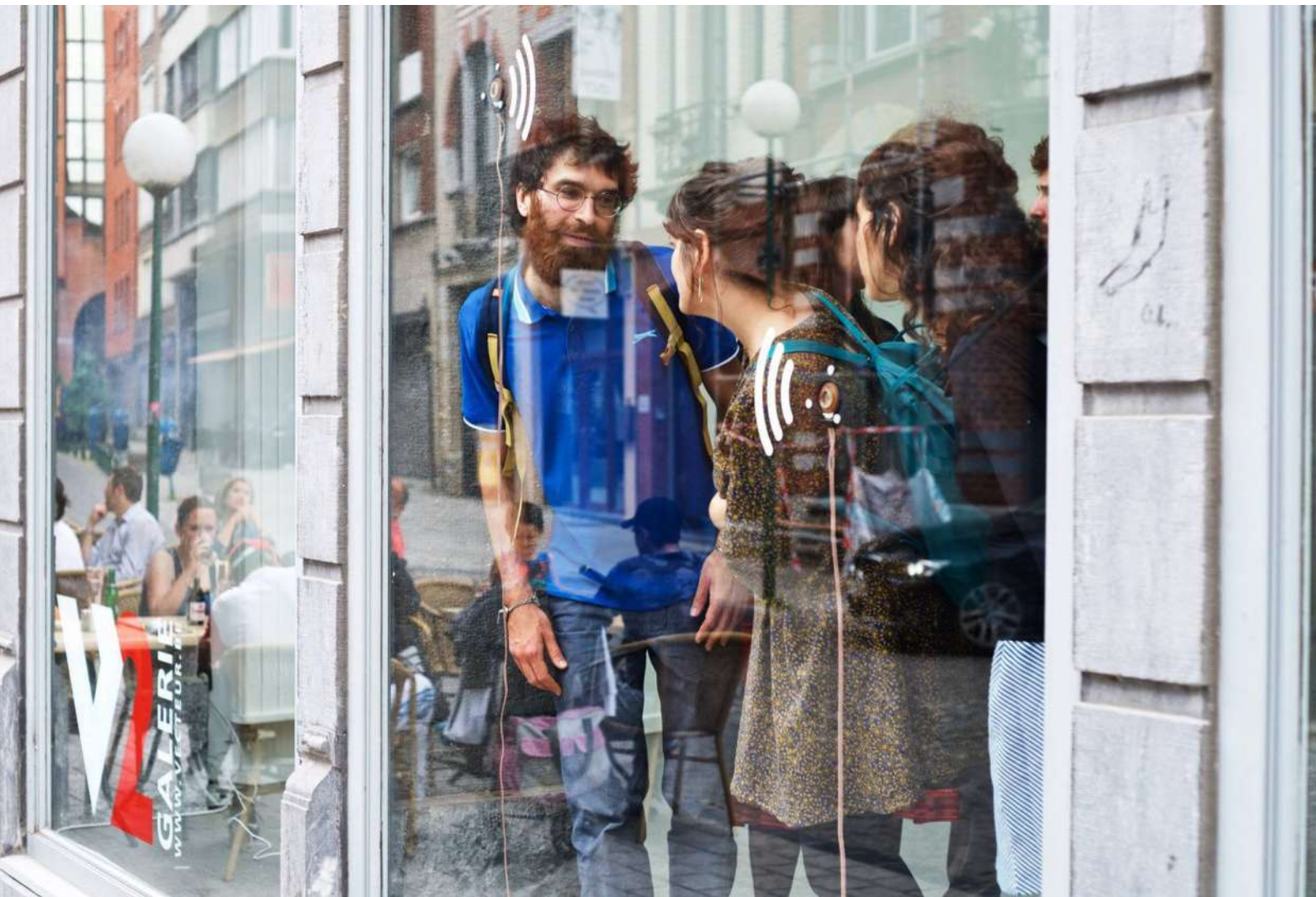


# Meteors - Radio Echos

2017

A radio telescope detects meteor showers entering our atmosphere at a frequency of 61.260 MHz. The glass window of the exhibition space is turned into a sound propagation material where the meteors activity can be heard from the exhibition space to the street.

Vidéo: [www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/meteors-radio-echos/](http://www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/meteors-radio-echos/)





# Tonotech

2018

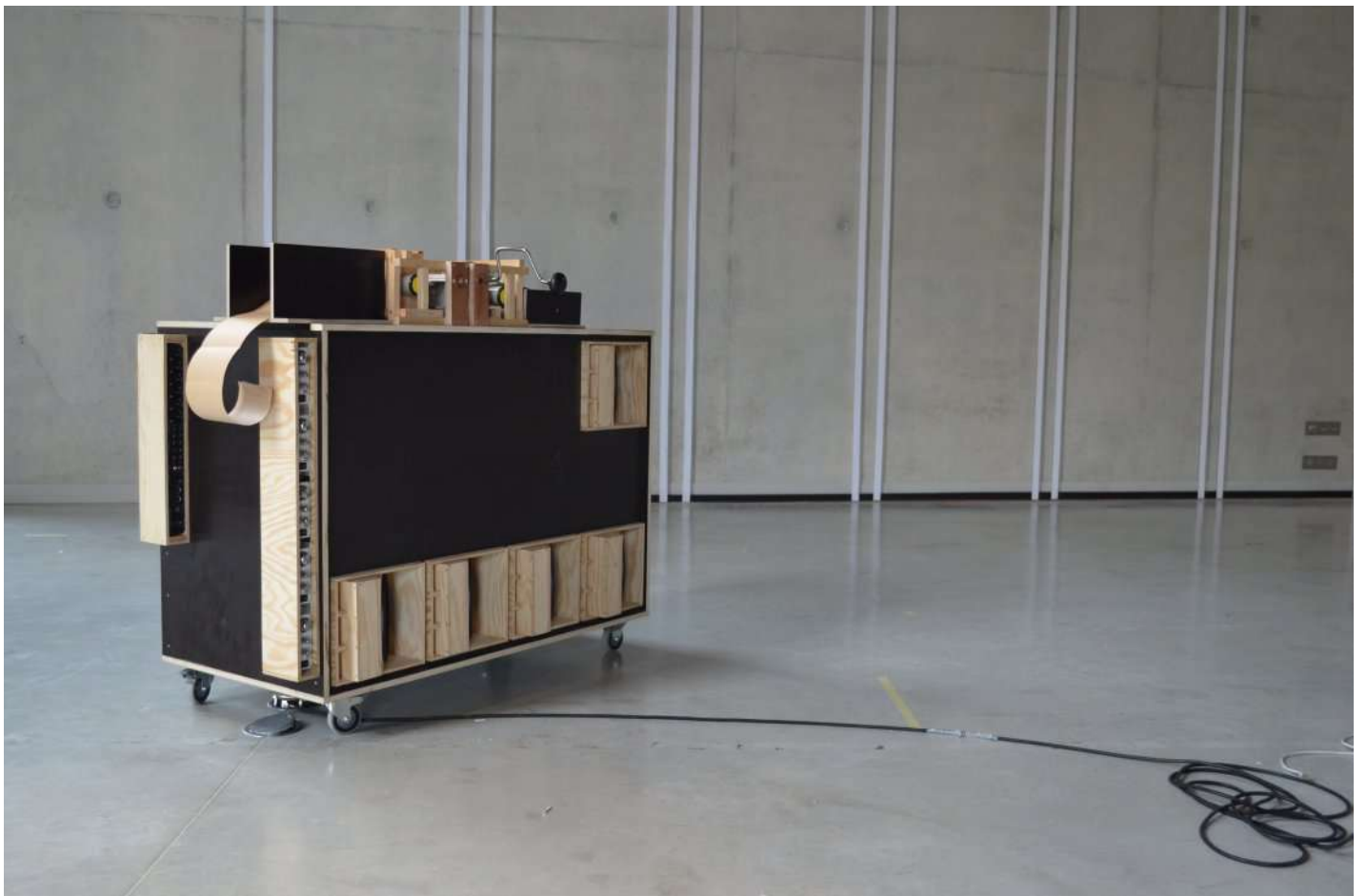
Tonotech was inspired by the correlations between textile languages, computing and musical systems. In the 18th century, the punch hole cards were used by musical organs and jacquard weaving looms which inspired the basis of our modern computing systems. This electro mechanical installation reads a score of punched cards mixing acoustic sounds and patterns. People can remix this score making audible the rhythm of the patterns throughout the elements of the architecture of the space.

Collaboration: Julien Poidevin, Alexandre Liziard

Production: Le Signe centre national du graphisme

[www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/tonotech/](http://www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/tonotech/)





# Experimentale Radio

2017

Radio waves are the energies and the ghosts of our electromagnetic world. During the 2nd half of the XXI century, people could suddenly communicate remotely. A new invisible space opened up, and henceforth, a medium to transport these distant and disembodied voices. These electromagnetic spaces were thought as a surface of transmission where the dead would find themselves with telegraphic messages to transmit to the living. The female mediums embodied a sort of electrical transmission system. The participants placed around the circle were an extension of this system, their arms as cables interconnecting by holding hands.

Experimental radio is a research that tries to imagine a machine created by these mediums with their textile techniques. This embroidered radio is a sensing surface that attempts to intercept occult voices through radio waves. They also are in reference to the researches of Nikola Tesla, Thomas Edison and Konstantin Raudive that have looked through radio waves to intercept voices of the spirits. .

[www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/experimental-radio/](http://www.xxx-clairewilliams-xxx.com/projets/experimental-radio/)

