

Aura / Aurora

2012

Bettina Schülke

Nina Czeglédy

László Kiss

Aura/Aurora is a real-time audio-visual installation.

Bettina Schülke and Nina Czeglédy in collaboration with Laszlo Kiss

Aura/Aurora is the most recent phase of the ongoing art & science project presenting an interactive interpretation of the Polar Lights – Aurora Borealis and Australis, the magnificent and dynamic spectacle that has retained a near-mythical status in circumpolar cultures over centuries. The dazzling geo-physical phenomenon, typically observed in the Circumpolar Regions is not only a brilliant spectacle but it also makes visible the invisible world of electromagnetic activities.

Aura/Aurora is a real-time audio-visual installation. Arguable an artwork can hardly compete with the actual experience of a natural phenomenon therefore we aimed at an alternative approach by engaging active audience participation. A series of still images linked to the same subject are an available option to be included in the exhibition. These digital images represent experimental installation elements in the form of abstract enigmatic fields of color.

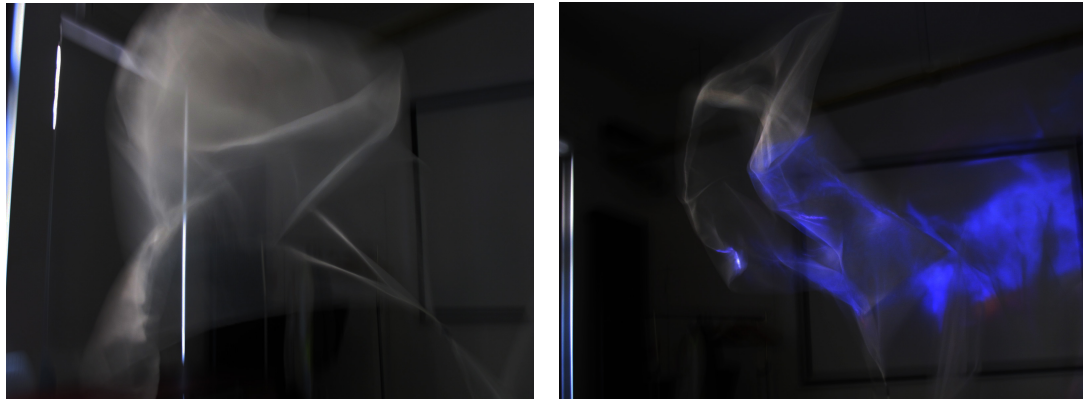
Exhibition design

Aura/Aurora is a specific form of self-generating interactive installation, which is ideally situated in a distinct semi dark space. Several large-scale translucent fabrics freely floating in the space provide the projection plane. Four cooling fans placed on the ground initiate the motion of the textile. Shadows on the surrounding walls and the self-generated interactivity initiated through the moving textiles create a subtle dance of lights.

The sound base for the installation is delivered from the analog sound of the fans that move the materials using contact microphones and coils. Measurement data from 2012 about the Aurora Borealis gathered by the Space Weather Prediction Center is used to control digital signal processing of the live sound. The sculpted sound is then used to generate the projected visual elements of the installation.

Technical requirements

3 pieces of fabric, 3 meters long x 1,4 meters wide (variable dimensions), one overhead projector, four cooling fans, 4 channel soundcard, four speakers. The above detailed installation material including the transparent textiles, loud speakers, hard and software, to be supplied by the artists.



Sample (test) Images

Artists:

Bettina Schülke is an Austrian artist and Ph.D Candidate at the University of Lapland working on the intersection of art, science and technology. Her research theme is “Transaction” explores the exchange of artistic media in the content of space and time. She has exhibited widely at internationally prominent venues like the 2nd Thessaloniki Biennale, GR, Shunt Lounge, London, GB; De Winkelhaak Design Museum, Antwerp, BE; Kemi Art Museum; Lume Mediakeskus, Helsinki, FI; the MAK-nite (Museum of Applied Arts), Vienna, AT, textile works at the Austrian Pavilion at the 8.th International Architecture Biennale in Venice, IT. Schülke has lectured at the University of Fine Arts in Vienna, AT, the University of Lapland and the Kemi/Tornio University of Applied Science, FIN.

Nina Czegledy, artist, curator, educator and writer works internationally on collaborative art& science& technology projects. She has exhibited widely, won awards for her artwork and has lead and participated in workshops, forums and festivals worldwide. Czegledy curated and presented numerous international touring projects and published extensively. *Aura, Aurora, Areosphere/Atmosphere (with Janine Randerson)*, *What will you do to cool the earth?* (with Greg Judelman and Daniel Barberí) and are recent collaborations. The *Visual Collider* project (together with Marcus Neustetter) premiered in Korcula and was shown in 8 countries. Czegledy is a Senior Fellow, KMDI, University of Toronto, Associate Adjunct Professor Concordia University, Montreal, Senior Fellow, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Honorary Fellow, Moholy Nagy University Budapest, International Research Fellow, Intercreate.org, New Zealand and member of the Leonardo/ISAST Governing Board.

László Kiss, BA in Creative Music Technology, is a researcher at Kitchen Budapest since 2009. He graduated from Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge majoring in Creative Music Technology. He works as an electronic musician, sound designer and new media artist with main interest in sound art. His works have been exhibited in Europe, U.S.A and Japan. He has held workshops and lectured in BME (Hungary), MOME (Hungary) and Fontys (Netherlands).