



Nathalie Junod Ponsard

Visual artist, Paris, France

Aristotle called colour pharmakon, i.e. drug

In Barthes' view, colour submerges



Deep Water, un espace sans sommeil (a sleepless space)

Lighting installation

4 kW and 2.5 kW HMI spotlights, City Color, fluorescent tubes, gel filters

Pontoise swimming pool

19 rue de Pontoise, Paris, France

Nuit Blanche (Sleepless night), 5 October 2002

In an attempt to identify and propose new visual dimensions, I emphasise the major influence our environment has on us. I explore and choose real built sites, and transform them by means of artificial or natural light. My installations give rise to new visions, changing the way we look at these places. They affect the senses by immersing the visitors in coloured baths of light, created by certain wavelengths.

Visitors discover my aesthetic creation by entering – visually, physically and psychologically – the light structures, aware of the influence and exchanges with their own environment, but at the same time being engrossed by this light.



Sleepless light

My research led me to explore the influence of light on human biological systems, as in Deep Imminent Instant in Los Angeles in 2002. As visitors went into the exhibition gallery, they were immersed in a bath of monochromatic colour, first red, then green. A red translucent tent containing a chandelier was suspended from the ceiling. This lit up the visitors and increased their cardiac rhythm. After three minutes, a green ambient light was projected into the space of the entrance to the gallery. This intense green light suppresses the secretion of melatonin (a chemical substance in our body that helps us to sleep), keeping us awake.

The spatial revelation of a sleepless area is not subject to the limits of space. One of my most striking installations is Deep Water in the Pontoise swimming pool in Paris, which opened on the night of October 5, 2002 during the first

Nuit Blanche (Sleepless night). The visitors came to swim in blood-red water, and to be immersed in red light, which boosts sporting prowess. The space seemed to expand and then contract. Intermittently, the glass roof covering the swimming pool was bathed in green light, to prevent people from falling asleep.



LR picture

Phénoménologie de la lumière (Phenomenology of light)

Permanent light work
36W fluorescent tubes, gelatines, switches
Espace polyvalent - forum level 0
Georges Pompidou Centre, Paris, France
May 2005

Immersion Rotatoire (Rotary Immersion)

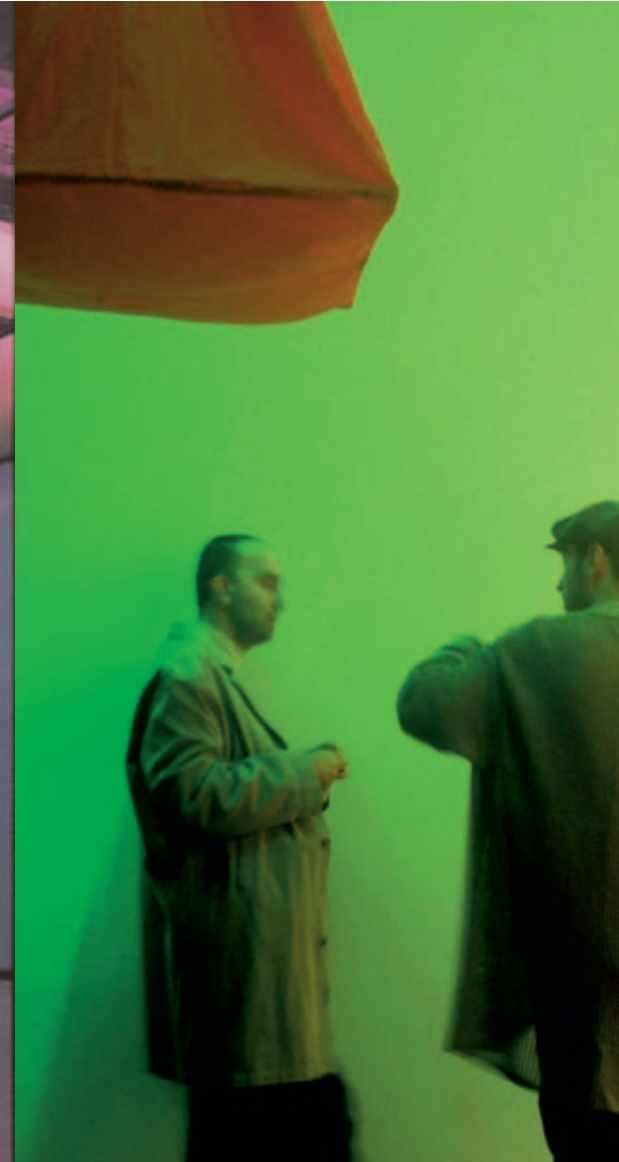
Lighting installation
B22 electric cables, B 22 Flasher bulbs, steel cables
Jetée des Pâquis
Festival of Trees and Light – City of Geneva
Lake Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
2 December 2004 – 9 January 2005



Hypnotic light

Another process led me to create landscapes of purple light pulses, which transform our visual perception and hypnotise us. The first two creations in this series took place in France, in Paris and Brest, in 2003. Capsule Hypnotique (Hypnotic Capsule) and Voyage Hypnotique (Hypnotic Voyage) were experimental exploratory projects for the production of a hypnotic installation/ device to develop the field of the subconscious.

In January 2004, the façade of the Gaîté Lyrique theatre in Paris (prefiguring the future digital arts centre) was bathed in purple light. Vertigo came alive: the intensity of the light was increased and then gradually reduced, in infinite nocturnal sequences. The visitor's body was absorbed by this purple façade, which propagated its coloured light waves into space.



Deep Imminent Instant

Lighting installation
Metal structure + 100W bulbs, nylon, 150W spots, console
Guggenheim Gallery
Over Here (There)
Chapman University, Orange, Los Angeles, California, United States
January and February 2002

Vertigo

Lighting installation
2 kW projectors, gel filters, console
Gaîté Lyrique Theatre
3 rue Papin, Paris, France
31 December 2003 to 15 January 2004, from 5.00 .m. to dawn

Phenomenology of experience

Phénoménologie de la lumière (Phenomenology of light) in the Atelier Polyvalent of the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris is a permanent installation which was created this year. Lines of light are installed in the depths of the heterogeneous ceiling. The light gives the impression that the sheaths and pipes are suspended in space. Each line of fluorescent tubes coloured by gel filters corresponds to specific wavelengths. Controlled separately by the users, all combinations are then possible.

Voyage Hypnotique (Hypnotic voyage)

Lighting installation
Vinyl films, 500W metal-halide projectors, flash lamps, painting
Contemporary Art Centre Passerelle
Ready-made colour
41 rue Charles Berthelot, Brest, France
27 June to 4 October 2003

Visual vertigo

In some of my installations, sunlight is depicted as continually changing. It evolves over time and emphasises this temporal principle, which acts on us and on space. Artificial light then takes over.

New experiments with light give rise to visual vertigo, such as at the Bauhaus in Dessau (Germany, 2004). In Vertige en apesanteur

(Weightless Vertigo), the facades were transformed into light in constant rotation. Projections of intense light in complementary colours formed a ring rotating through the glass facades. One half of the ring was orange, the other indigo. Inside the Bauhaus, the spectators' bodies were immersed in the moving light. The body became a place of experimentation, and was made weightless by the light and its movements.



Alliance Française of Singapore

1 Sarkies Road, Singapore
December 1999 / January 2000

This laboratory, like a game on a life-size scale, makes it possible to experiment with light and its effects, and to create micro-spaces within the location.

Adjacent to this area, the Atelier Multimédia contains another permanent installation: En Flottement (Floating). The artificial light creates an immaterial space and is diffused by fluorescent tubes which become alternately turquoise and scarlet. This light creates a sensation of floating. The 'users' of the room experience a sensation of weightlessness. ■

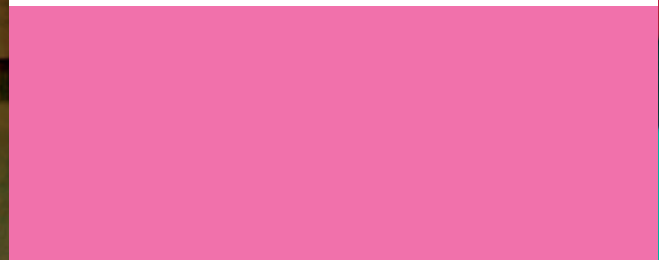
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Horizon Hallucinatoire (Hallucinatory Horizon)
Lighting installation
1 kW cycloids, console, gelatine films + frosted film
AFAA – Association Française d’Action Artistique
1 bis Avenue de Villars, Paris, France
February 2005



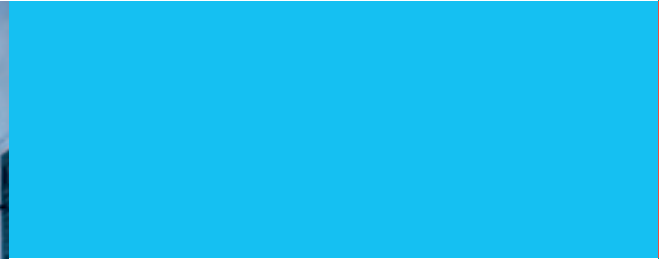
**Vertige en apesanteur
(Weightless vertigo)**
Lighting installation
1 kW convex plane, gel filters,
metal bridges, consoles
Stiftung Bauhaus
7 Farbfest, Dessau, Germany
August 2004

Biography

- 1980-82:** Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Nantes (1st cycle) Diploma in Fine Arts
- 1986:** Degree from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris
- 1989-90:** Period in India for research and creative work, in particular on the astronomical site of the Jantar Mantar at New Delhi and the Bharat Bhavan at Bhopal.
- October 1989:** Creation of a lighting work on the Jantar Mantar as part of the Year of France in India. Meeting with the astrophysicists Michel Cassé and Jean Audouze.
- 1990 – 1992:** Design for the creation of lighting installations along a 22 km section of the Titans motorway (A40), creating a relationship between the works of art and their environment, i.e. mountains, forests, lake, etc.
- 1997 - 1998:** Living in Hong Kong
- July 1997:** Hong Kong handed back to China. Exhibiting as part of the French “May in Hong Kong” and the Fringe Festival. Co-operation in various exhibition projects with artists from Hong Kong.
- 1998 – 2002:** Living in Singapore. Transition to the year 2000, a new millennium. Participation in the Singapore Art Today visual art Biennial “ Histories Identities Technologies spaces”, with an order for an installation at the Singapore Art Museum.



Architecture of light & flux of energy
Lighting installation
Silver PAR 62, 1 kW, Black Flood light 150W
Tungsten, Black PAR 38 120 W, 36 W fluorescent tubes, gel filters



Trans>light>air
Audio and video installation
Film, video screens, sound, 36W fluorescent tubes, gel filters
Espace polyvalent and Atelier Multimédia
Georges Pompidou Centre, Paris, France
May 2005 Museum Night

