

# :::KAIROS RECALL OF EARTH

The artistic strategies introduced and discussed in this Biennale Session are the ongoing result of a workshop covering the weather as a perceptual phenomenon, organized as part of a collaboration between the Department of Digital Arts of the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria, and the ZAMG – the National Meteorological Service of Austria, Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics of Austria.

Is “weather” a phenomenon that has the potential to show people their limits? Or does the horizon create unlimited possibilities in art through this “medium”? What is the relationship between art and weather phenomena and metaphorical language in the arts?

The consequences (including political ones) are sometimes severe and often not immediately visible. The artistic confrontation with seemingly theoretical questions evokes resistance, possibly opening up ways to the invisible potential of reflection.

The five selected projects relate to one another and address each of the various aspects of the topic from their own perspective. The above considerations are reflected artistically and/or theoretically through cooperation with the Biennale Sessions programme, and in response to the central La Biennale di Venezia topic, *May You Live In Interesting Times*.



## Manuel Cyrill Bachinger

### Listen to the wind but different

Sound installation

Space blankets, tubes, speakers, soundcard, computer, display

The wind, as a perceptible natural phenomenon, can be heard and felt but not directly seen or visually recorded. Its invisible tangibility became an inspiration for this installation by sharing similar qualities with digital complex communication systems such as the Internet.

*Listen to the wind but different* appears to visitors as a sound sculpture translating the speed of wind into a sonic experience expressed through the

materiality of the artwork. Sound is projected through membranes that aim to float in space, building a “shelter” for a wind-wheel, which is represented on a screen.

The rotation of the wind-wheel on the video corresponds to the modulation of the sound, which is articulated as a shimmering and breathing, but still mechanical and sterile, grainy noise.

## Çağdaş Çeçen

### 5.5 “Follow the white noise”

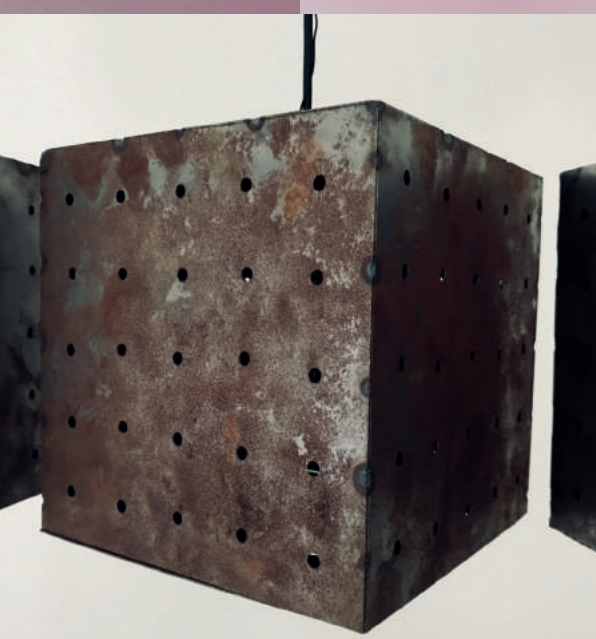
Interactive audio installation

3D printed headgear with solar panels, audio transformer, audio amplifier, headphones

*5.5 “Follow the white noise”* is an audio installation that translates artificial light into sound. This process is made possible through the use of a wearable apparatus, which contains solar panels. When light hits the panels, a sound is generated. The headgear-shaped apparatus acts like an artificial sensory organ by “listening” to the surrounding light, which the human body can only perceive through recognition of colour and heat.

The lights that can be “listened” to vary between several spectrums of electromagnetic wavelengths that are generated artificially (e.g. light bulbs, television, fire, lightning). Each wavelength has a unique sound signature.

*5.5* invites the audience to enjoy a synesthetic experience with their surroundings and the cacophony of light. The instructions are simple: *“Follow the white noise”*.



## Johannes Lampert

### Blitzwürfel

Data-directed objects

Steel, electronics

The kinetic installation *Blitzwürfel* behaves according to a code that is directly connected to the lightning activity in Venice between April and September 2019. Four metal cubes move in the direction of one another according to a new registered flashlight event. When crashing into one another, a lamp situated inside each cube is turned on for the duration of the event.

The data was provided by ALDIS, CESI and EUCLID, companies that measure lightning activity and intensity

across European territory. The data provided was translated into an algorithm that converts the information obtained from one day into one second. Every time a flashlight is detected, a microcontroller Arduino triggers a servo motor attached to the cubes. As a result of the proximity between them, the cubes eventually crash, again and again, thus producing new lightning.

## Anna Watzinger and Laurus Edelbacher

### Smart rainbow 7.0

Livestream sculpture

Laptop, webcam, fridge, ice object

The multimedia installation *Smart rainbow 7.0* links the error display on the Apple computer system (the rotating “rainbow cursor”) with both the meteorological phenomenon of the rainbow and the context of global warming.

One of the most poetic phenomena of weather conditions acts in this work as a symbol for the error in the online, as well as offline, system. Therefore, the rotating rainbow cursor has been “downloaded” via seven ice sculptures precisely arranged in the inner real

space of a freezer. The freezer acts as a “smart white box”, in which a webcam is constantly “uploading” its content back into the digital space, showcased as a livestream on a MacBook screen positioned outside the box. *Smart rainbow 7.0* interacts with visitors by means of its physical invisibility: the closed box; and the noise derived from within. Some visitors may feel seduced into wanting to reassure themselves about its real inner life.



## Ruth Zimmermann

### Triptych Object

Video installation

Mixed material, dual-channel video, colour, HD; sound: stereo

*Triptych Object* is a video installation comprising a three-part altar made of local wood. The work deals with the long traditional relationship between humans and the weather.

Inspired by folklore from Austrian, Hungarian and Slavic cultures, it features different rituals and customs that vary greatly according to their region; for centuries people have tried to influence the weather with these rituals and customs.

People and the weather have always had a strong affinity. However, it appears that all human efforts to subdue the weather have had the opposite effect; climate change, natural disasters and increasingly extreme weather conditions are among the consequences.

Everything that we used to pray to the gods about, and plead with them to save us from, has befallen us. In the end we have cured ourselves.