

Geert Mul

Selected Works 1998 - 2005

Very often people assume that "form" as a concept is the opposite of something called "content". This assumption implies that a poem or a musical piece or a film is like a jug. An external shape, the jug, contains something that could just as easily be held in a cup or pail. Under this assumption, form becomes less important than whatever it is presumed to contain. We do not accept this assumption. If form is the total system, which the viewer attributes to the film, there is no inside or outside. Every component functions as part of the overall pattern that is perceived. Thus we shall treat as formal elements many things that some people consider content. From our standpoint, subject matter and abstract ideas all enter into the total system of the artwork (....)

David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson
Film art an introduction (international edition 1993)
The concept of form in film page 43.

A photograph of the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi at dusk. The building is illuminated with warm yellow lights, highlighting its architectural details, including a large dome and a prominent arched entrance. Several Indian national flags are flying on tall poles to the left of the building. The sky is a deep blue, and the overall atmosphere is serene and grand.

Geert Mul

11th Triennale-India 2005

National Gallery of Modern Art
New Delhi



*... et par conséquent nous sommes portés à
Socrate par Platon, — portait lui-même
dans la deuxième partie, — nous assistons à
une discussion de Socrate et de Platon
les deux de l'Esprit. — Cette partie est
Platon ...*

*... La troisième partie nous reconstitue la
mort de Socrate, — l'acte de Platon et
raconté par lui-même ...*

TF1 ... En écrivant cette œuvre, ... je n'ai
nullement voulu aider à la vente des ...



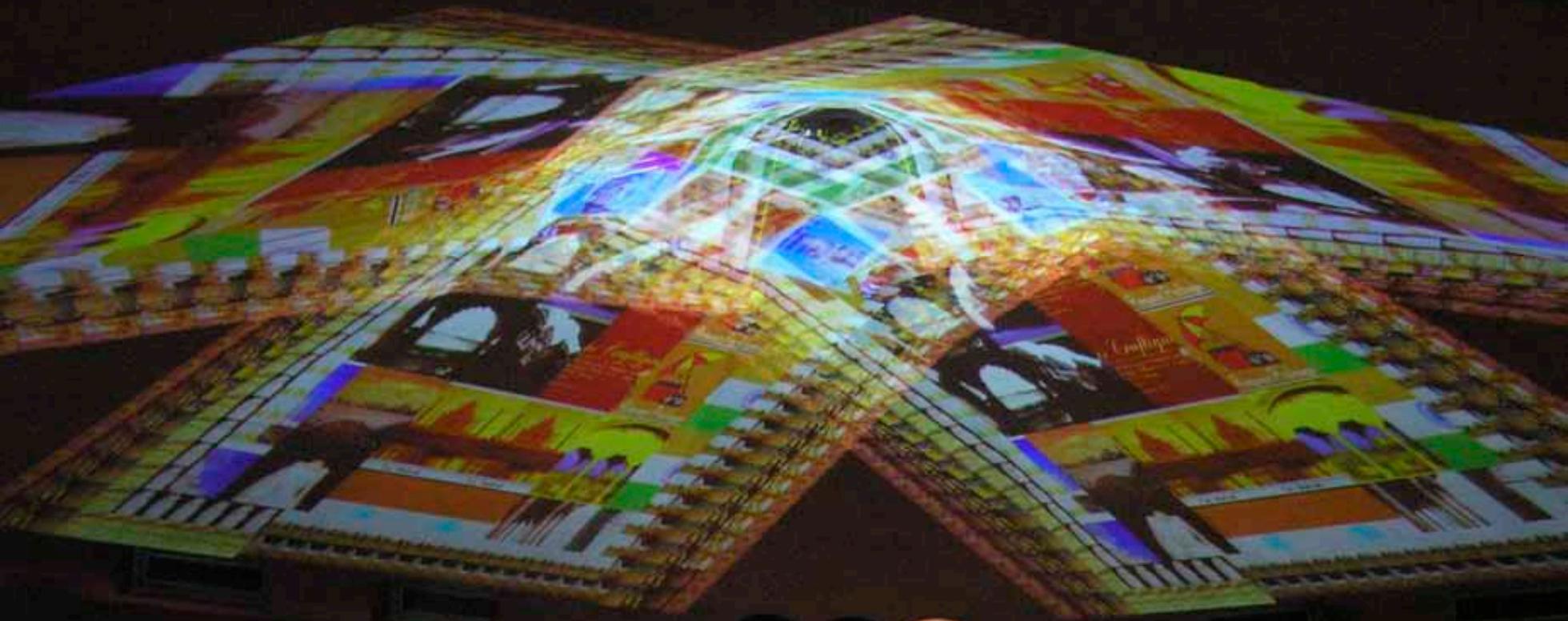


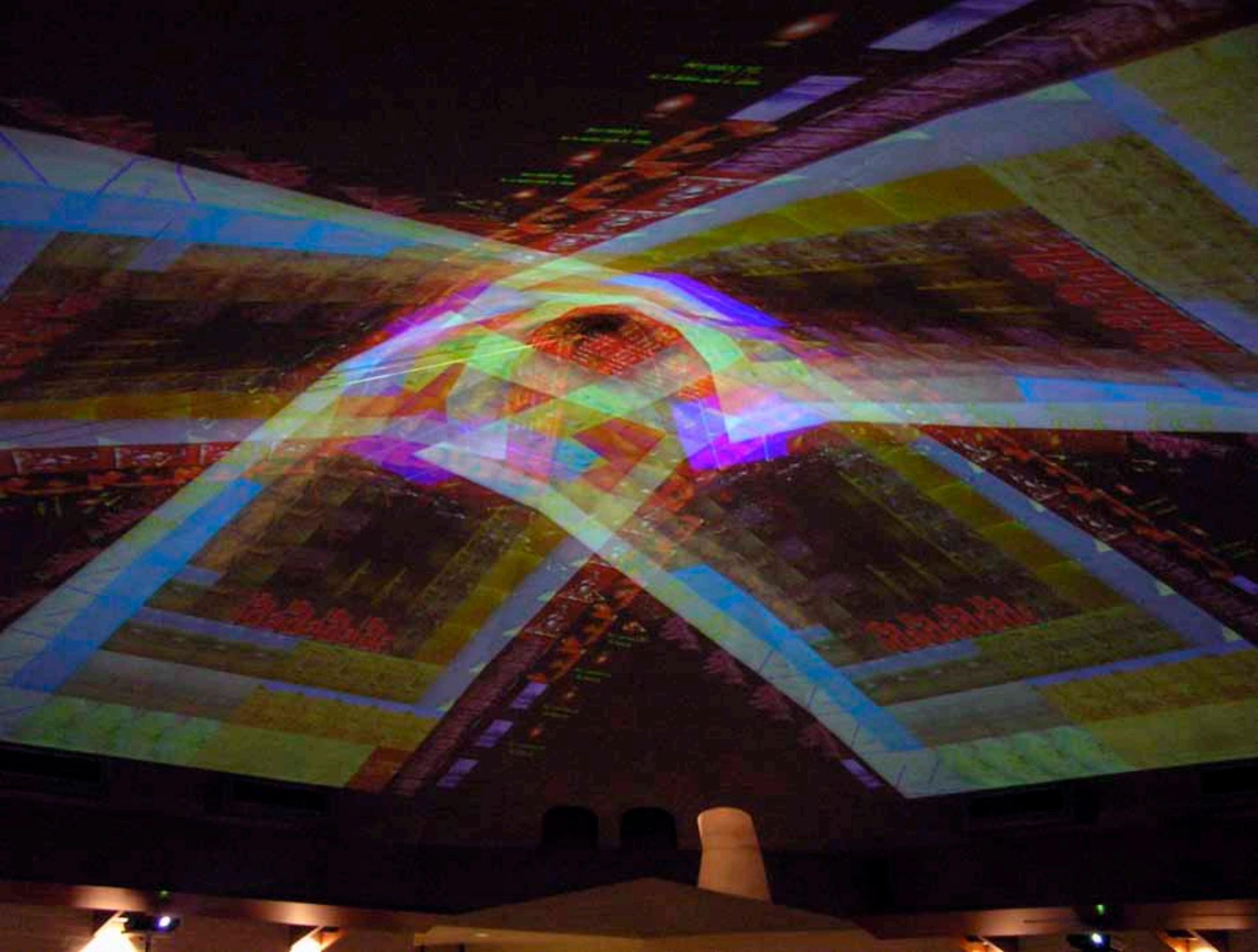


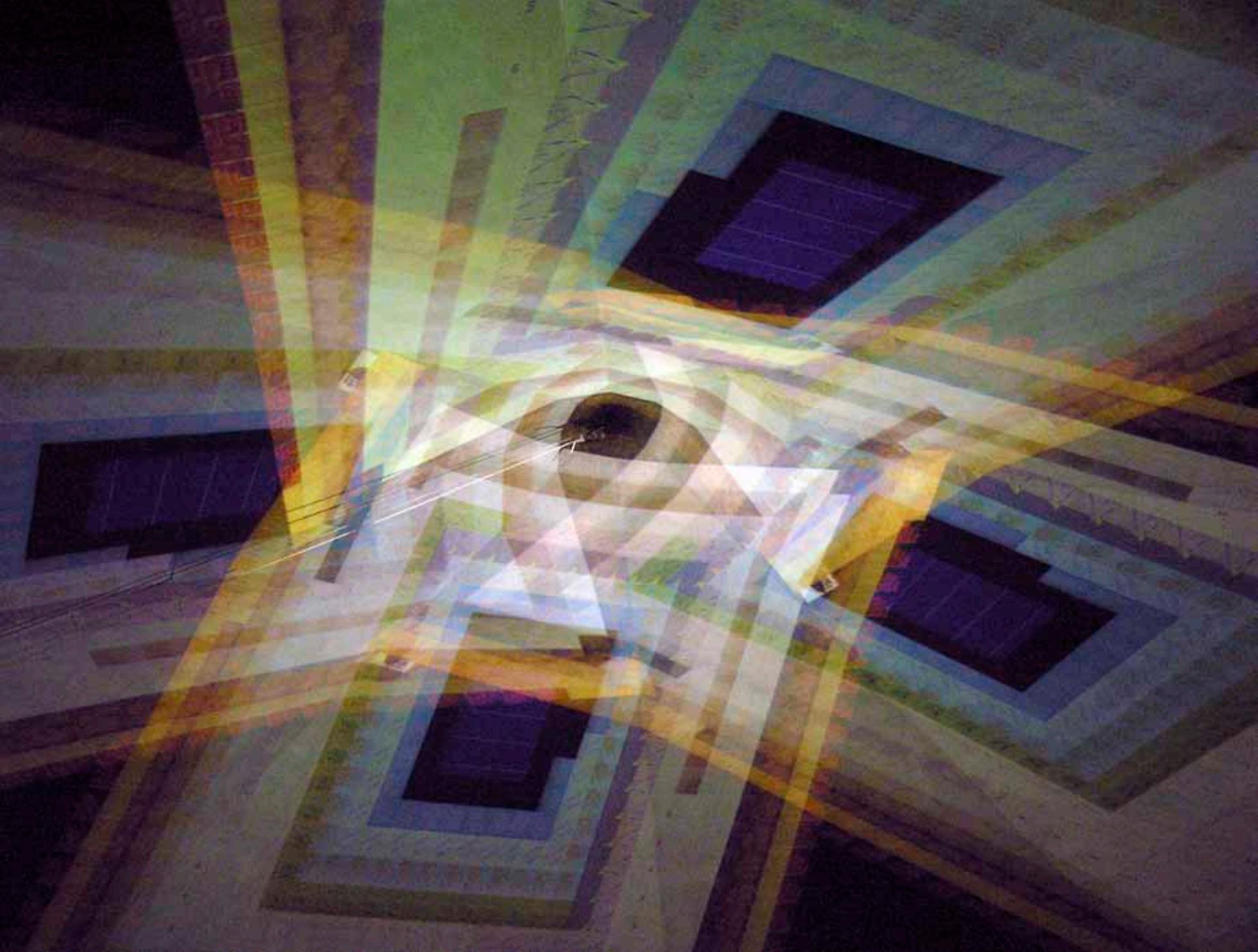


Installation at the
Royal Netherlands Embassy
New Delhi, India

Geert Mul Jan 2005











"12x12x30x30"

1800 child drawings

144 street tiles

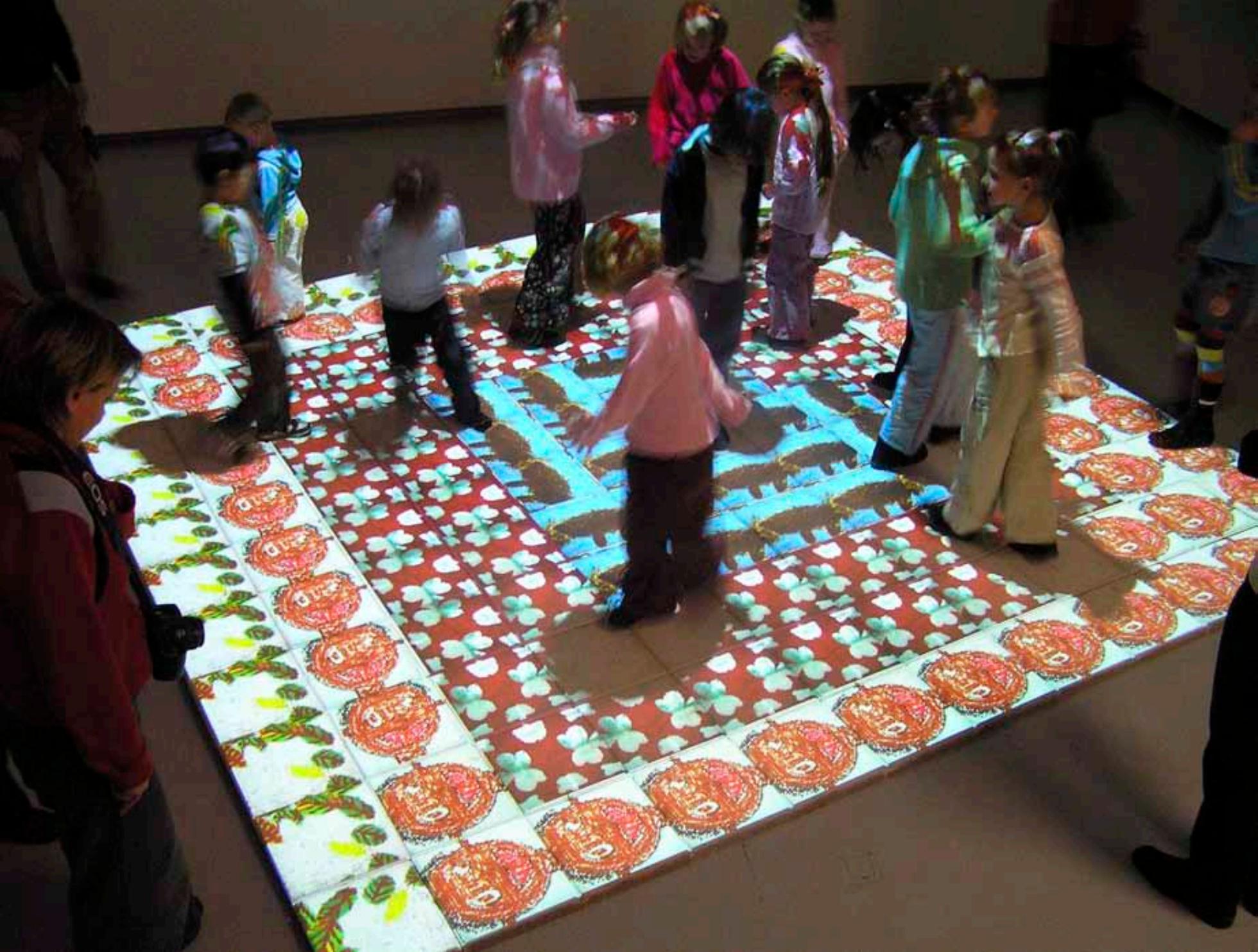
1 video projector

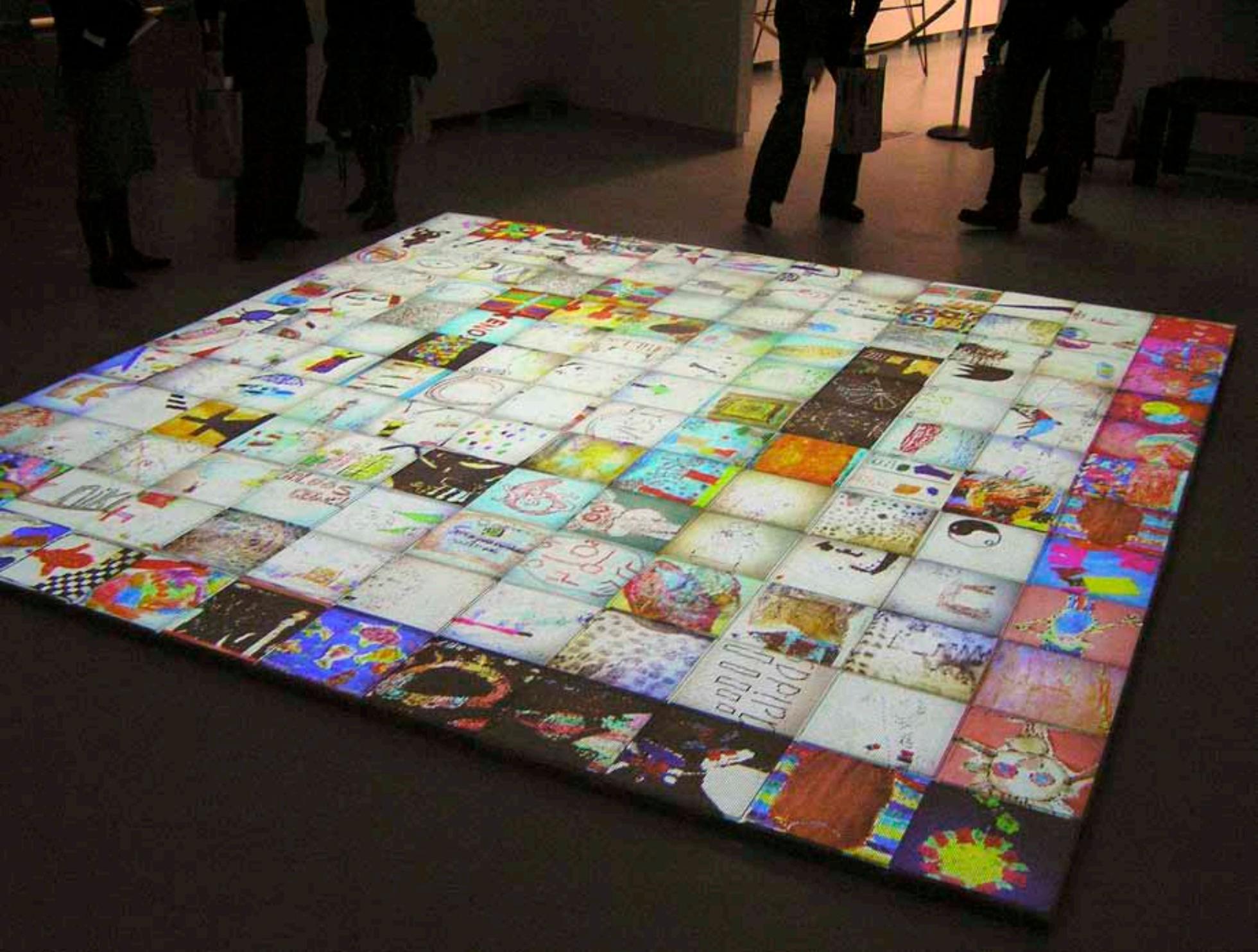
1 computer

Valkhof Museum Nijmegen

Geert Mul 2005







DEMOGRAPHICS

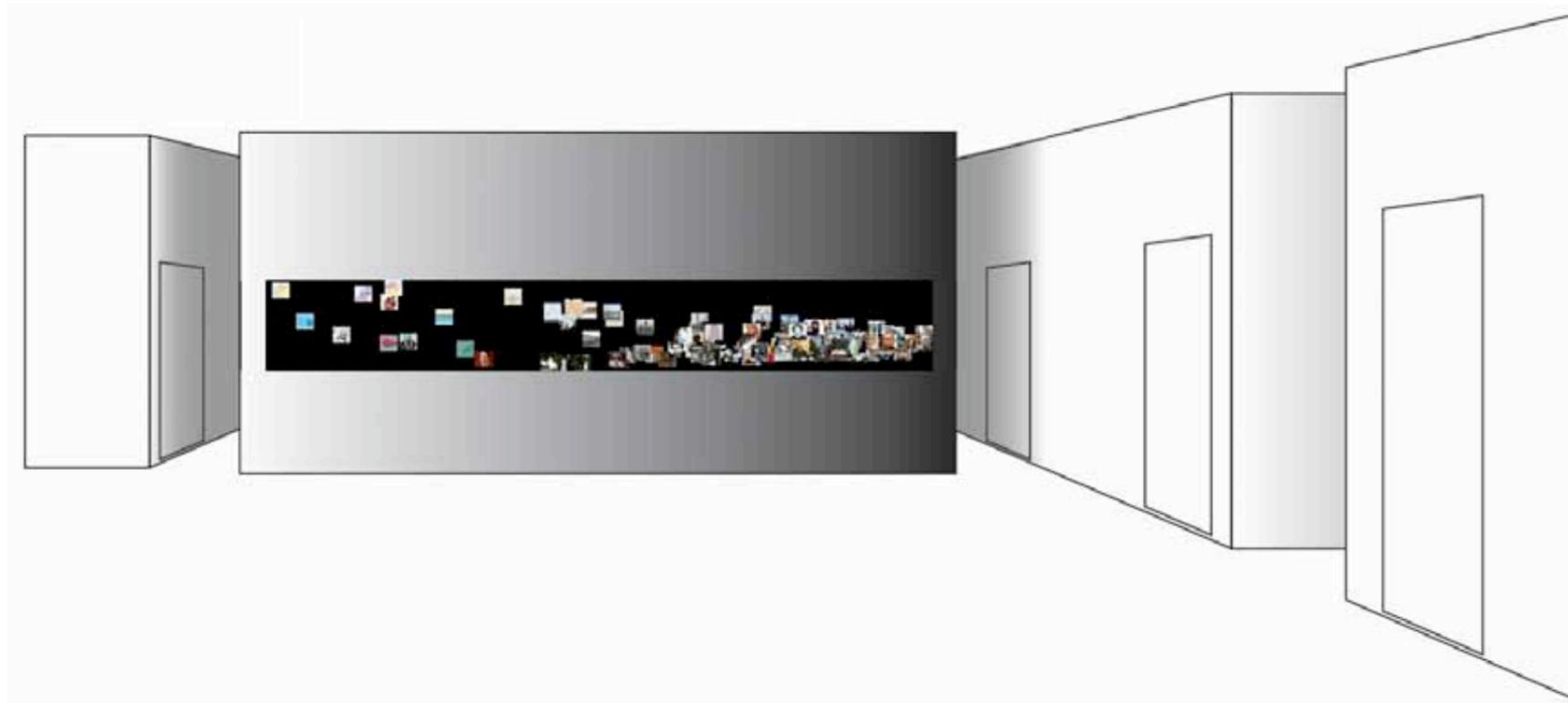


**Interactive Media-installation
City-Hall Middelburg**

Basic considerations for the artwork commissioned by Middelburg's new City Hall

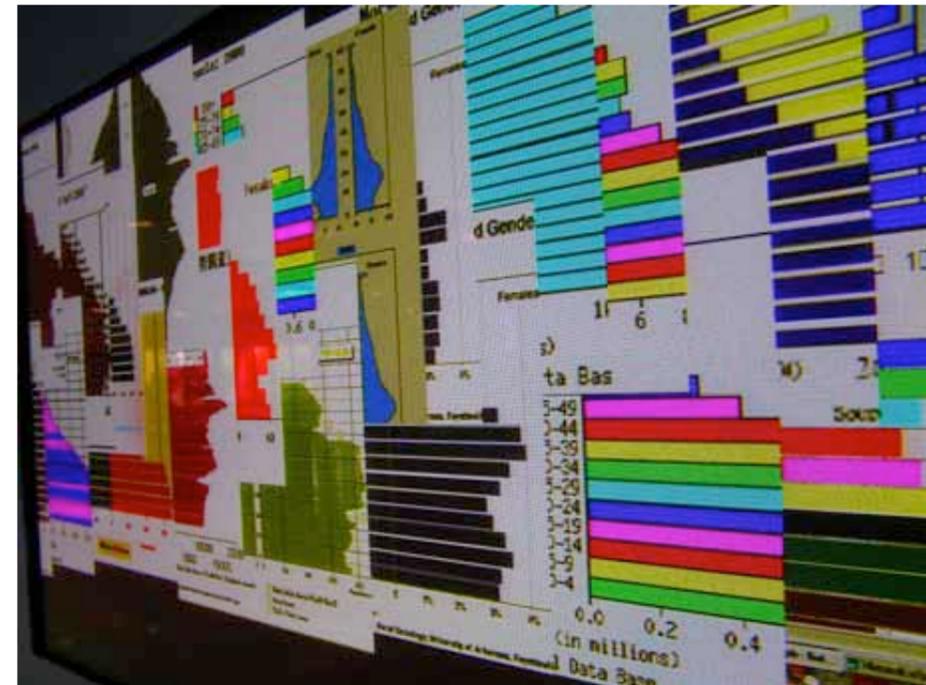
In my view a city hall is a social and informational meeting point. This fact is the basis of my design for this media installation. Personally, I associate city hall with the elementary facts of (city) life: marriage, birth, immigration, moving, death.

There is a certain tension between these personal experiences and the impersonal character of city hall, without which, by the way, it wouldn't be able to function as a social and information node.



How the media installation in Middelburg's new City Hall works

The installation generates image compositions based on images from both a database and from interaction with the surroundings. The installation is connected to the Internet and every day it searches the Internet for images relating to demographic material in general and for images that concern Middelburg in particular. This search is based on pre-defined terms, such as: Middelburg, marriage, birth, portraits, moving, demographics, family, migration.







Geert Mul 2004
Hogeschool voor Economische Studies Rotterdam
Permanent media installation "Split Representation"



In the installation 'Split Representation for the H.E.S. I am applying images from the public domain (television news and commercials). These images represent the current socio-economic situation of the western world and are the basic ingredients for automated visual compositions that are displayed on two transparent video screens.

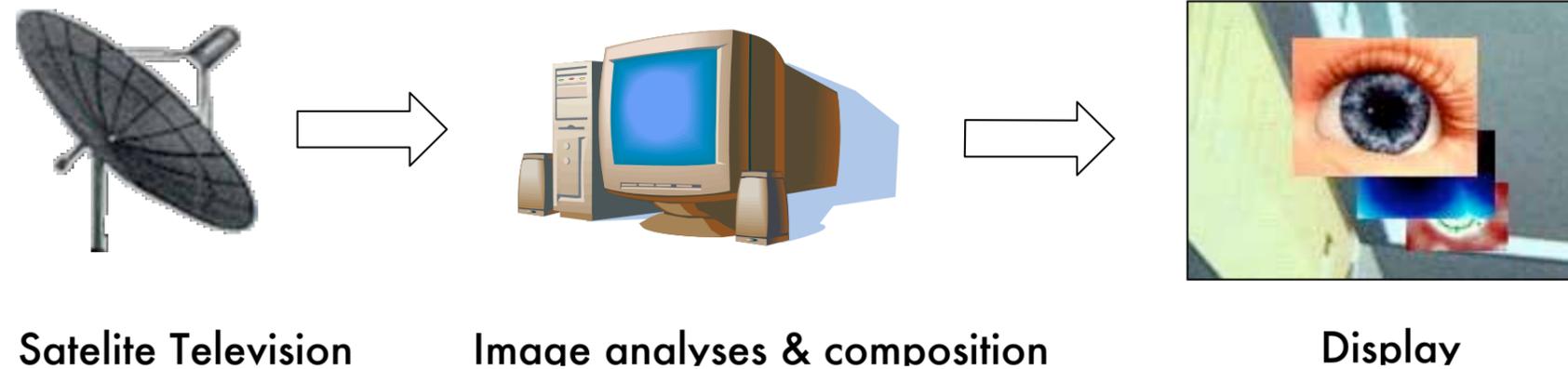
In my installations for public space I try to analyse the different structures that are characteristic for a specific space and integrate them in the installation. I am mainly concerned with three structures:

- Architectural structure
- Social structure
- Informational structure



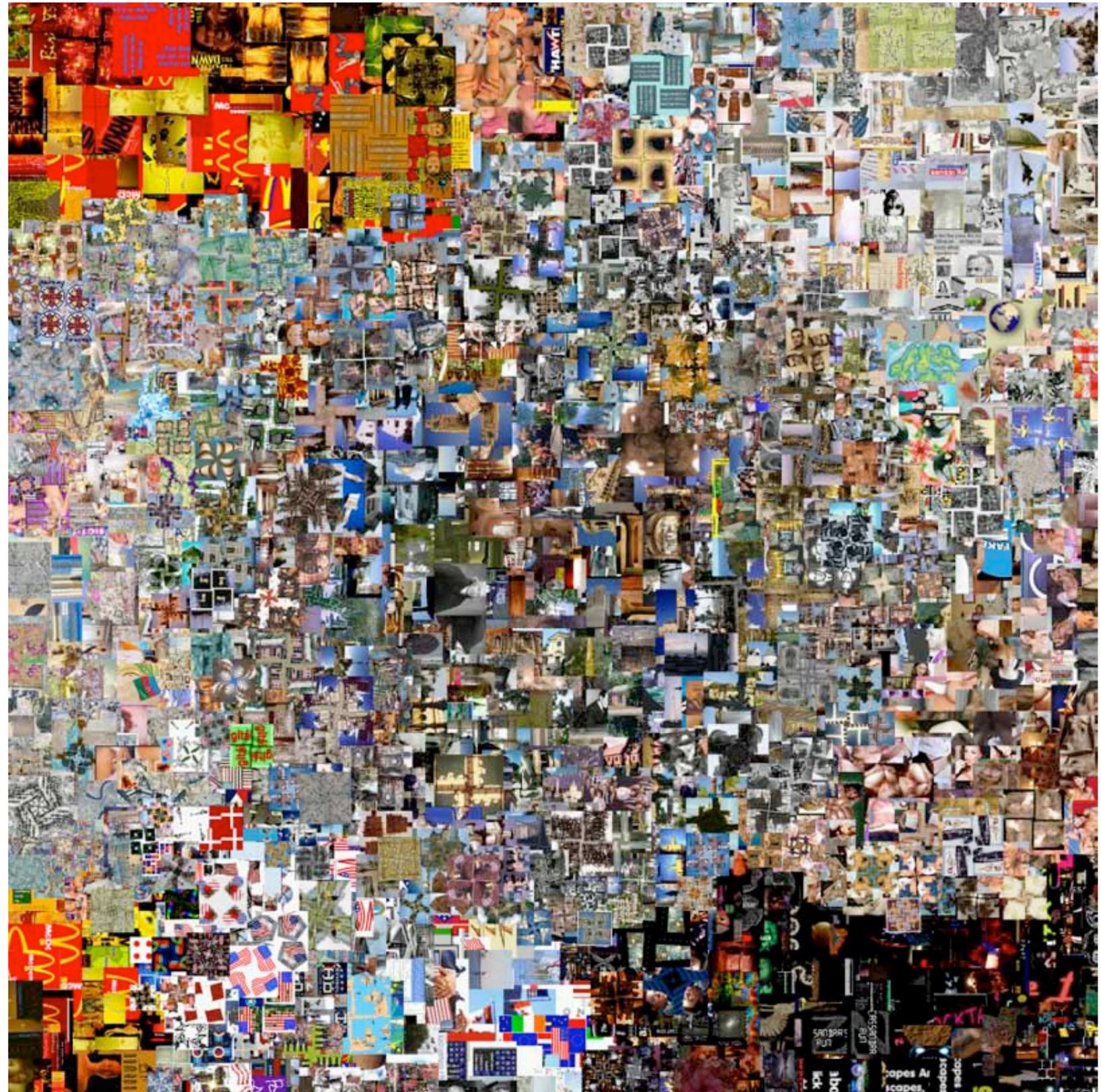
The screens display composite images, constructed with **daily recorded images** from the public domain media: **news images** and **commercials** from about 40 international Satellite Television stations. The installation collects these images from a satellite dish, which is mounted on the roof of the HES building.

The software in the installation compares the images from the **news** with the images from the **commercials**. The image-analyses software looks for images from the two categories which are most alike, having a resemblance or similitude. The software makes daily 1000000.000000 (one billion) comparisons to find the best matches. Matches are displayed when people pass underneath the projection screens.



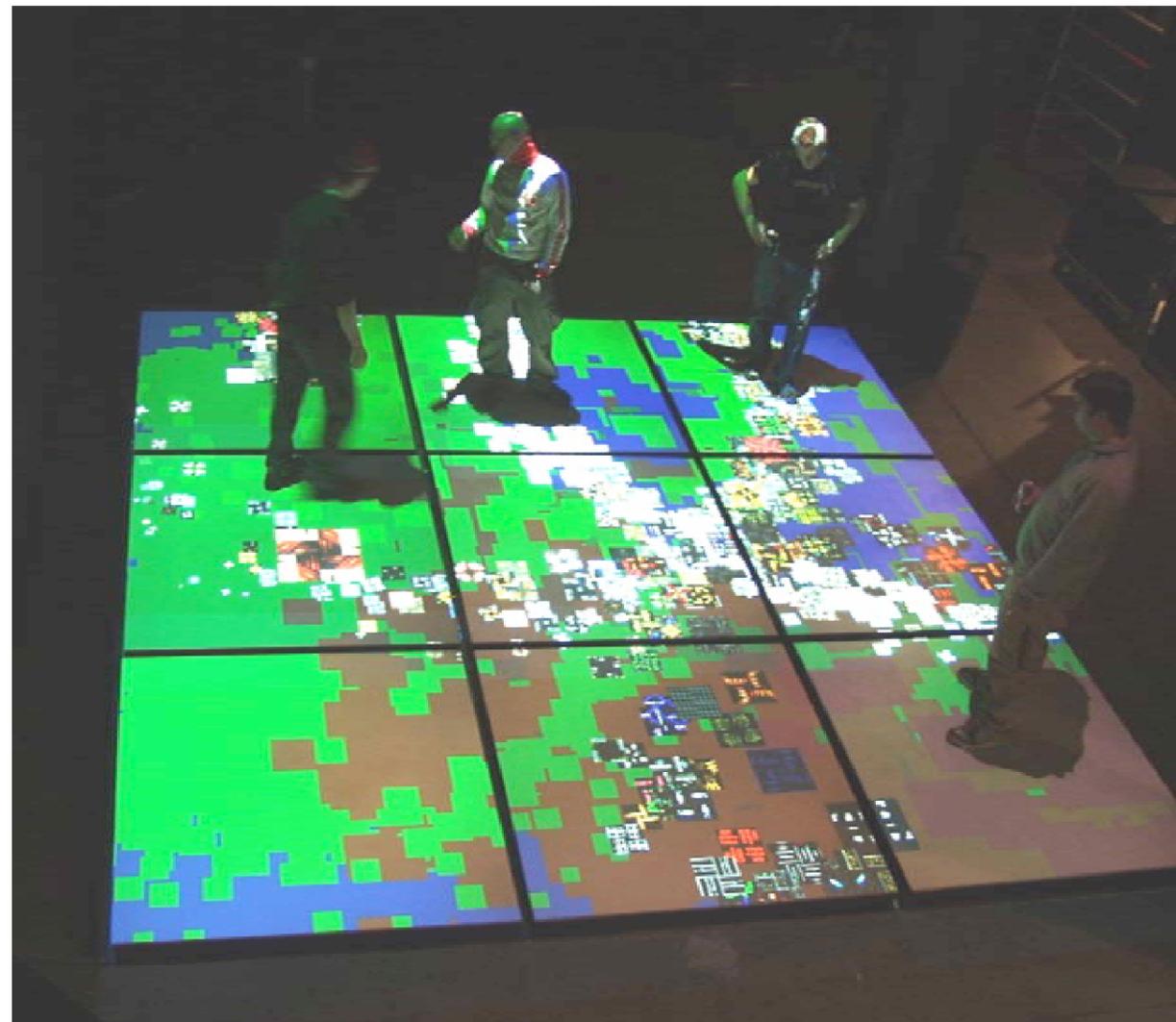


Geert Mul
THE LIBRARY OF BABEL



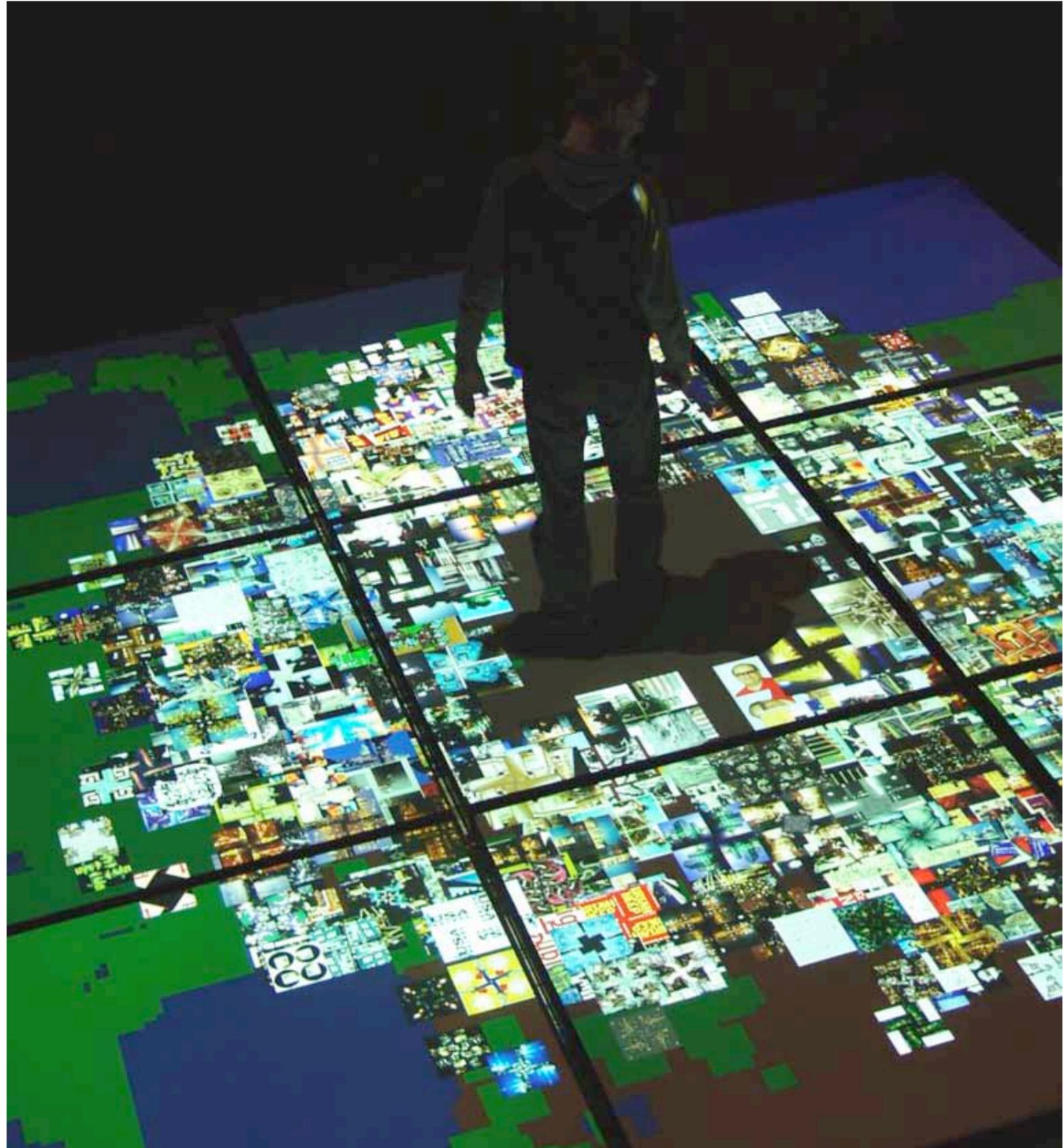
The installation "The Library of Babel" is based on the story of the same title by Jorge Luis Borges, describing an infinite library. The inhabitants of this library have no choice but to try and figure out what the purpose of this infinite collection of information is. They are forced to retrieve (or to make up!) a general ordering principle that may lend sense and direction to this infinite collection.

This interactive installation consists of nine video projection surfaces that together form a floor. Visitors may walk on this floor, activating the video projections. These have various visual and conceptual themes such as landscapes, nudes, portraits, news and business. When (several) people walk the floor, new patterns emerge of thematically and visually structured series of images.

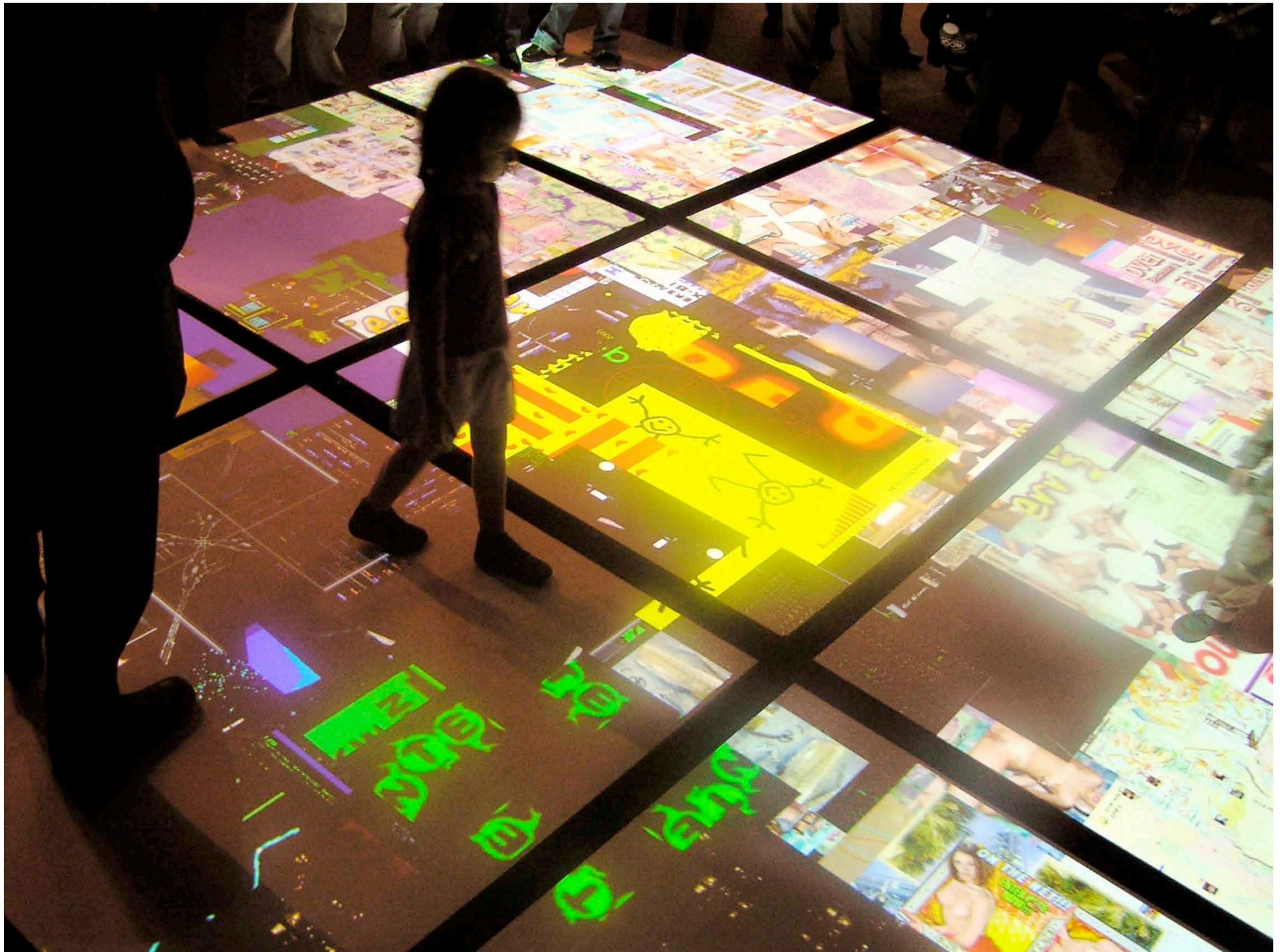


Geert Mul:

“To Borges logic is about beauty, not about truth. Borges tries to interpret the world in its entirety. His product (related to beauty) is a story. He creates a dimension and the reader is free to roam about in it. This last element is what inspired me most: visualizing something that consists of information and creating a dimension for the visitor to roam about in.”







Geert Mul

"SORTED" Rotterdam, June 2003

Generative video/computer projection of sorted portraits at the Theatre Square

Cineboards 2003, Foundation Picos de Europa

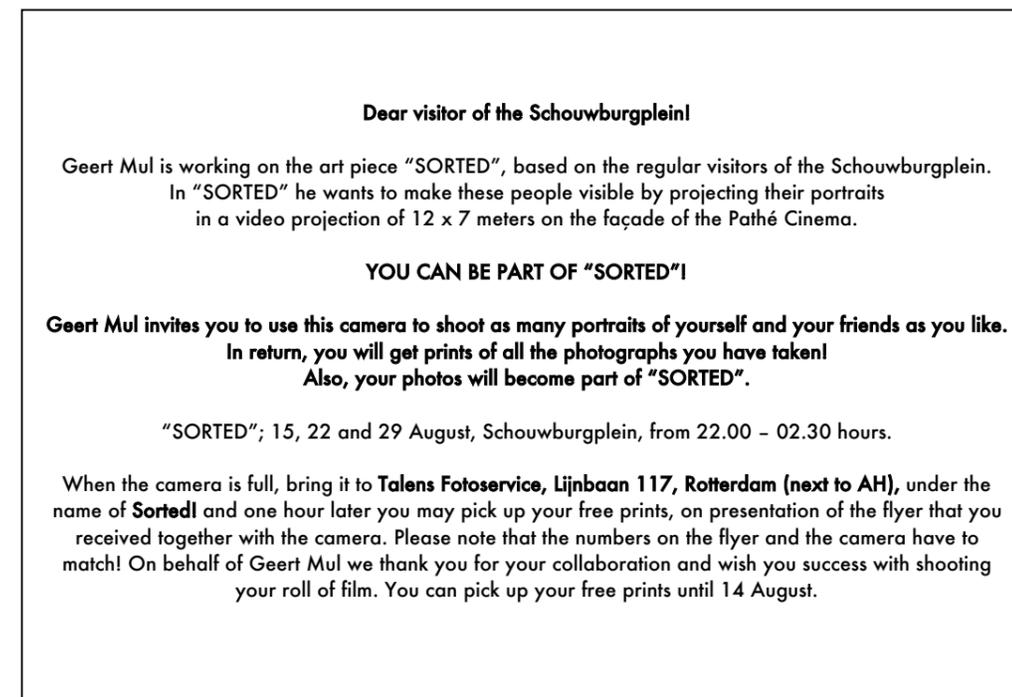
The works I create for the public space are attempts to analyze the environment and to visualize elements in it that would otherwise remain concealed.

The Theatre Square (Schouwburgplein) has literally been constructed as a platform, a stage. With this particular installation I gave the 'actors' (Skaters, breakers, theatre and film audiences, homeless people) the chance to introduce themselves to the public at large.

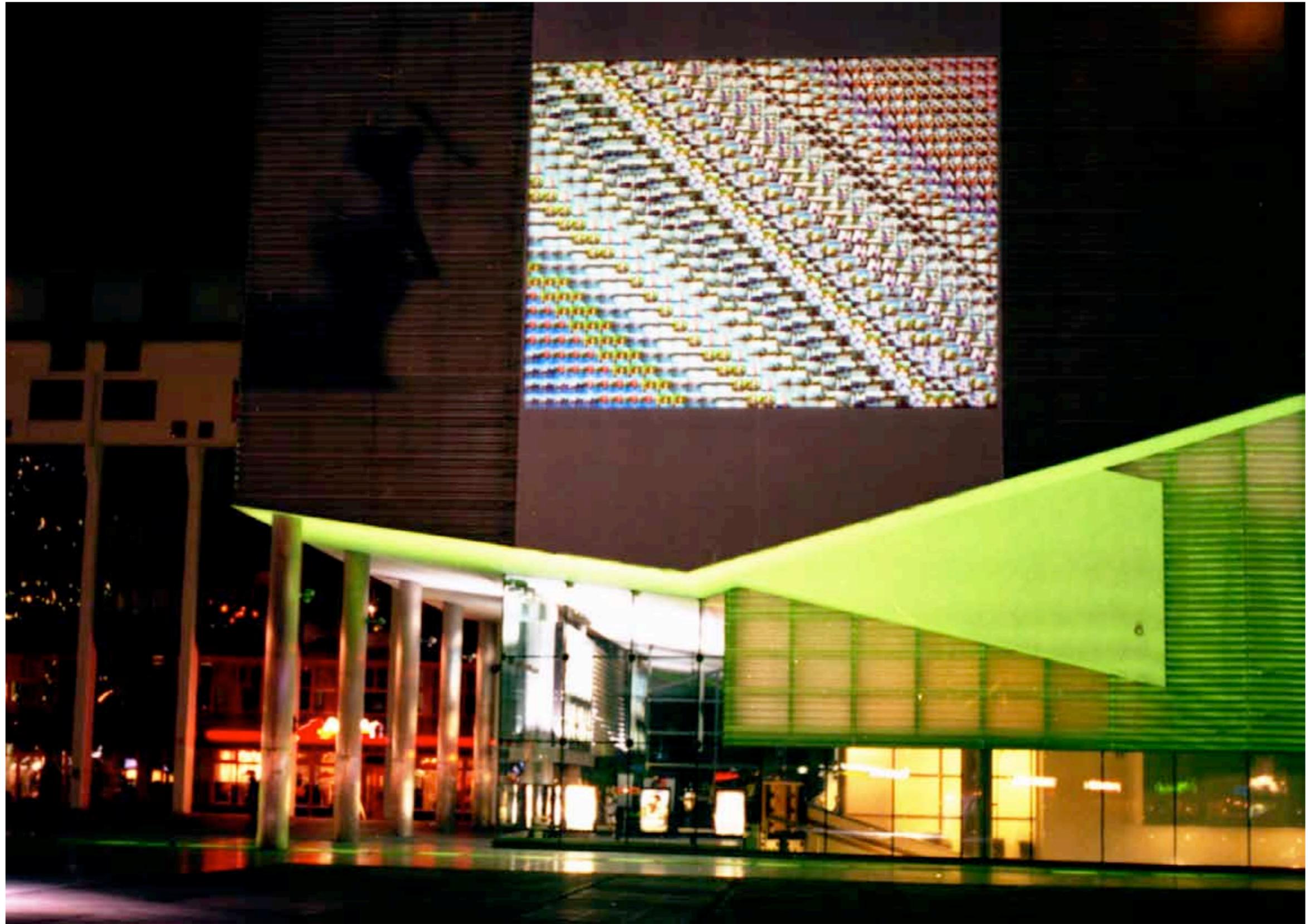
Disposable cameras were distributed among the regular visitors and users of the square.. These people were challenged to photograph themselves and their 'group' and then give the cameras back. The negatives were scanned and then analyzed by my software, taking into account contrast, brightness, colour, structure and form. Based on this information the photographs were ordered and sorted. The projection at the square consisted of ordered and structured series of photographs of the users and 'inhabitants' of the square.



front flyer

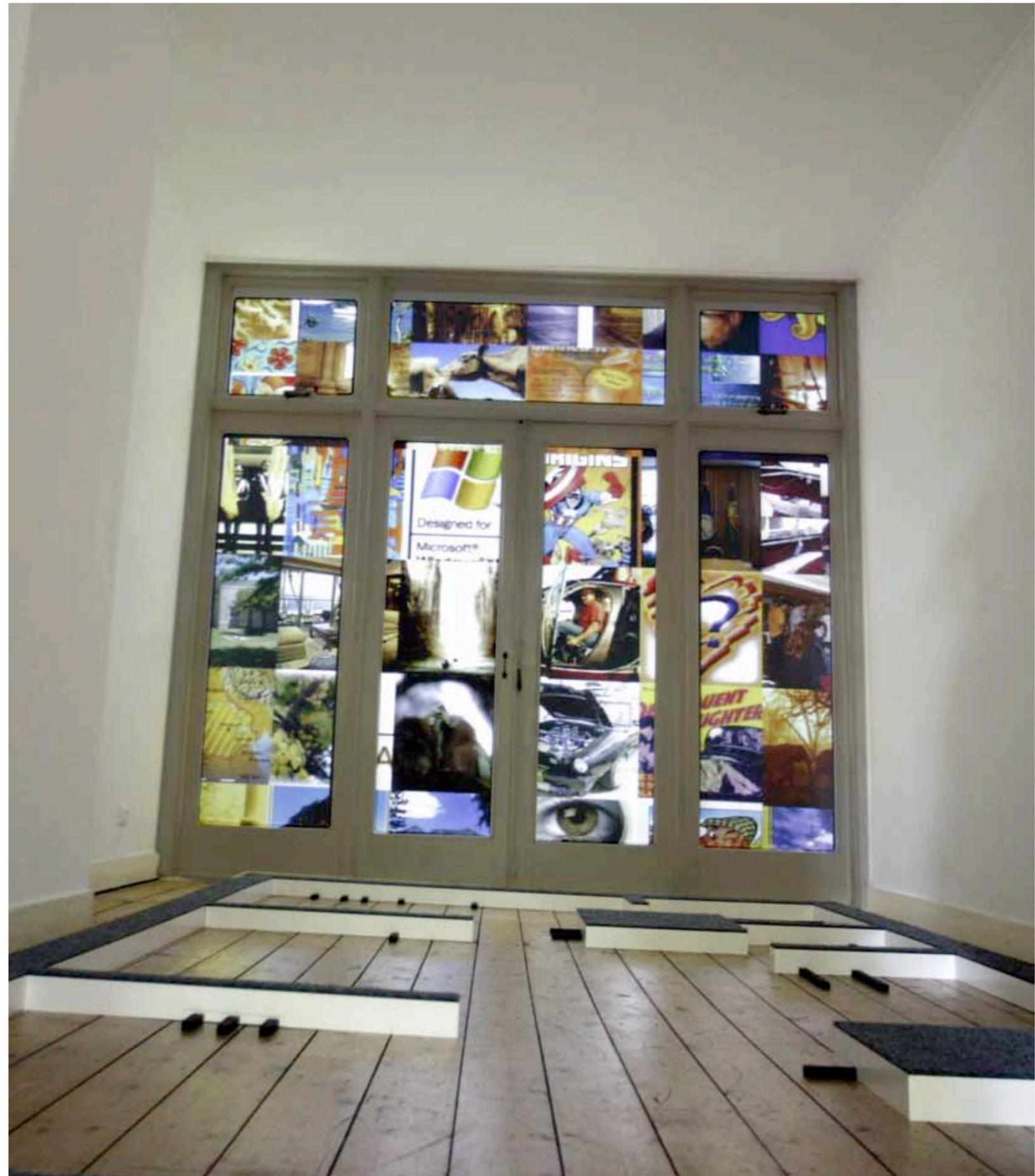


back flyer



September 2003
RONMANDOS Gallery
Data_Architecture

Computer installation "FACTS"

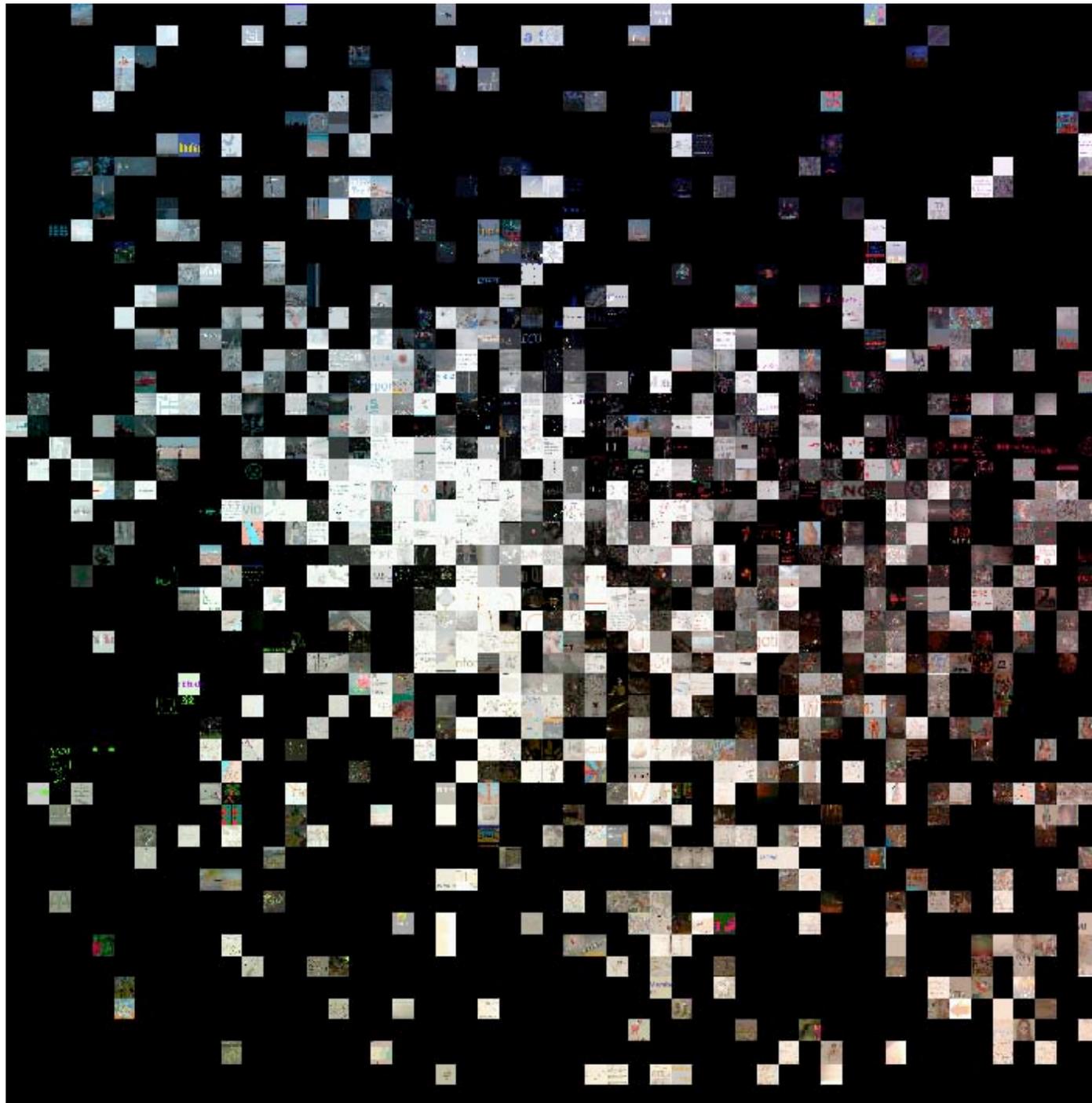


September 2003
RONMANDOS Gallery
Data_Architecture

Pigment prints

- Noise 2
- Tales from the Orient



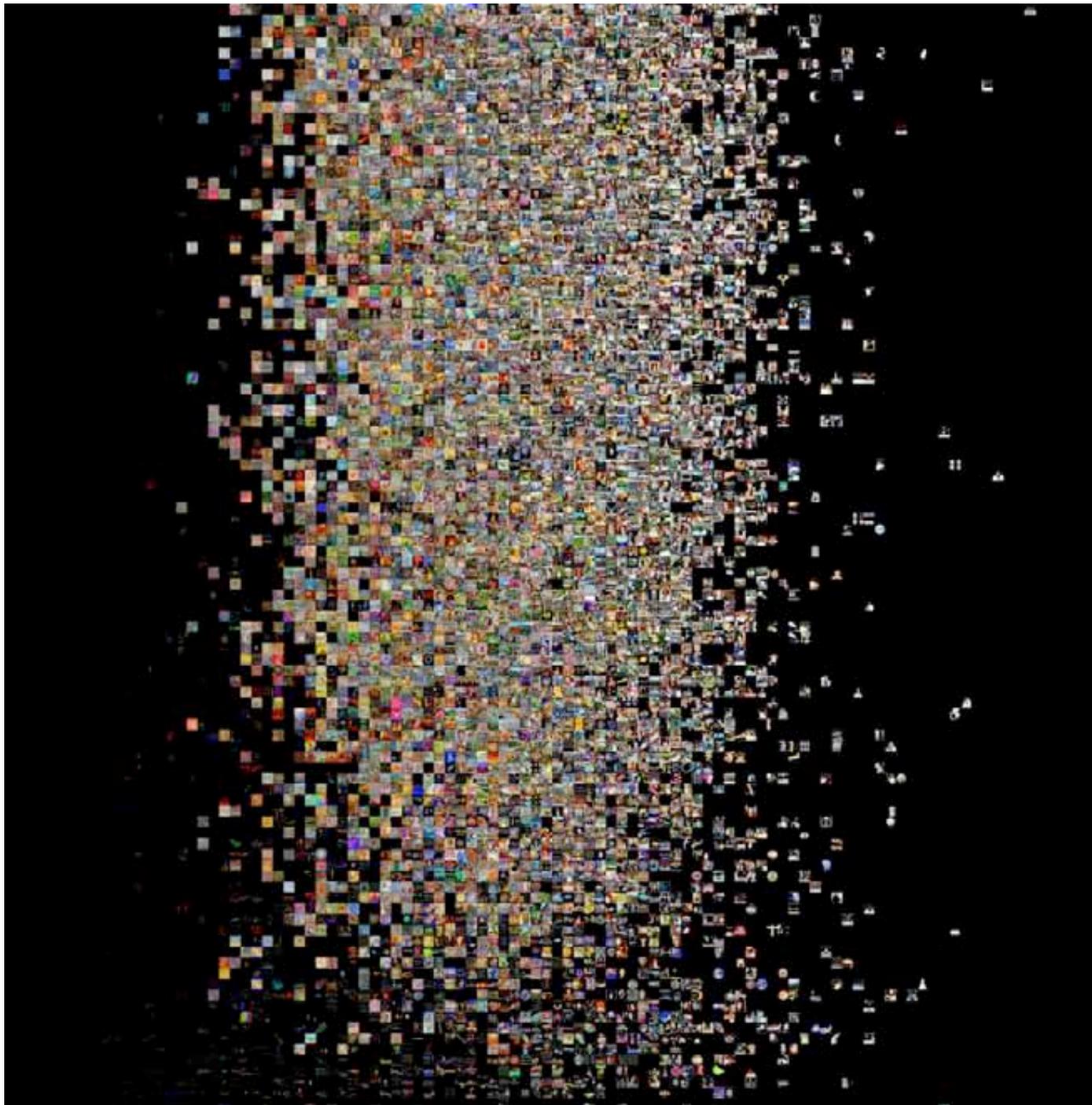


Clues to the origine of Life

Geert Mul 2004

Pigmented ink print on paper
1.10 x 1.10 cm

Courtesy
RONMANDOS Gallery



SPLASH

Geert Mul 2003

Pigmented ink print on paper

1.10 x 1.10 cm

Courtesy
RONMANDOS Gallery

EXPOSE

Interactive video wall
Technical University Eindhoven
2001-2003

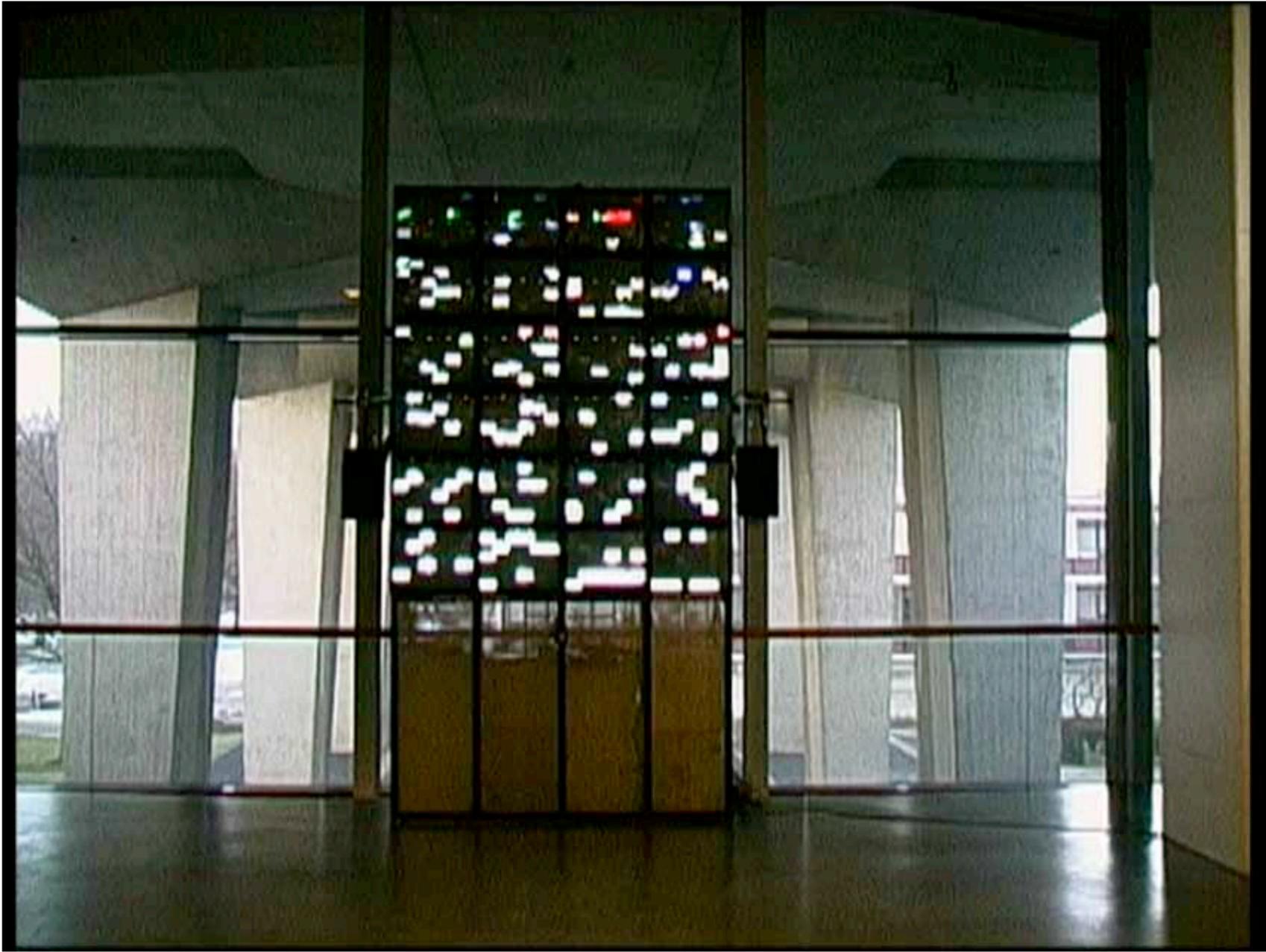
The interactive installation "EXPOSE", dares students of the Technical University to manifest themselves in the public space. Students are invited to send their own movies and pictures to a video-wall that is placed in the hall of the main university building. The students can send their pictures using the project web site:
WWW.TUE.NL/EXPOSE.

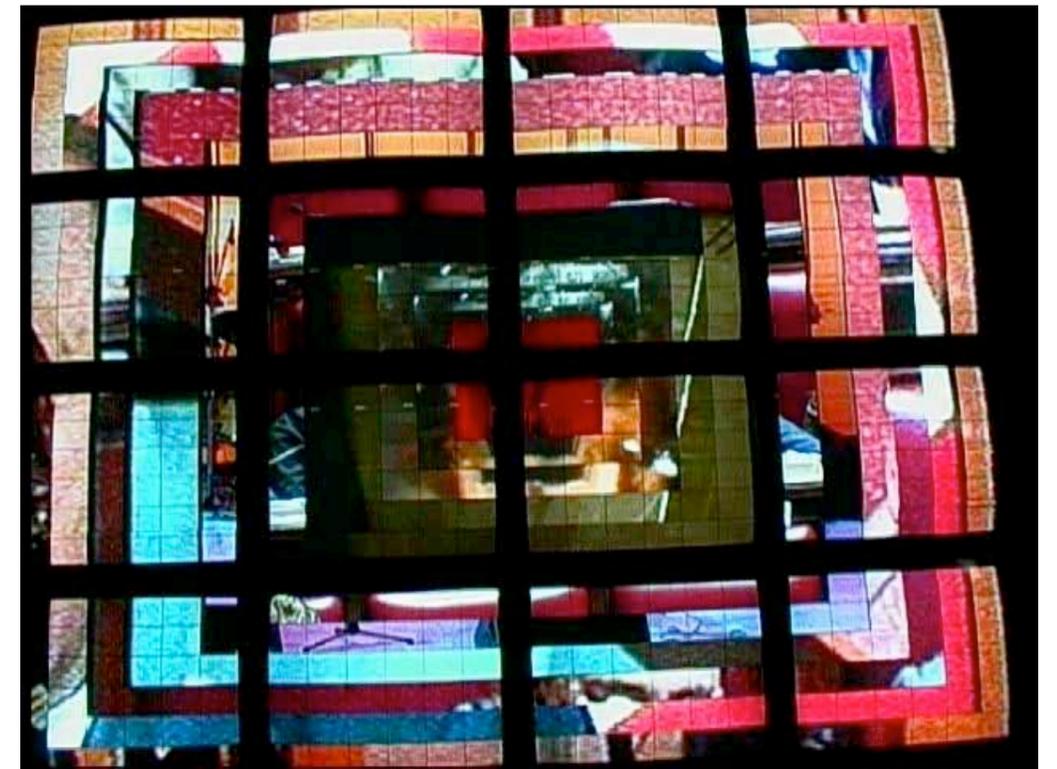
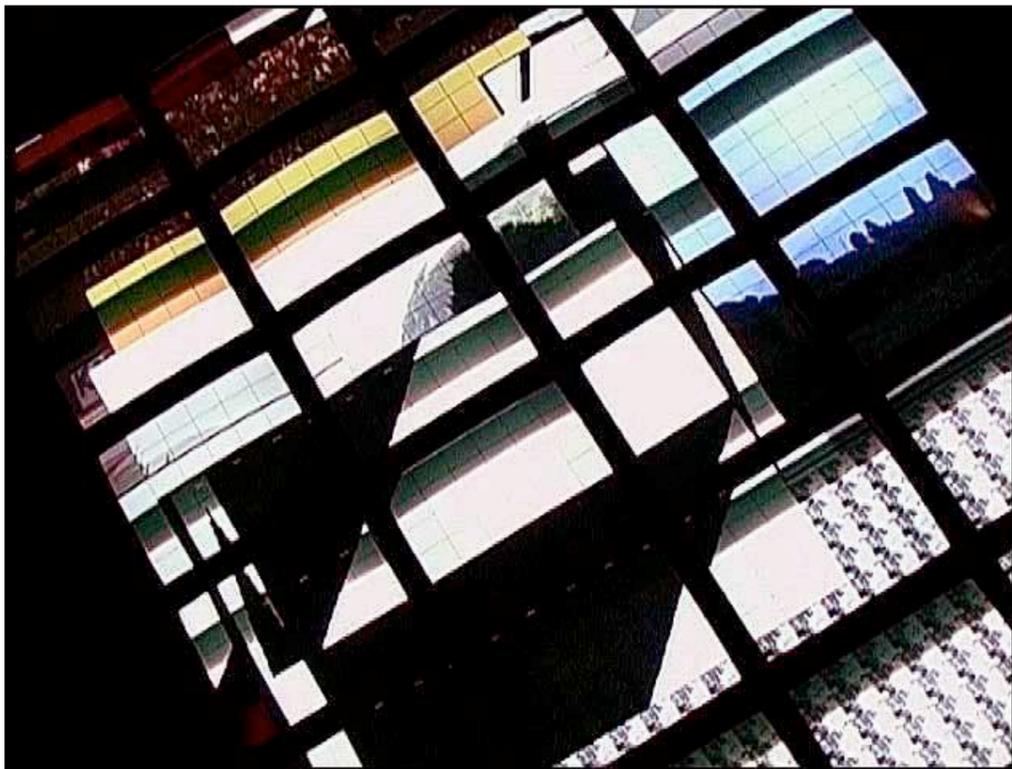
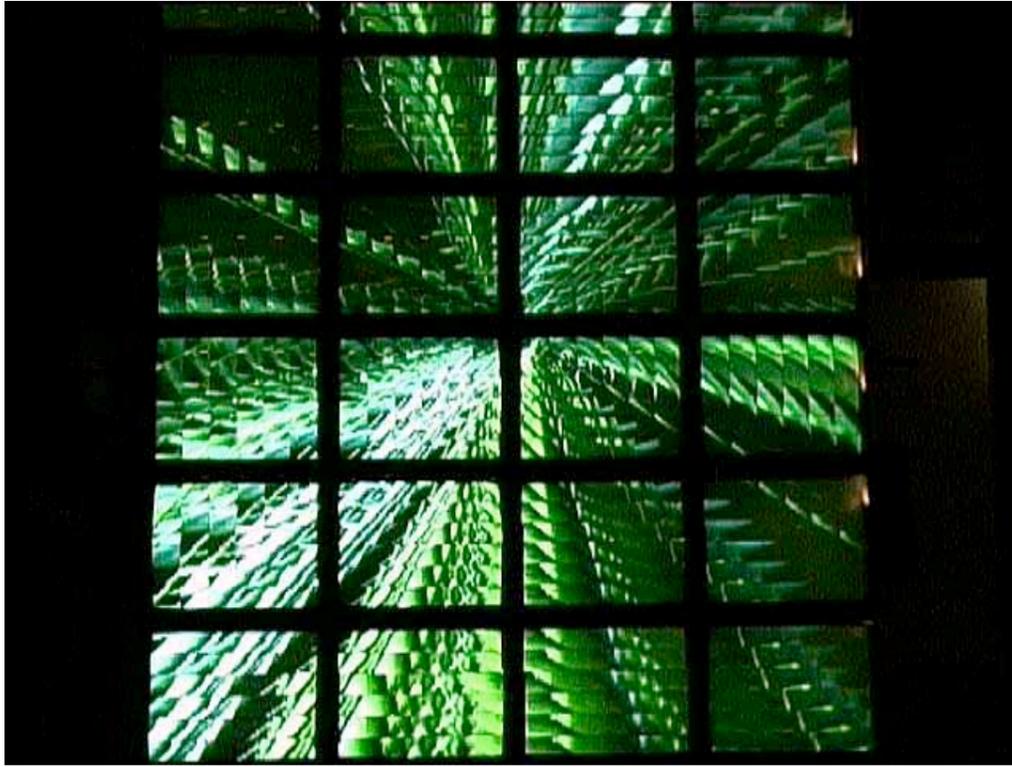
The software of the EXPOSE-installation, analyses the basic visual properties (colour, structure and luminosity) of the students movies and pictures. It then arranges the imagery on the video wall according to its visual property's. This results in an ever-changing moving collage consisting of the imagery sent by the t.u.e. students and reflecting the world they live in.

Visitors and students of the TUE can manipulate both images and sound by moving in the vicinity of the video-wall. Each step they take is picked up by a sensor and sent to the main computer. Doing so, they literally walk through the material of the interactive database.



www.tue.nl/expose



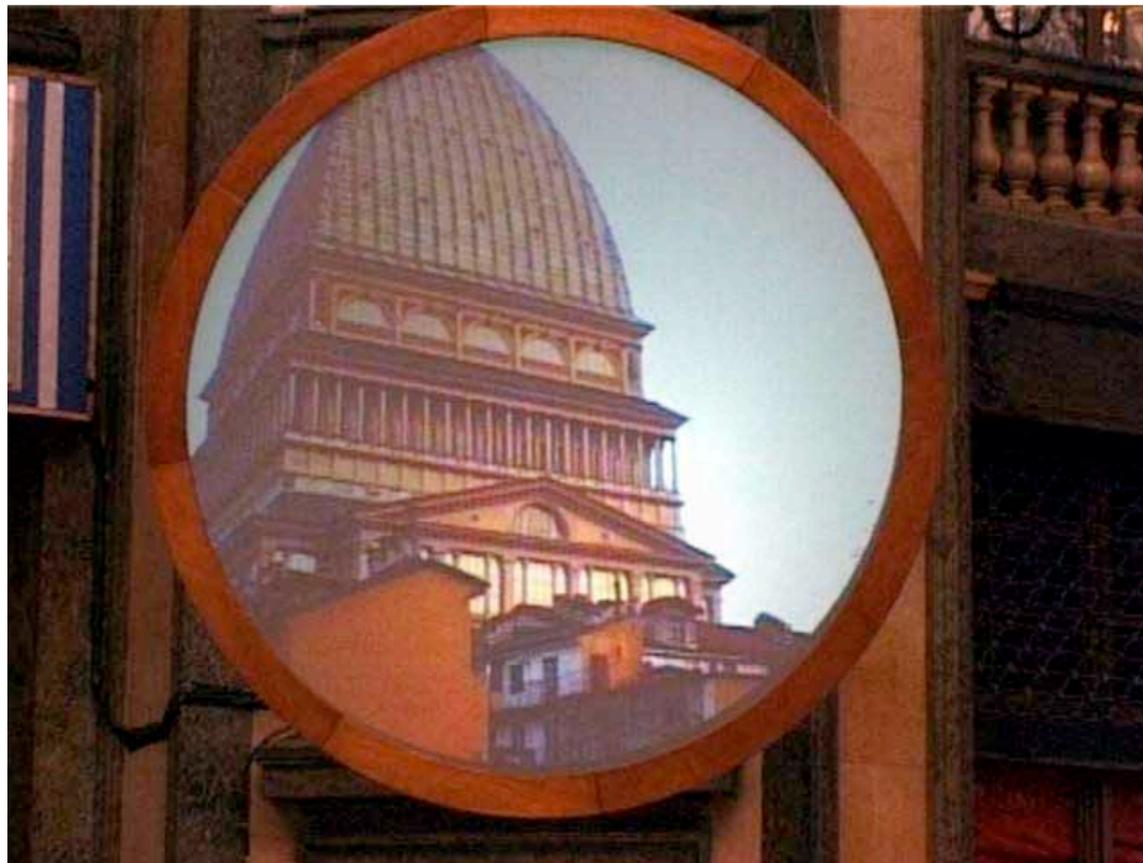
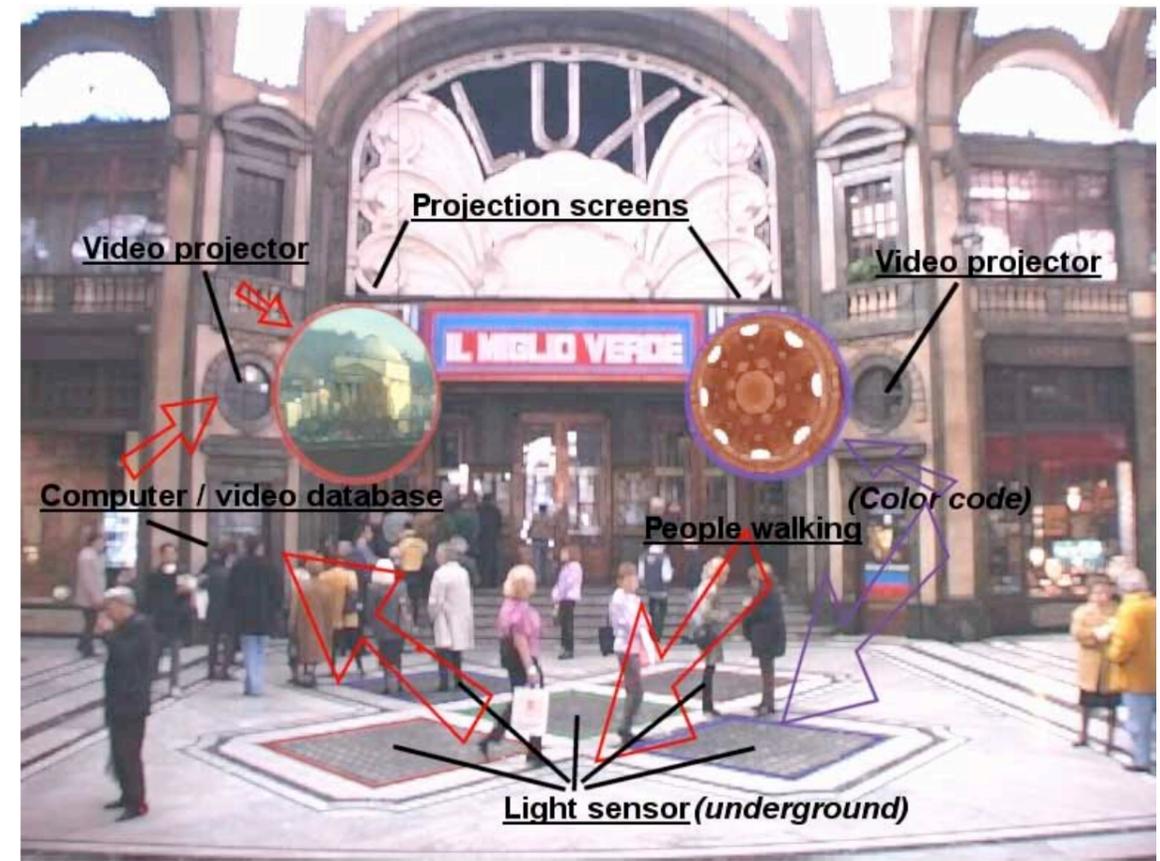


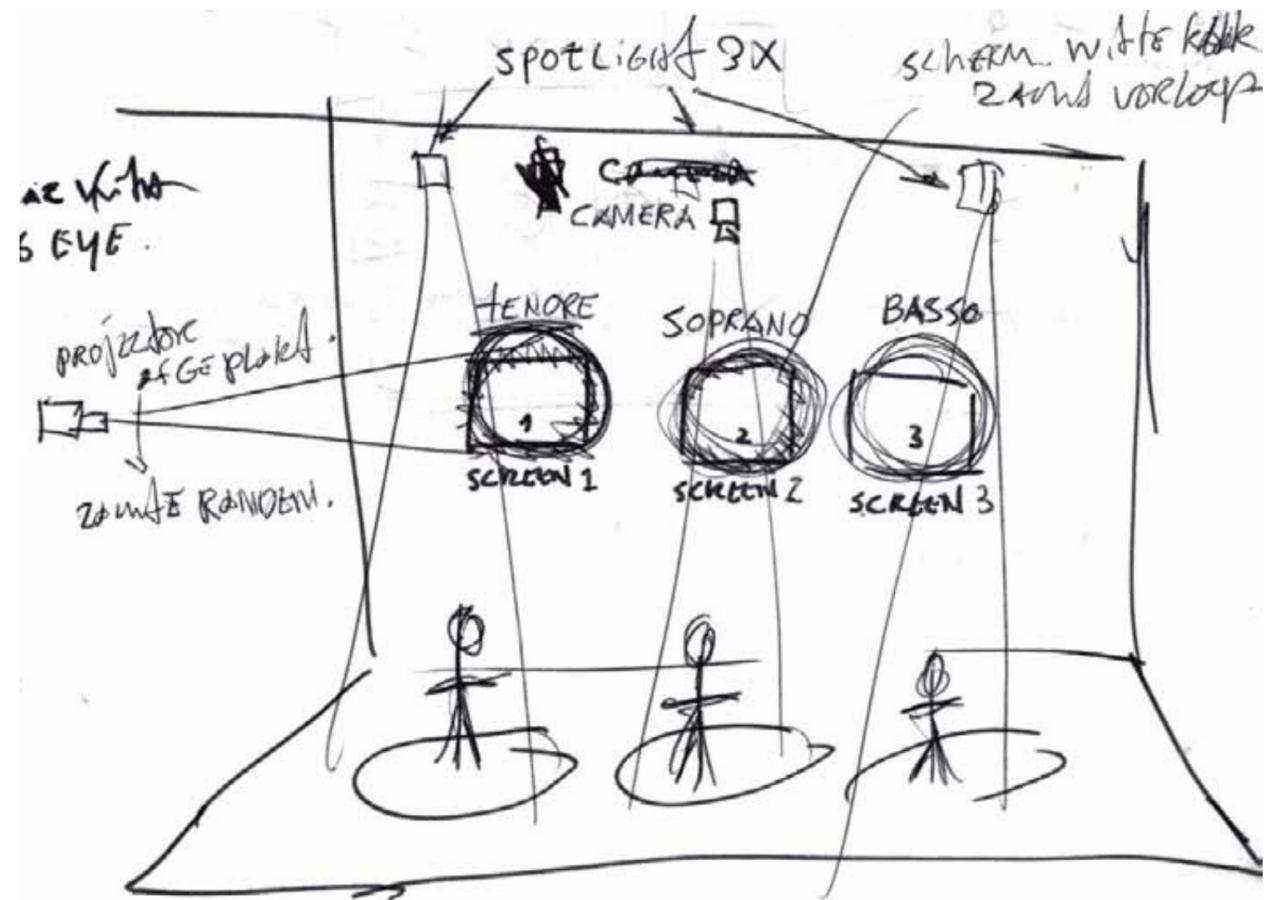
Generating Torino

The interactive installation **Generating Torino** displayed images of Turin when activated by the public of Galleria 'San Federico' at Turin . Both coincidence and interaction were used as parameters to generate a dual screen 'movie'. The work consisted of hundreds of video scenes of Turin to generate ever-changing sequences of video scenes. This video material was filmed by Geert Mul and Mul invited school children of Turin in the age of 10 to 12 years to film their vision of the city. In the public space three fields were created containing motion sensors. The movement of the public in these areas determined the theme and the duration of the video scenes that were shown.

The installation uses the 'Epic Generator' software created by Geert Mul and V2_Lab





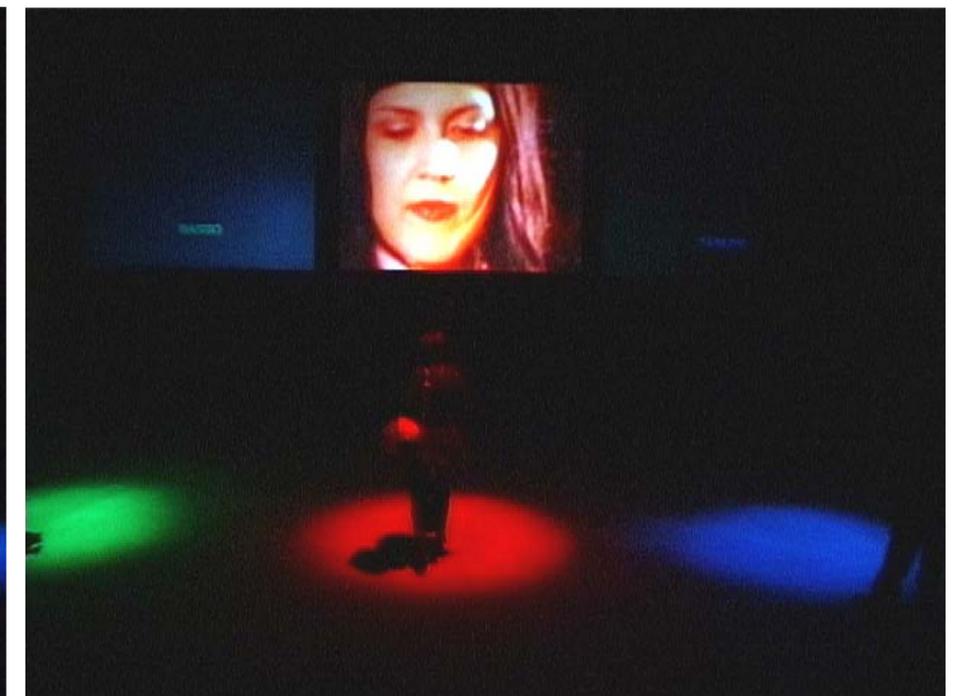


Bellini V_01

Interactive installation
Catania, Sicily 2001

Installation with 3 tracks in sounds and images.
(tenore, soprano, basso)

MAPPE 2001 festival in honour of Bellini. (Catania
1801- Paris 1835)





Generating Live

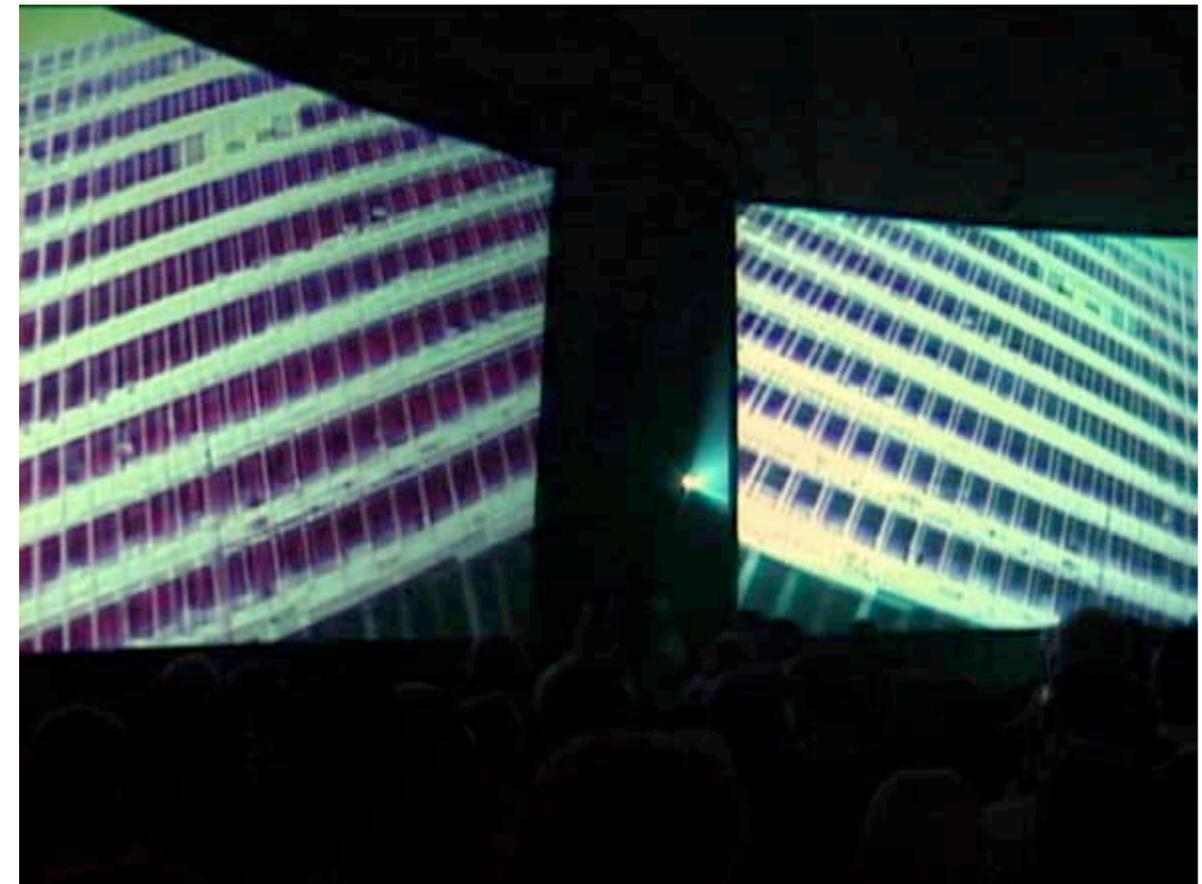
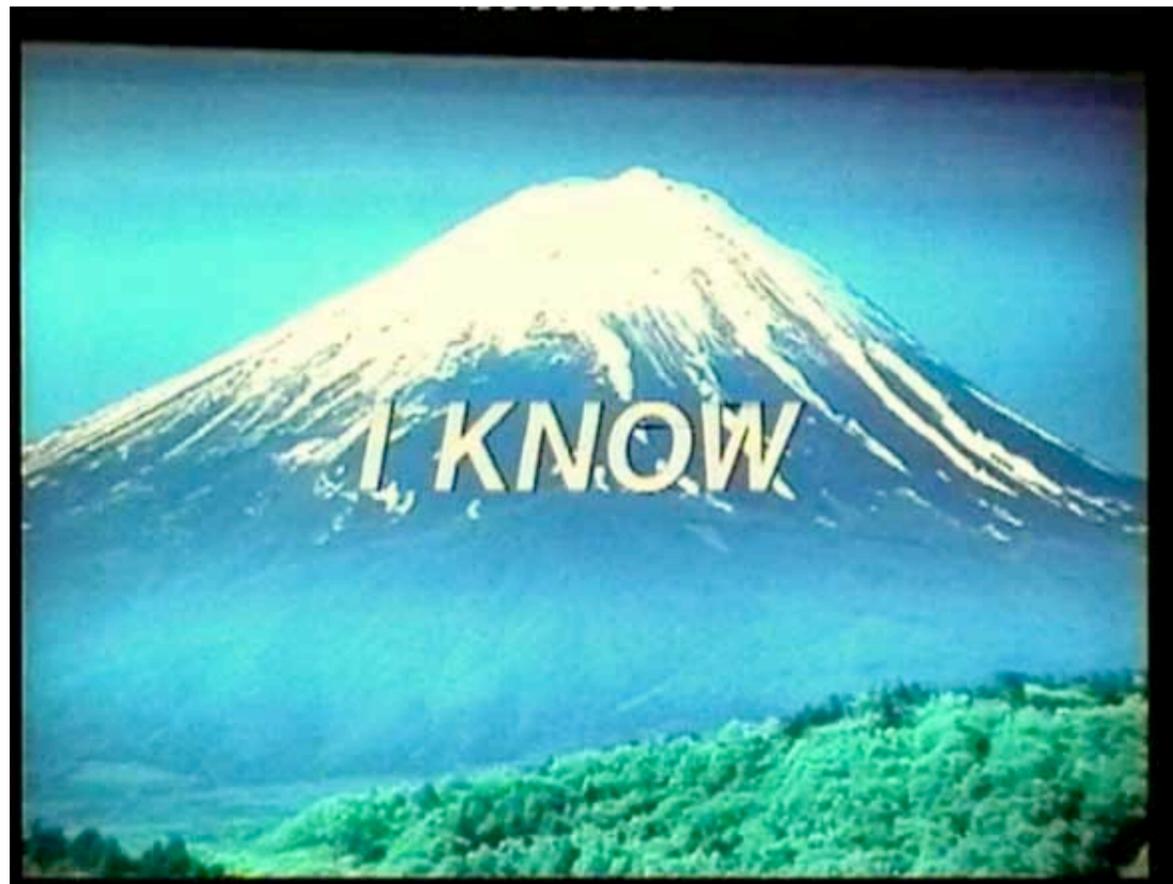
Generating
cinematographic
environment.

Vleeshal Middelburg 2000
MU Eindhoven 2001

Featuring:
Speedy J.: sound
Koot: text animations
Lucas van der Velden:
midi and sound
programming

Generating Live is an installation using elements of film, music and club culture. The elements of the installation are video, text/graphics, music and light. These are stored in a computer database and combined in ever changing combinations. These are not completely at random, but assembled within the limits of a script, which determines the general structure of the installation.

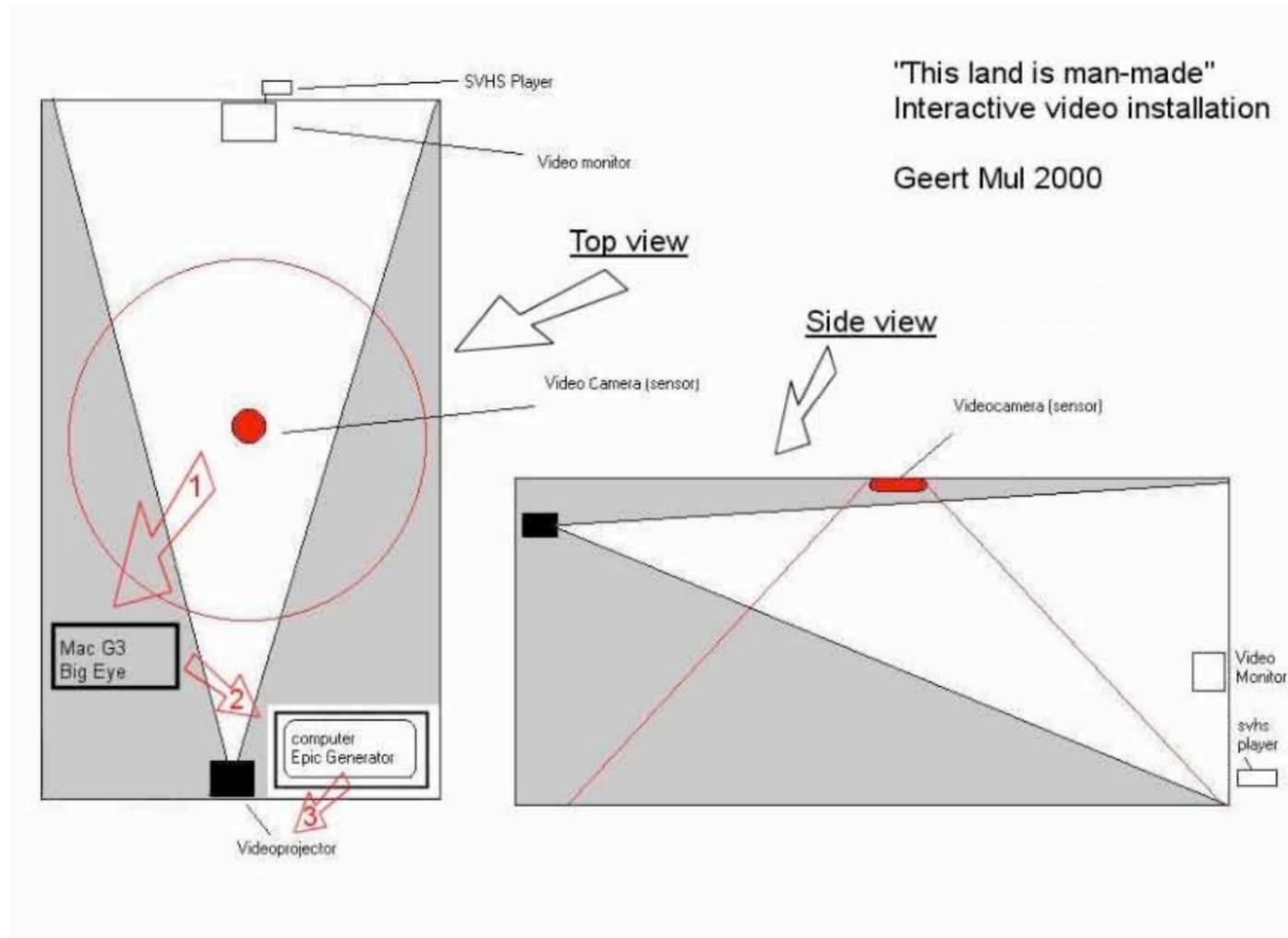
Geert Mul invited Koot, Jochem Paap and Lucas van der Velden to contribute to the installation. They are all specialists within their own fields. Koot has been working in various video and media productions in the pop/club scene and with Diesel fashion. Jochem Paap established an international reputation in the music scene as 'Speedy J.' And Lucas van der Velden, specialising in audio (Max) programming, has worked in several media and Internet productions.



This land is man-made
Interactive video installation

Witte de With, Rotterdam 2000
'Scripted Spaces'

National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
STILL/MOVING Contemporary Photography, Film and
Video from the Netherlands. 2000



This land is man-made

I'm in a car
looking outside through the window
outside is 'polder'.
a flat landscape
consisting of green
brown
purple
red
yellow
orange
and pink
rectangles

This is Holland all right
I have not seen this landscape for two years
I've seen the most baroque landscapes you can imagine
volcanoes, lakes, forests, mountains and deserts

Landscapes that were so self-evident
they made me feel I wasn't

But this is very different
no traces of ancient history
this all is man-made
only the sky refers to powers greater than mankind
this feels good
I'm crying

I'm walking the dog
the sky is ink black
the stars are cold
and indifferent
when I move, they remain
they look the same
as two days ago
when I looked up
in Singapore

But now I'm here
and you are dead
even the dog is sad
but the stars remain the same





Geert Mul & Speedy J. 'Harbour Sound & Vision' Maritime Museum Rotterdam

Speedy J & Geert Mul
Harbour Sound & Vision
 Maritime Museum Rotterdam
 1999



Liquid Media & Geert Mul
LOWLANDS 1999
 Stage design, video design, stage programming
 1999



Dangereuses Visions
Collaboration with Eric Sleichim (composer),
Performed by Blindman, Orchestre National de Lille.
Lille, Maubeuge, Paris 2000



Dance group Kriztina de Chatel: DYNAMIX
Art director & interactive video design
Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Den Haag 2000



City At Night

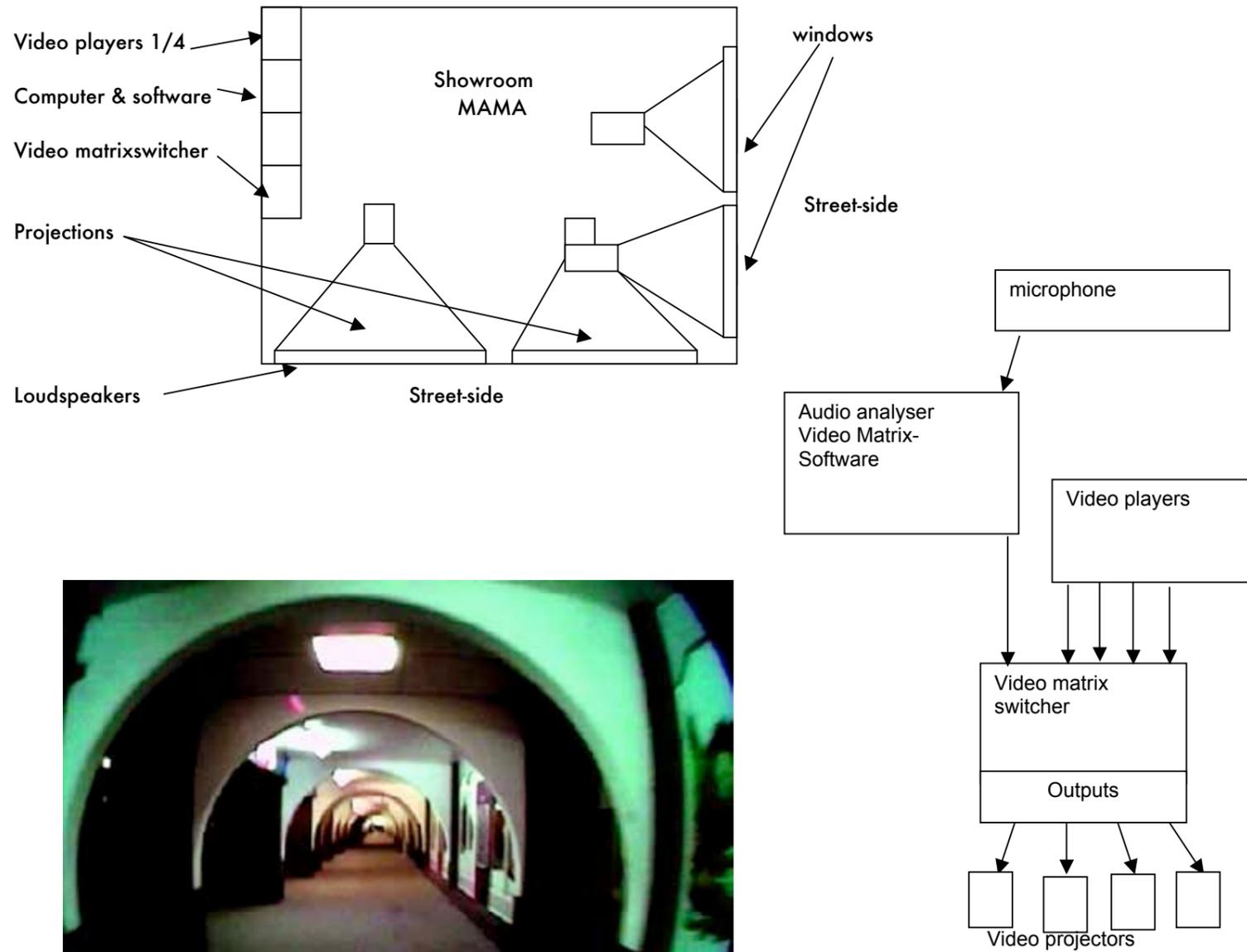
Interactive installation
1998

City at Night is an interactive multi screen video installation. The title 'City at Night' should be taken both literally as all video images have been shot at night in Rotterdam, but also metaphorically as the dreaming city, a structure of random and subjective impressions.



Specs:

- 4 computer controlled video projections
- 1 audio sensor
- 1 computer controlled video matrix switcher
- 4 video projectors
- 4 video monitors
- 4 video s-vhs players
- 4 loudspeakers



The 'narrative' in City at Night arises from varying combinations of scenes, which have been recorded at night in a number of metropolitan cities. These combinations are influenced by impulses from the city. Depending on the location these can be sounds, movements or any other condition.

"City at Night is a self-generating 'film'. The generated sounds and the flow of images can be regarded as an analogy to a 'dreaming city'. As in dreams, images and sounds are combined based on criteria that we have only limited knowledge of and little control over. In this way combinations of images are formed that are not normally seen or conceived. Images from the city's underground but also from the Hilton Hotel, portraits and cityscapes. These images find each other in a non-linear movie, which is never the same. Many stories intertwine, but the plot never thickens..."

