

Portfolio Julien Thomas

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[Artist Portrait](#) (*DordtYart Residency 2018*)

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[Perception Design Studio](#) (*website*)

[Perception Design Studio: Onzicht](#) (*registration*)

[Perception Design Studio: Refraction Table](#) (*registration*)

[Conversation Balance](#) (*performance documentation*)

[Ondergronds](#) (*website*)

[Faraday Cafe](#) (*media documentation*)

[Grave Digging](#) (*registration*)

[Late Nite Art](#) (*promotional film*)

Tijdgever (2021, under development)

Materials Cold rolled steel, birch plywood
Technique Performance installation

Tijdgever is a series of objects that accompany the *Timescapes* installation with a contrasting exploration of time as embodied in syncopation and rhythm.

The rings act as a poly-rhythmic metronome for a performance piece developed in collaboration with dancer and choreographer Marjolein Vogels. The piece will be presented in the Dordrechts Museum during its retrospective of Albert Cuyp in the Spring of 2021.



[Link](#) to video documentation

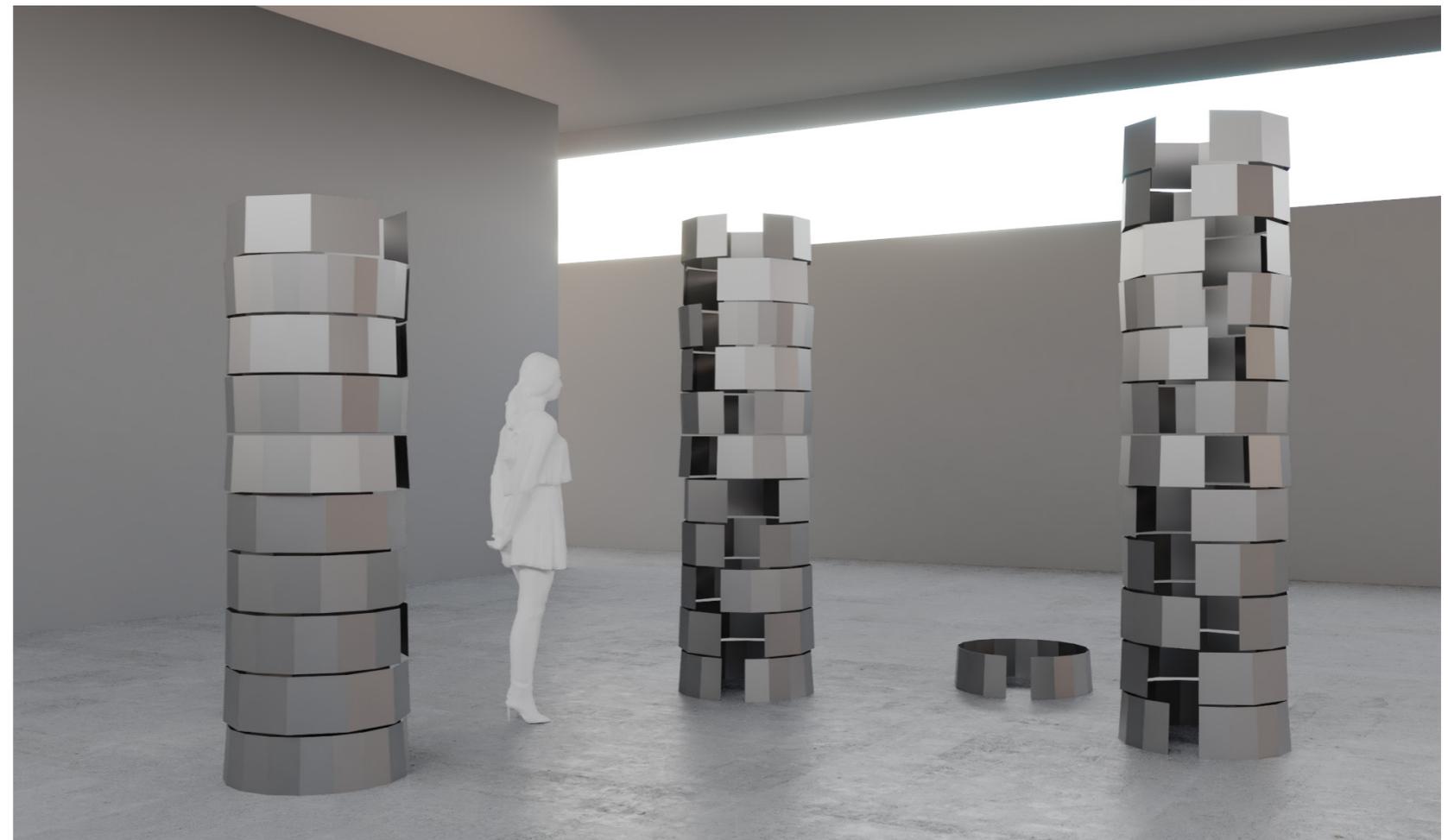
Wax/Wane (2021, under development)

Materials Cold rolled steel
Technique Installation

Wax/Wane is a series of objects that relate geological and human time scales. The objects reference eroded classical columns: stone - created through a process of geological time - is placed one piece atop another by human hands, and carved to create a sense of uniformity. Over centuries the columns have eroded to belie their human-given attributes, returning to a semblance of geological time. *Wax/Wane* references this malleability of materials, and offers a perspective on the intertwining dynamics of human care/neglect and natural decay.



Reference image



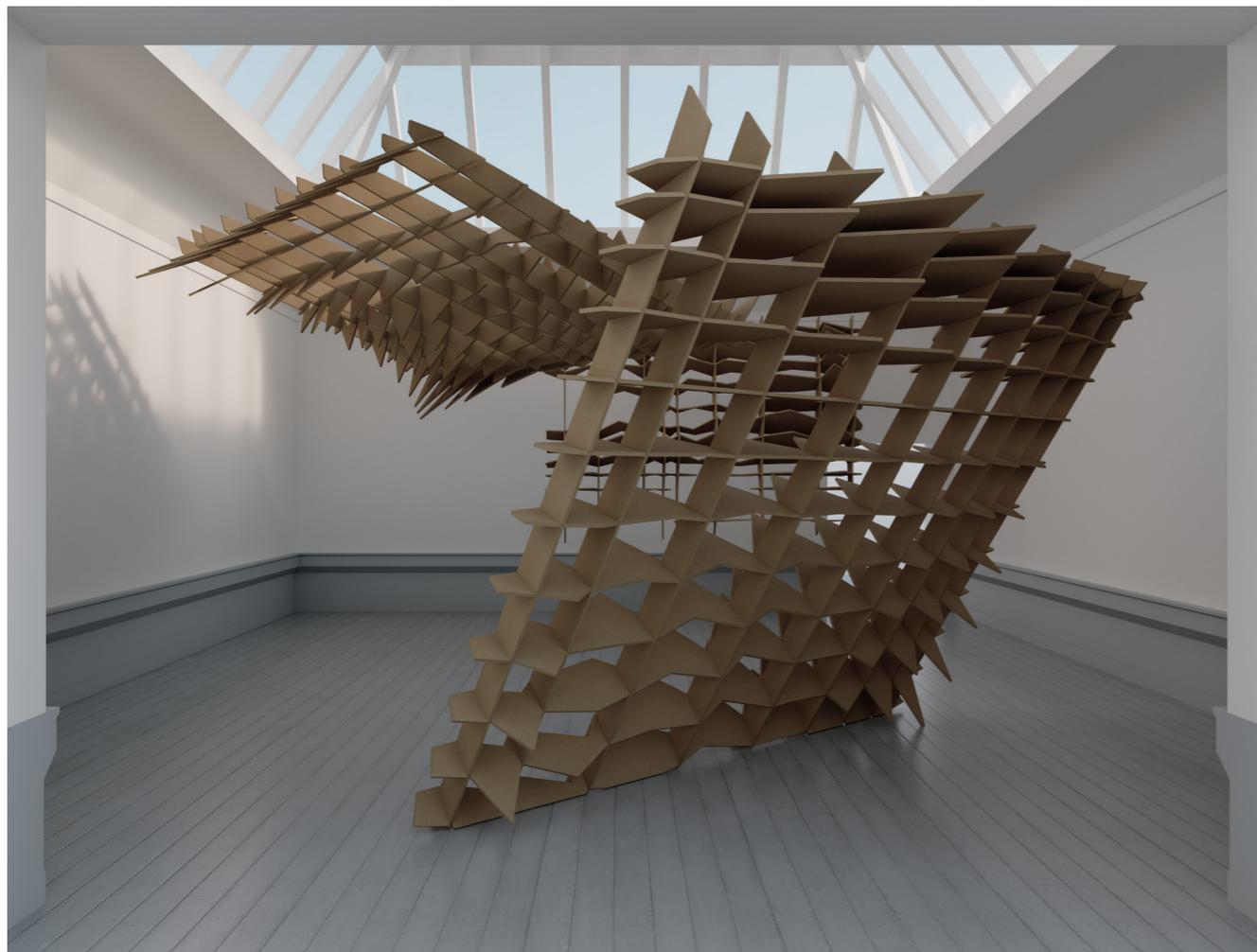
Exhibition renderings

Timescapes (2020-21, under development)

Materials Poplar multiplex, fresnel lens

Technique Installation

Timescapes considers the historic and contemporary role of light as a keeper of time. The work was developed in collaboration with architect Marie Prunault, and utilises parametric design to craft a series of large wooden screens hung in the Grote Zaal of Pictura Gallery in Dordrecht. The installation will be presented as part of a duo show with designer Marije Vogelzang as part of the Dordrecht Museum's retrospective of Albert Cuyp on his 400th birthday anniversary.



Exhibition renderings

Timescapes (2020-21) - *cont'd*



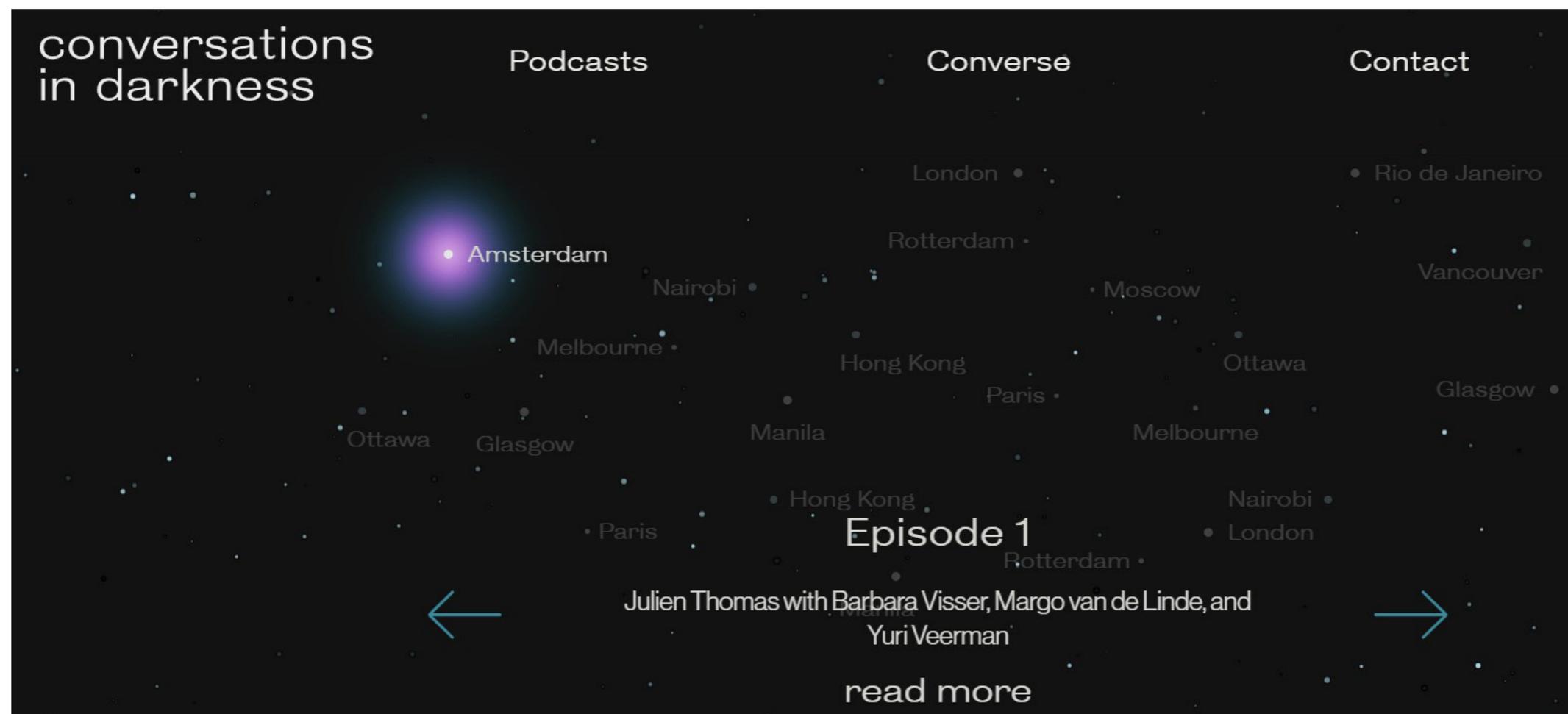
Detail of screen during Pictura Project Week (October 2020)

Conversations in Darkness (2020-21, under development)

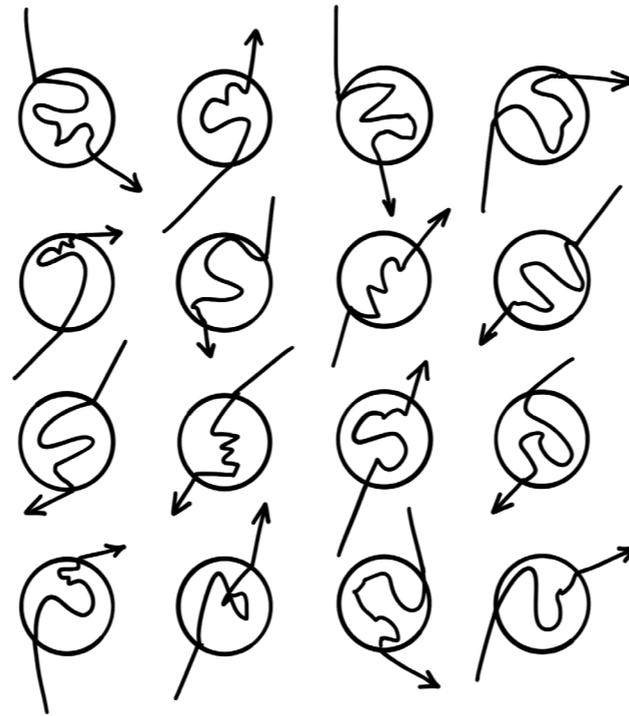
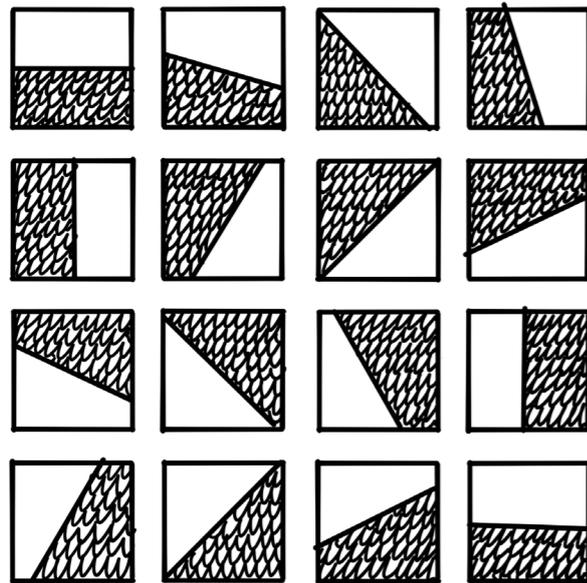
Technique Web Application, podcast series

[Conversations in Darkness](#) is a web application that hosts spatialised conversations in which the voices of others appear directionally - coming from the side or in front - so that participants feel as if they are sharing space together. The project was initiated as a response to social distancing regulations due to the Coronacrisis.

The site will also contain a podcast series featuring conversations among artists sharing experiences of this moment in time. The website is expected to go live before the end of 2020.



Perception Design Studio (2020)



The [Perception Design Studio](#) explores the potential of design strategies to assist policy-actors working in complex situations.

The Studio's activities focus on the role of sensory perception as a basis for thought. Sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste all inform our ability to perceive the world, and provide the basis for language, meaning, and politics.

Through the design of speculative interior elements that incorporate light installation and kinetic sculpture, the Studio seeks to enable participants in exploring the sensoral aspects of politics.

The Studio is a collaboration between the artist, The City of Amsterdam, and Public Mediation, a consultancy which facilitates multi-stakeholder governmental processes.

Perception Design Studio: Onzicht

Materials Oukume multiplex, LED lights, techniek

Technique Performance installation

Onzicht (from the Dutch words *inzicht*: insight and *onzichtbaar*: invisible) confounds the role of vision in interpersonal dynamics. The installation considers light placement, colour, and duration in replicating a process of dusk and dawn, and allows participants to experience how a lack of vision may influence the timing, intonation, and content of a conversation.

Over a one-hour duration, all light in the room fades out to create an experience of complete darkness, before returning to the original lighting arrangement. Through the subtraction of light, *Onzicht* reorients the sensoral hierarchy of conversations away from vision and towards other senses.



Perception Design Studio: Refraction Table

Materials Aluminium, plexiglas, techniek
Technique Performance installation

Refraction Table translates sound into wave patterns on water. As the water ripples diffract they create dynamic patterns of interaction. Through the propagation of these unexpected and unpredictable patterns, the object presents alternative interpretations of a conversation that exceed mere representation.

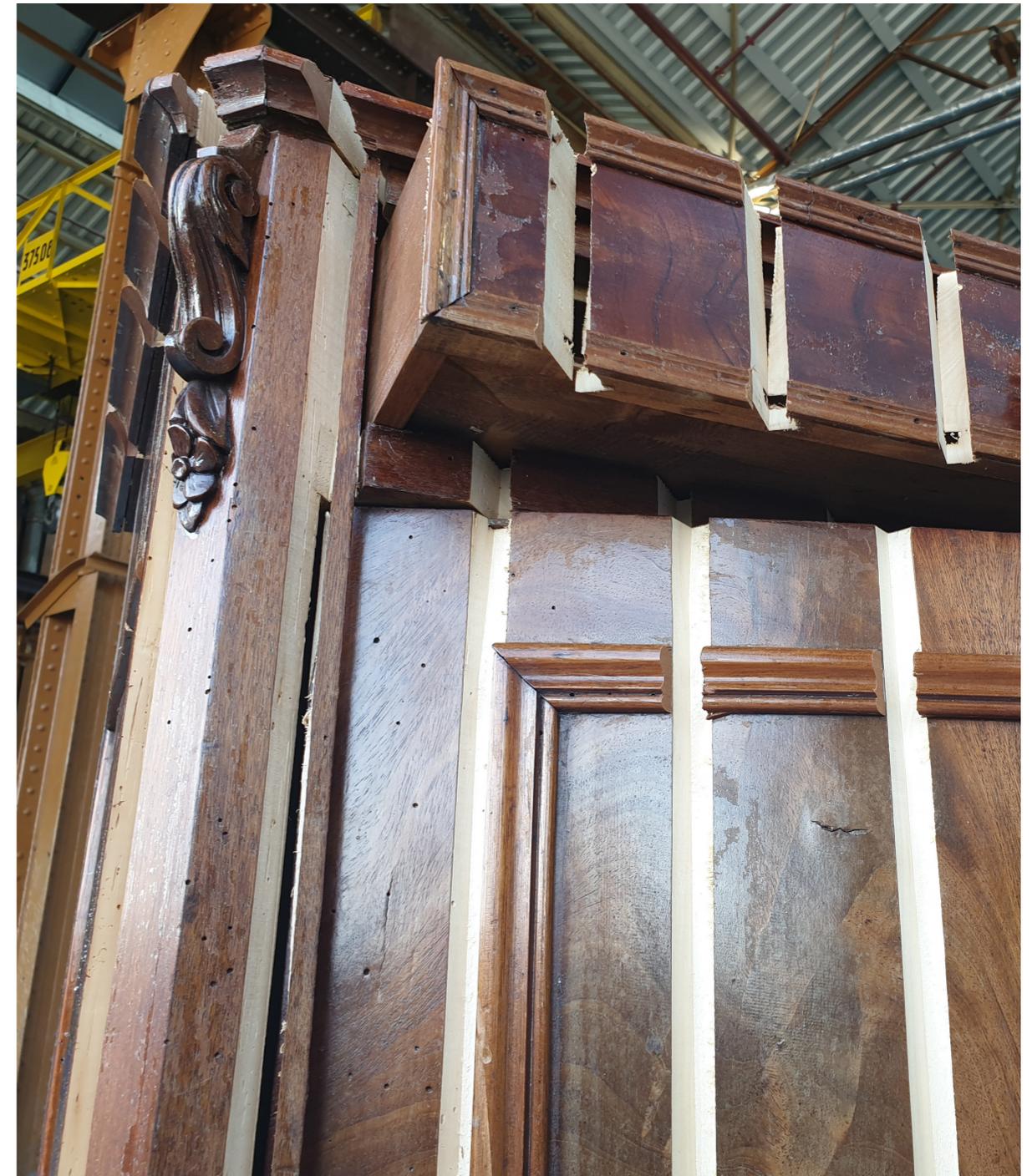




Antique Prototype (2019)

Materials Circa 1880 Dutch chest (poplar, mahogany, fir)

Technique Fabrication research

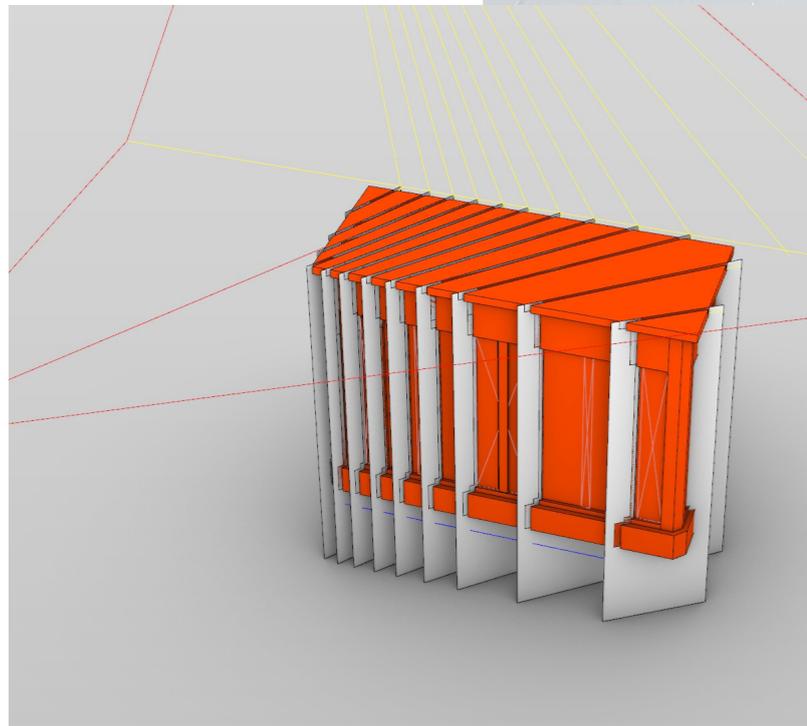


Antique Prototype considers the relationship between traditional and contemporary fabrication techniques. An antique chest is carved with a robotic arm and milling head to create a hybrid object which combines traditional joinery and veneer work with parametric design and precision milling. Collaboration with architect Marie Prunault.

Antique Prototype (2019) - *cont'd*



Pathway of cuts from
robotic milling head



Conversation (Im)balance (2018)



Materials Underlayment,
hardwood
Technique Performance
installation

Conversation (Im)balance is a second iteration of *Conversation Balance* (2016), and embodies a series of formal amendments to the original design. The new platform is slightly smaller and responds to changes in weight and movement with more agility, and the centre is offset 30cm so that participants are continuously in a state of imbalance. These two factors contribute to a more nuanced experience where smaller movements create a more pronounced effect.

Conversation (Im)balance (2018) - cont'd



Conversation Balance (2016)

Materials Underlayment, hardwood
Technique Performance installation

Conversation Balance explores the nature of political agency through movement. Through its shape the installation enables participants to feel the movement of others in space, and to expand one's repertoire of nonverbal communication from gesture - a tilt of the head, a shift of the wrist - towards whole body movement. The installation thus facilitates participants in embodying and performing certain gestures, scenarios, and concepts in an effort to enable latent forms of political to expression to emerge.



Conversation Balance (2016) - *cont'd*

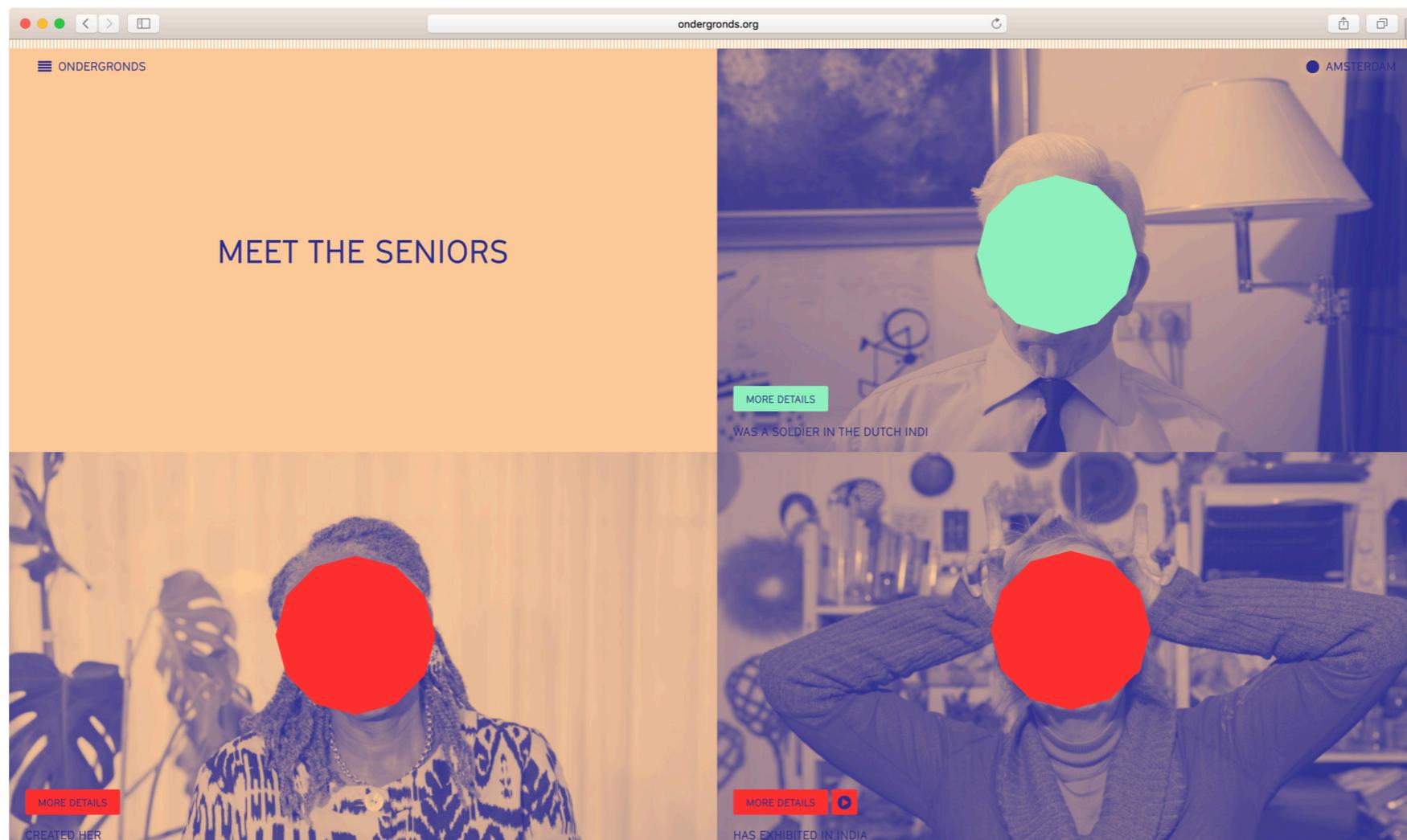


Ondergronds Amsterdam (2015)

Ondergronds is named for those exceptional conversations below the surface. While travelling through Amsterdam on a daily basis, we pass by hundreds of strangers and rarely get a chance to connect. Ondergronds allows you to have a real conversation with one of those strangers.

Media Het Parool, We Demain pour SNCF (French National Rail magazine)

Impact The project facilitated nearly sixty conversations over four weekend sessions, several informal get-togethers, and a follow-up lunch among participants.



Faraday Cafe (2014)

The Faraday Cafe was a pop-up coffee bar that repelled wireless signals. The project sought to remind patrons of a time before ubiquitous wireless coverage, while also proposing an alternative future relationship to digital technology.

Located in Vancouver's Chinatown, the Café served a rotation of artisanal coffees by donation while hosting a variety of events including morning meditation sessions, afternoon DJ sets, dinner and dessert parties, and evening storytelling gatherings.

Media Vancouver Sun, Province x2 (syndicated to Calgary Herald, Ottawa Citizen, Regina LeaderPost and more across the country), Huffington Post, CKNW Radio x2, Global TV, CTV BC, CTV National, CBC BC, CBC Radio Vancouver, CBC Radio Victoria, CBC Radio National, Ming Pao Daily News, Globe and Mail, Sun News Network, Pop-Up City, Fast.Company, Monocle Podcast



[Link](#) to video documentation

Rainblossom Project (2014)

Under cover of night, four Vancouverites meet to celebrate their city. Tonight, we have reason: for too long we've grumbled of wet, not truly celebrating our City's great gift – the rain. For in our dark, damp days do we not await the pleasures of spring: sunshine, buds, colours emerge. Alas, what of the pleasures of winter: as rains pour, leaves fall, umbrellas open to meet the skies, rainblossoms. Under cover of night, four Vancouverites meet to celebrate their city, for better or worse, rain or shine.



Park-a-Park (2013)



Park-a-Park was a pilot initiative to transform a roll-off disposal bin into a mobile community space. The bin was dropped at nine locations throughout Vancouver over the summer of 2013, hosting weekly potluck gatherings and acting as an open space to convene and catalyze community initiatives. Park-a-Park was an invitation to reimagine our relationship to streets and the public sphere.

Grave Digging (2012)

Grave Digging is a short film created by an Israeli, a Palestinian, and a Canadian seeking to explore and depict the Israel-Palestine conflict through film.

The film was an initiative of Peace it Together, an organisation that used dialogue, filmmaking and community engagement to empower youth as media makers and change agents in order to build a just, secure and sustainable peace in Israel-Palestine.



[Link](#) to video documentation

Late Nite Art (2011-2014)

Late Nite Art was a pop-up dinner party and facilitated workshop that brought strangers together to explore thought-provoking ideas and issues through visual art. The Vancouver chapter ran 31 events with over a thousand participants over four years, and the San Francisco Bay Area chapter continues to host events with a variety of clients and the general public.



[Link](#) to video documentation