FRANCOIS MARTIG

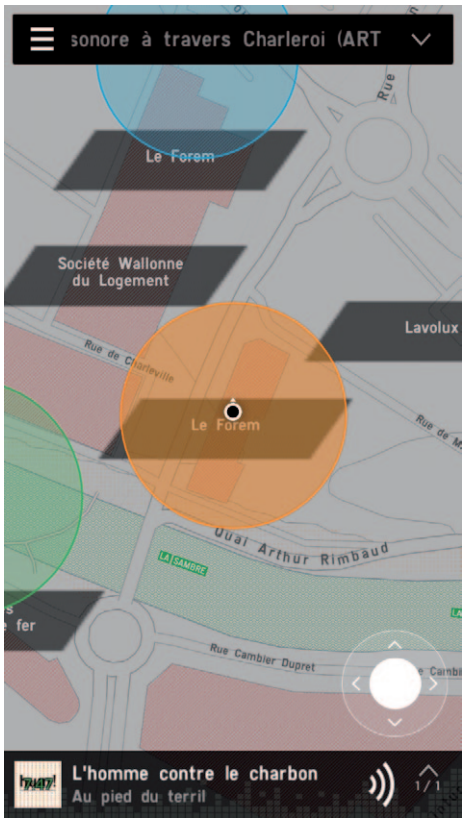
WORKS

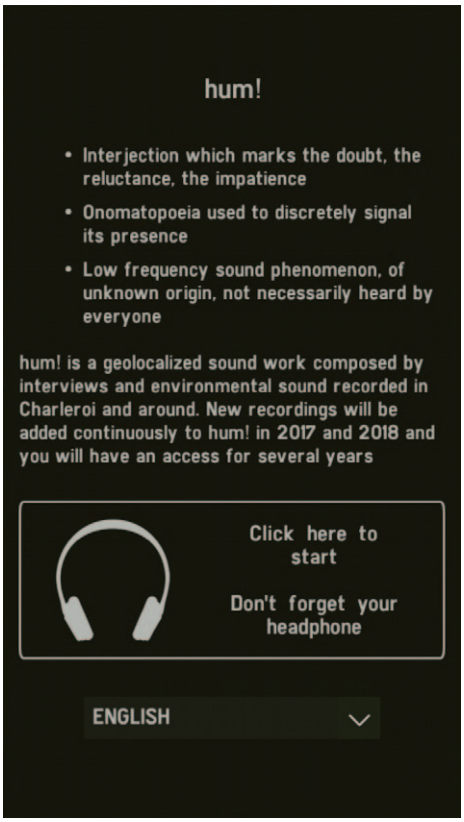
François Martig's work uses a wide range of media, from sculptural and sound installations to radio documentaries and photography, in order to react on the specific social and geographical context in which it is shown. In addition to his visual work, he produces live sound and music performances as well as soundtracks combining soundscapes, field recordings, electro-acoustic and noise music.

Since 2005 Martig has been consistent in working on his long-term project Robinsonhotel where he explores landscape as an evolving socio-economic and political spatial entity and phenomenon. Martig's fascination with the history of landscapes is clearly visible in his works, which highlight the interdependence and force with which human beings approach their role in amending nature. His work shows a sensitive approach to understanding the self-determination of wilderness, inviting his viewers to reexamine their perspective within the historical and contemporary framework, as well as the relationship between man and nature.

Martig is also a sound operator for documentary movies.

The work of François Martig has been shown internationaly :
Centre Pompidou-Metz (F) / Stadtgalerie, Saarbrücken (D) / Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin (D) / NCCA Kaliningrad (RU) / WIELS, Bruxelles (B) / Emil Filla gallery, Usti nad Labem (CZ) / Museums Quartier, Vienne (AU) / MAMCS, Strasbourg (F) / FRAC Lorraine (F) / Frac Alsace (F) / BPS22, Charleroi (B) / Carré Rotondes, Luxembourg (LU) / Les Halles de Schaerbeek, Bruxelles (B) / HIFA, Wuhan (CN) / Mestna Gallery, Ljubljana (SLO) / HIAP, Helsinki (FIN) / L'EDEN, Charleroi (B) / Regart, Lévis (CA) / AVATAR, Québec (CA) / Instants Chavirés, Montreuil (F) / Happy New Ears, Kortrijk (BE) / SHARE, New York (US) / La Fabrique, Nantes (F) / Arts Stays, Ptuj (SLO) / DUNKERQUE 2013 (F) / Espace Multimédia Gantner, Bourogne (F) / Nuit Blanche 3, 4, 5, Metz (F) / Festival Musiques Volantes, Metz (F) / La Plate-Forme, Dunkerque (F) / Ososphère, Strasbourg (F) / IMAL, Bruxelles (B) / la pommerie, St Sétiers (F) / Citysonics, Mons (B) / Silence radio (B) / RADIA …etc





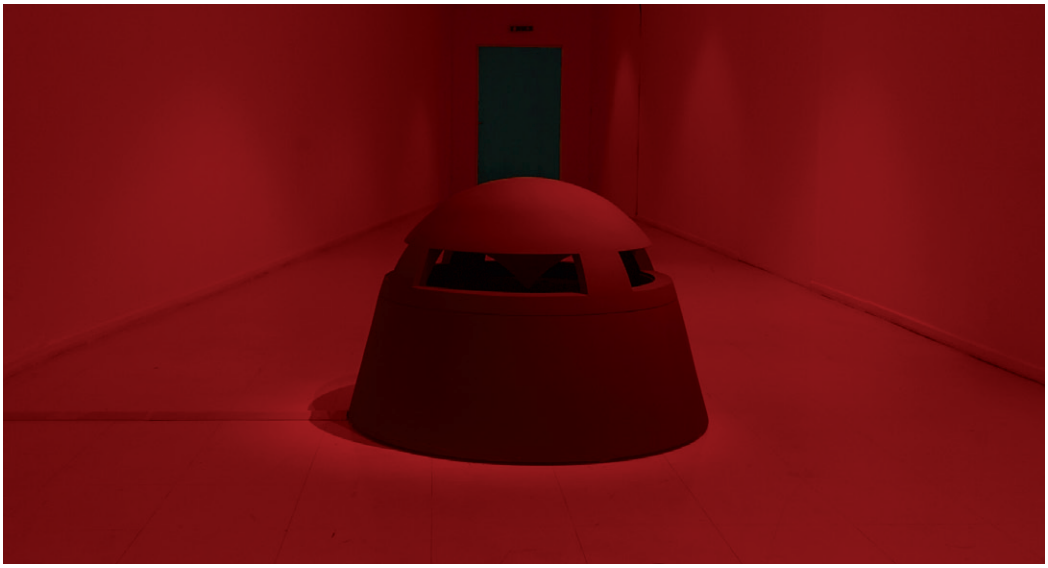
hum! Charleroi is a geolocalized sound art piece you can listen 24 hours per day by a smartphone app with headphones. The sound work is composed by interviews and environmental sound recordings through Charleroi.

New recordings will be added continuously to hum! in 2017 and 2018 and you will have an access for several years

hum! is produced by the Commission of Arts of Wallonia (B) and the City of Charleroi (B) for the Triennial of public art 2017. The app is realized by collectif MU (F) and the app's graphic design by Nouvelle Etiquette (F).

hum ! is downloadable on **Apple Store** and **Google Play**

hum!
Charleroi



speaker-sculpture with soundscapes and Interviews, Stadtgalerie Sarrebruck. «Medienkunstpreis» price 2016
A.Minayev

ZONE ROUGE

2008–2018

Zone Rouge (Red Zone) is a huge sound project. It is the name given to about 1,200 square kilometres (460 sq mi) of land in north-eastern France that was physically and environmentally destroyed during the First World War.
Because of hundreds of thousands of human and animal corpses and millions of unexploded ordnance that contaminated the land, some activities in the area such as housing, farming or forestry, were temporarily or permanently forbidden after the war by French law. Some villages were never permitted to be rebuilt. Restrictions in the zone rouge still exist today although the controlled areas have been greatly reduced.
In contrast, cities like Verdun are hot spots for military tourism today and have unknown stories to tell. As a post-war compensation, Germany gave to France Black Pine and spruce trees to help reforest the land around Verdun. Currently this forest is 17 000 acres and known for its cheap timber, despite a small part of it is also remaining as a ground for commemoration.

sculpture made with black pine and postcards
Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, 2012 – conseil général de moselle price

Since 2008 Francois Martig started to work on The Zone Rouge project during his residency at FRAC Lorraine and produced several works as a speaker-sculpture with soundscapes and Interviews about the red zone, a sculpture made with black pine and postcards and a photographic serie within light boxes. Zone Rouge Project contains several video interviews and sound fragments.

Verdun's red zone photo serie, Stadtgalerie Sarrebruck. «Medienkunstpreis» price 2016
A.Minayev

VIDEO

credit : Anton Minayev

contaminated earth from Verdun area, sound
«Medienkunstpreis» price 2016, Saarebruck (D)

GAS PLACE

contaminated earth by arsenic

There's a place in the middle of a remarkable forest, where the ground is black and only few species of moss survive. For long time, forestry rangers had their lunch time on the grounds, hunters butchered their animals. They even built a small shed.

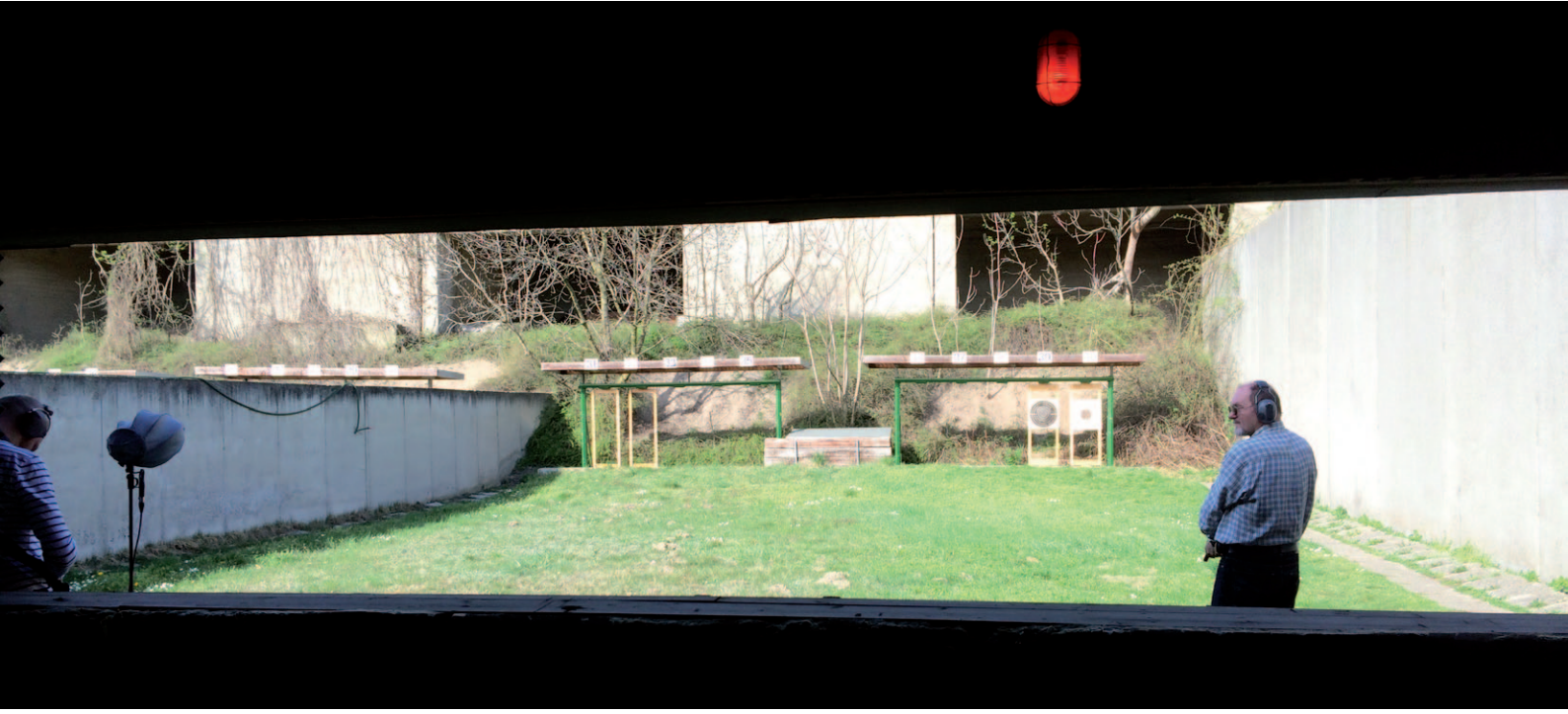
In 2004 two German scientists came to analyze the ground and they discovered arsenic levels between 1000 and 10,000 higher than usual average as well as an extremely high rate of cadmium and mercury.
Arsenic migrates into the deeper layers of the soil and the environment by seepage and run off rainwater. These waters are polluted more than 300 times the admitted rate.
The pollution is spread further into the environment by the actions of animals, plants and also by wind.
In the local archives, reports say that this place was used to detonate 200,000 chemical shells in 1928. They used the blow-in-place technique, known to leave explosive residues on the soil surface.
In the north and east of France, a billion shells of all calibres equivalent to fifteen million tons of metal were fired between 1914 and 1918, but a quarter of these shells did not explode.
On this site, After the armistice, a private company succeeding the war ministry transported and neutralized hundreds of thousands of unexploded shells from the surrounding battlefields by pyrolysis.

In 2016, a year of dramatic birthdays like Tchernobyl or Fukushima but also one century after the battle of Verdun the Amnesia is almost complete but the First World War, the first industrial war, continues to poison our present and still flows in the veins of the inhabitants.

Gas Place is a sound sculpture but also a video work with sound.

VIDEO

https://vimeo.com/143601806
password : gasplace00



Browning M1910 recording in a shooting club near Vienna (AT) during my artist residence at Quartier 21 /Museums Quartier

THE SOUND OF WAR

BROWNING M 1910

SON

director : François Martig
sound mixer : Christophe Rault
music : eRikm et François Martig

World War I is in the spotlight since the year 2014 through the various international commemorations. The great war is not only a historical moment but a crucial event that changed our relation to the territory, nature and the world. The sound of war began on June 28, 1914 with 2 shots of a Browning M1910 during the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo that often considered as a triggering the WWI.

This radio documentary presents obscure universes : Who heard about the Browning M1910 pistol, made by National Factory of Arms (FN) in Herstal, Belgium, the weapon that triggered the first war? Who sees these war landscapes as do those deminers who recover dozens of tons of ammunition each year? Who knows how much pollution from ammunition treatment after the war is still contaminating the North-East of France?

With : Christian Ortner, director of Heeresgeschichtliches Museum, Vienna / Claude and Lydia Bourguignon, founders of microbiology analysis of soil laboratory / Isabelle Masson-Loodts, journalist and film maker / Philippe Ferry and Vincent Riff, deminers / Olivier Saint-Hilaire, photographer / Daniel Hypolite, previous mayor of Muzeray village(55).

Supported by Fonds d'Aide à la Création Radiophonique de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles of Belgium and Mono-Mono association /2015-2018

FÉDÉRATION WALLONIE-BRUXELLES

MONO

buffer zone in Nicosia

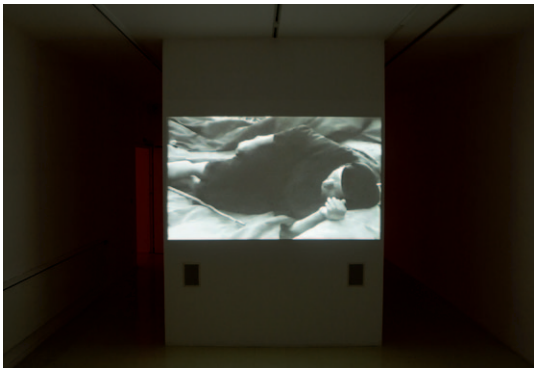
VAROSHA

Varosha is a ghost town and a southern section of the Cypriot city of Famagusta. Prior to the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, it was the modern tourist area of Famagusta. In the 1970s, Famagusta was the number one tourist destination in Cyprus. To cater to the increasing number of tourists, many new high-rise buildings and hotels were constructed. During its heyday, Varosha was not only the number one tourist destination in Cyprus, but between 1970 and 1974, it was one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world.
Its inhabitants fled during the invasion, when it came under Turkish control, and it has remained abandoned and under the occupation of the Turkish Armed Forces ever since. Entry is forbidden to the public. As of 2015, the city continues to be uninhabited with a population of 0.
As nobody has inhabited the area and no repairs have been carried out, all of the buildings continue to fall apart. Nature is reclaiming the area, as metal corrodes, windows break, and plants work their roots into the walls and pavement.

Made in 2016 Varosha movie shows several interviews of Alexlis Galanos, the actual Mayor in Exile, Owners of culivated fields within buffer zone and young people trying to recreate a social dialog between the both communities.

Varosha is shown as double screens video installation with an immersive sound presented (Live or standalone)

Varosha has been supported by Incise Gallery and Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles of Belgium.



stadtgalerie, saarbrucken

performance extract at Avatar, Québec

VIDEO

link to movie
password :
varosha00

VIDEO

sound and visual performance at l'Oeil de poisson in Québec city

Centre Pompidou-Metz 2017-2018

Gleis 1

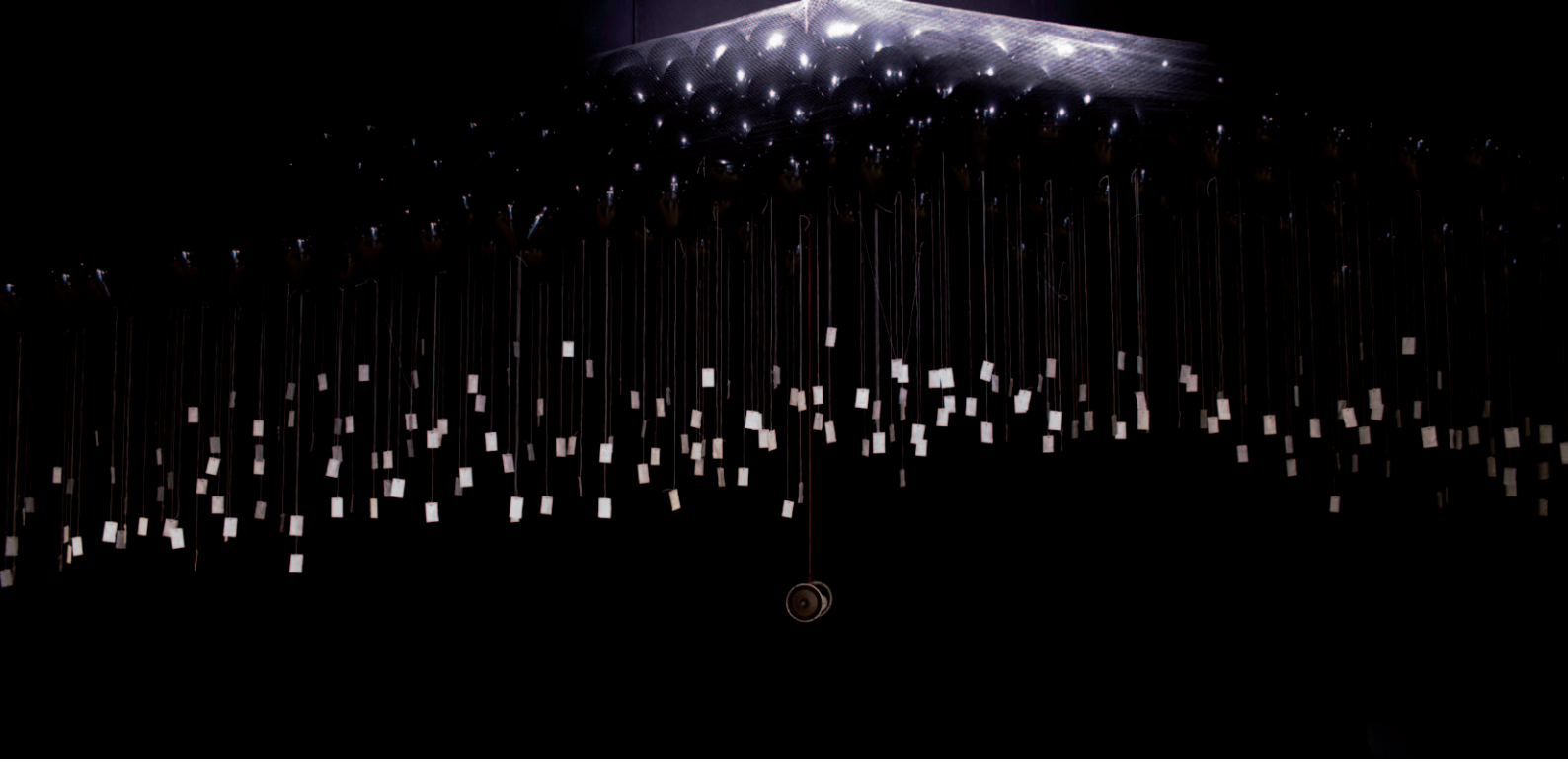
the war garden

Along a railway line gone, on the old site of a former goods station, *Gleis 1* tells the history of human flows. Around a wooden platform (coming from the Verdun red zone area) symbolizing railway, fluvial and maritime traffic, François Martig has sown various obsidional plants, listed by the botanist François Vernier. From the Latin obsis (“siege”), this term characterises species that appeared on besieged territories, sometimes fortuitously. The seeds slipped into the fodder or the equipment from Germany, the United States or the Mediterranean area. In the middle of multiple wars, Lorraine abounds in plant species imported by armies. The artist keeps the collection in the “Landscape Observatory”, a futuristic shed becoming an experimental seed bank.

Hélène Meisel, curator of *«jardin infini. De Giverny à l’Amazonie» exhibition*

list of seeds :

- Armérie maritime et l’armérie à longues feuilles (D)
- Crin végétal (D)
- Géranium des prés (D)
- Knautie pourpre (F)
- Doradille des sources / fougère (F)
- Roquette à feuilles de cresson (mediteranean area)
- Potentille droite (Europe, Asia, North Africa
- Alysson blanc (Europe and Asia)
- Panicaut géant (Caucase, Iran)
- Châtaignier (Asia)
- Herbe aux yeux bleus / Bermudienne des montagnes (North America)
- Glycérie striée (North America)
- Potentille de Norvège (Europe, Asia, North America)

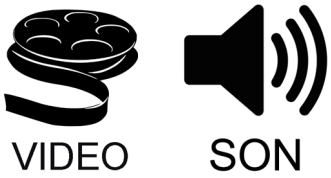


MONOPHONIC festival 2014, Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels (B)

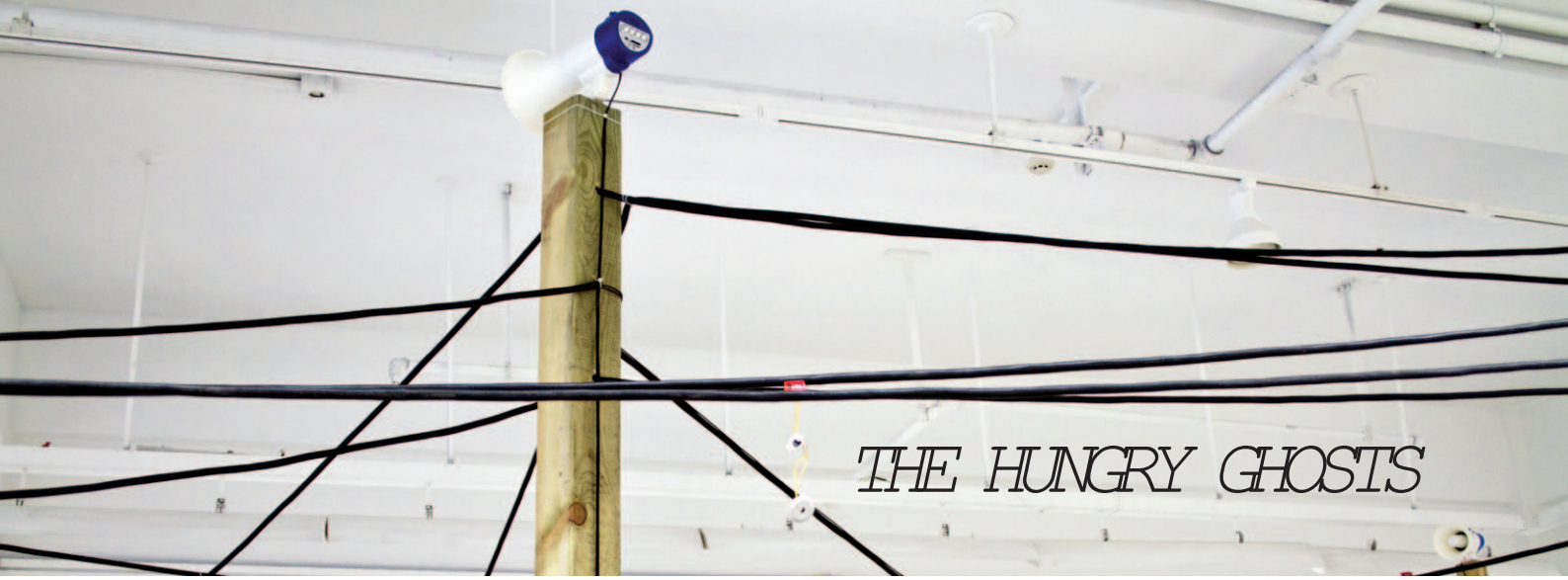
Centre Pompidou-Metz, «jardin infini. De Giverny à l'Amazonie»

Gone with the wind analyses the consumption, the free markets and the lobbying in the foodstuffs industry. The old seeds varieties have been banned from the market and are considered illegal, because they are not registered in the European Catalogue. This is how multinationals account for 40% of the global seed market today. François Martig collects these 'old' seeds and disseminates them in various territories. He uses birds, black balloons or distributes on local markets. These popular methods to create new landscapes and new species in a planetary blending exercise by dissemination without tracibility.

GONE WITH THE WIND



releasing balloons in front of European Parliament in 2014 (B)



THE HUNGRY GHOSTS

A sound installation diffusing recordings of street vendors in Wuhan (CN) and 8-bit electronic sound devices.

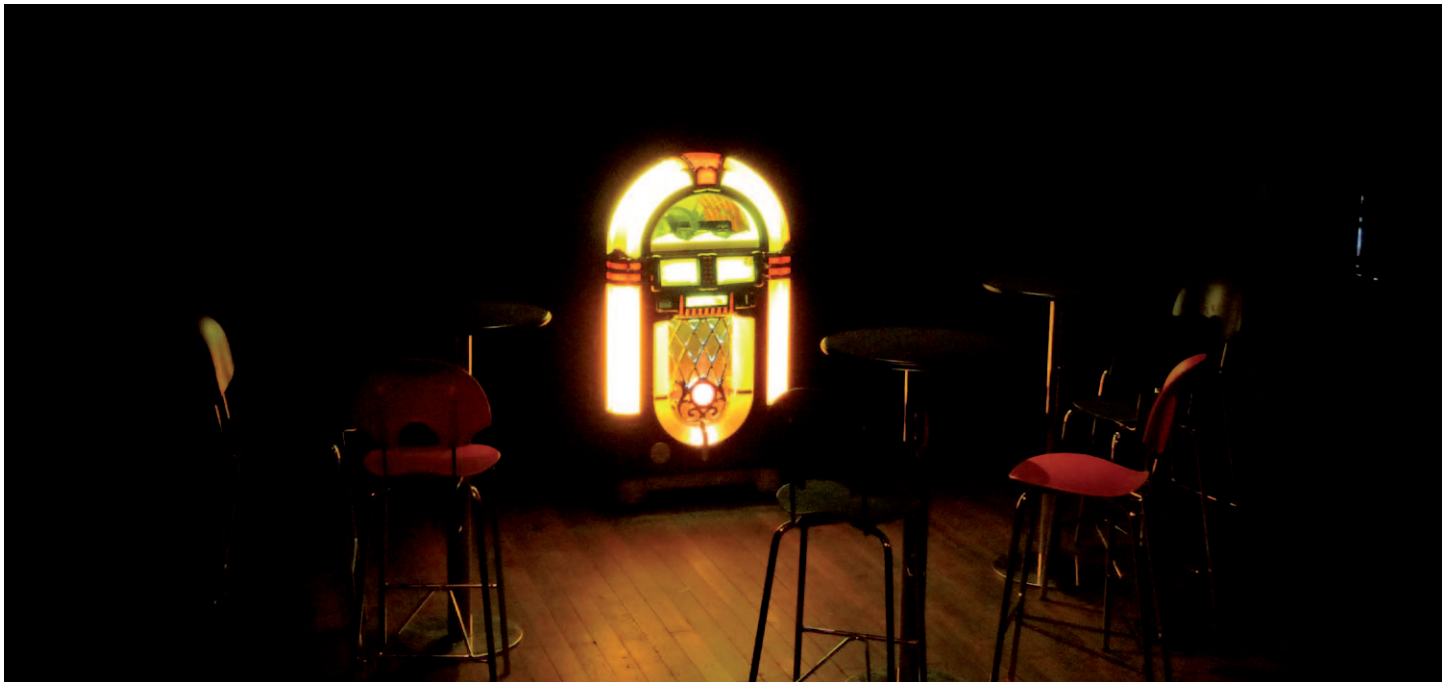
Hungry ghost is a concept in Chinese Buddhism and Chinese traditional religion representing beings who are driven by intense emotional needs in an animalistic way.
The English term has often been used metaphorically to describe the insatiable craving of an addict.
Hungry Ghosts is the first book in English, written by Jasper Becker, to provide detailed description of the massive famine in China between 1958 and 1962 which firmly establishes the Great Leap and the resulting famine as one of the worst atrocities of all time, strikes a heavy blow against willed ignorance of what took place.

VIDEO

The campaign against the *Four Pests* was initiated in 1958 as a hygiene campaign by Mao Zedong, who identified the need to exterminate mosquitoes, flies, rats, and sparrows. Sparrows – mainly the Eurasian tree sparrow – were included on the list because they ate grain seeds, robbing the people of the fruits of their labour. The masses of China were mobilized to eradicate the birds, and citizens took to banging pots and pans or beating drums to scare the birds from landing, forcing them to fly until they fell from the sky in exhaustion. Sparrow nests were torn down, eggs were broken, and nestlings were killed. Sparrows and other birds were shot down from the sky, resulting in the near-extinction of the birds in China. Non-material rewards and recognition were offered to schools, work units and government agencies in accordance with the volume of pests they had killed.

By April 1960, Chinese leaders realized that sparrows ate a large amount of insects, as well as grains. Rather than being increased, rice yields after the campaign were substantially decreased. Mao ordered the end of the campaign against sparrows, replacing them with bed bugs in the ongoing campaign against the Four Pests. By this time, however, it was too late. With no sparrows to eat them, locust populations ballooned, swarming the country and compounding the ecological problems already caused by the Great Leap Forward, including widespread deforestation and misuse of poisons and pesticides. Ecological imbalance is credited with exacerbating the Great Chinese Famine, in which at least 20 million people died of starvation.

High institute for fine arts, Wuhan, China, 2014



Jukebox during Musiques Volantes, Metz - Citysonic, Mons (B) - Contemporary art triennal, Luxembourg - Château de Malbrouck (F) 2009-2013

LA NATURE MISE EN BOITE

NATURE CANNING

This installation diffuses field recordings and interviews about our relation to the natural or urban environment. This project showcases wasteland and vacant spaces.

Luc Levesque prefers to walk on these spaces much more to see them. There's no shows into wasteland compared to National Parks. Benoit Sottiaux is botanist in Charleroi (B), Monique Gavroy creates an arboretum along the subway line in Charleroi (B). Audrey Muratet is a botanist in Paris(F), Claude Lavoie is a biologist in Quebec (Qc), Luc Levesque is an architect in Montreal (Qc), Josy Cungs is an entomolog involved in Terres Rouges in Luxembourg, Christan Ries and Guy Colling are each biologist and botanist at Musee National d'Histoire Naturelle in Luxembourg. And they are specially interested by biodiversity in post-industrial zones and wasteland.

In Situ sound installation during Capital social organized by Hotel Charleroi (B) - 2013

contemporary biennale Senones (F), 2009

NATURE EXPLAINED TO PLANTS

Nature Explained to Plants is a sound installation for plants in a greenhouse trying to be similar to the process of large-scale horticultural industry. With Irony, I have hypothesized that the absence of contact with the external environment creates irreparable psychological shock when plants leave the greenhouse at the end of their growth. I propose, in this installation, an opportunity to help these plants to survive by explaining nature by sounds of rain, thunderstorms, and birds in the morning, etc... all that sounds I recorded arounf the world.

SON

Metz, departement hall (F), 2015

Künstlerhaus Bethanien Berlin 2012 – moselle regional grant

THE DAWN

The Dawn is a two projected video channels by a watchtower. Videos show found-footage-videos from the worldwide deforestation of pine trees. Where one might expect a serene experience in nature, Martig creates a bass-heavy undertone that underpins the individuals filming the countless efforts of deforestation.

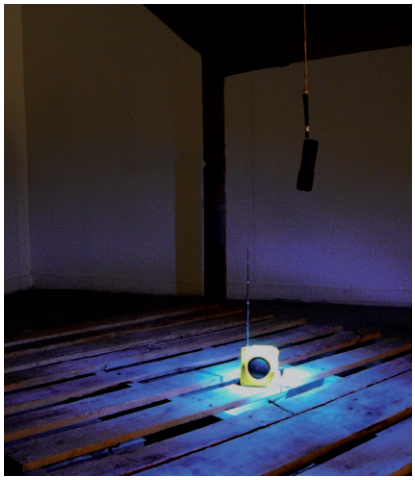
VIDEO

Künstlerhaus Bethanien Berlin 2012 – moselle regional grant

52° 30' 29.47 N 13°24' 13.67 E

WASTELAND

François Marting shows a 15 square metres wasteland in the gallery space with earth taken from the sculpture garden in Berlin. The previously densely populated area of Berlin became no-man's-land after the Second World War, however, is now widely appreciated by botanist. Martig transported and shows the ground in a container typically used in art transports. By using UV-lamps he will try to keep the nature alive in the gallery space, but of course it doesn't work. Wild nature, biodiversity, and landscape are spotlighted.



THE BEACH

During the Fall 2009 Francois Martig installed his Robinsonhotel on the coast close Loon-Plage (Clais-Dunkerque). This is the area of «jungle» where migrants live before to try to cross the Channel to England.
The installation contains audio interviews of NGO aid and field recordings recorded on ferry boats. Public can listen to interviews by using dynamo radios available inside architectures made in the gallery.

La Plate-Forme, Dunkerque 2009

Nuit Blanche Metz, 2010 - boats, lights, sound recordings, roses

POPPY TO ROSE

“poppy to rose” is an installation containing audio interviews of voluntary associations of humanitarian aid. Martig is interested by Afghan landscape and its impact in the West, combining human migration and the luxury industry now linking Europe and Afghanistan. For indeed the culture of the Rose is an old tradition in Afghanistan and several attempts have been made to replace poppy cultivation - which comes much of the heroin sold in the world - from the rose oil for export. This alternative to poppy cultivation attempts to halt assimilation country’s opium, the Taliban, and migrants (the Afghans constitute the largest number of migrants in Europe). In a few years Afghanistan will become a major producer of essential oils and fragrances thanks to the many varieties of flowers, including roses, which grow in this country.

VIDEO

Nuit Blanche 5, Metz, 2012

THE FLOWERS ISLAND

François Martig proposes in close collaboration with Agriculture College of Courcelles Chaussy (F) an huge garden in a wasteland that is part of the new urban development plan of Metz town just under the Centre Pompidou Metz. Through this project, the artist questions the trade dimension of the “Fruits and Vegetables” in our globalizing world. A choregraphy of wheel-barrows and plants in pot is managed by the students and shows an absurd vegetables trade flux.

SEVESO Zone, during cultural capital 2013 in Dunkerque

The Observatory of landscape is more an attitude than a real place that takes form since my travel in finland in 2006 when I decided to organise meetings and actions in special areas. From unhabited island Sisä-Hattu in Helsinki to a fake island in Bordeaux to SEVESO zone (dangerous industrial place) in Dunkerque the Observatory Landscape likes to take place close the water on shores. These kind of transit places are perfect to observe the flux of our society by commerce or tourism.
I'm totally interested by weird places, not really defined, or rejected places for social or economical reasons

SON

THE OBSERVATORY OF LANDSCAPE

On Sisä-Hattu, during my residency at HIAP, Helsinki 2006

During my residency at BDM-Architects office, Maison de l'architecture, Bordeaux, 2013
A fake island built by the city where I organised botanical expeditions

THE OBSERVATORY OF LANDSCAPE

The Observatory of landscape is more an attitude than a real place that takes form since my travel in finland in 2006 when I decided to organise meetings and actions in special areas. From unhabited island Sisä-Hattu in Helsinki to a fake island in Bordeaux to SEVESO zone (dangerous industrial place) in Dunkerque the Observatory Landscape likes to take place close the water on shores. These kind of transit places are perfect to observe the flux of our society by commerce or tourism.
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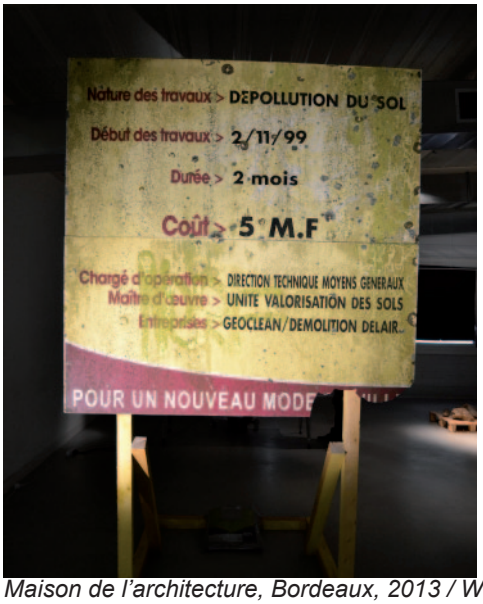


Maison de l'architecture, Bordeaux, 2013 / Web map with the localisations of my different actions

Ceaac International, Strasbourg, 2007

IN THE LAND OF WIND AND WATER

This is the first show of the finnish landscape observatory created by Robinson Hotel during and following his two-month residence in Helsinki in 2006 (CEAAC / HIAP). The land of wind and water is a ironic installation about the finnish landscape stereotype using simples and absurd means: the vibration on the surface of the water, shake sheet and fan-wind. However intimate dimension remains essential notably by the construction of a sauna, essential

Sentiers Rouges – Synagogue of Delme, Luxemburg 2008

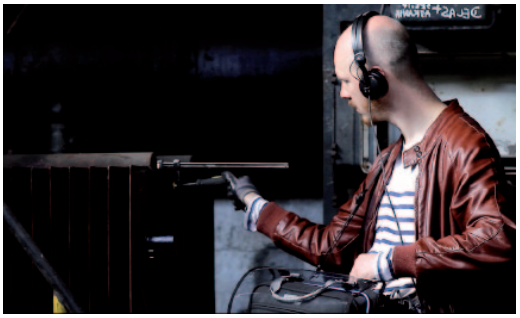
MOBILE CANOPY

The canopy refers to the top floor of the forest, in direct contact with the atmosphere. The word is borrowed from the vocabulary of furnishings: the sky or canopy bed. «Mobile canopy» comes is a trailer which are planted pine trees forming a kind of edge. At the center of this border is a square of grass with a beautiful space to lie down. The public can see the sky in the rectangle formed by the crown of trees, an ''Out of the world'' space.

abandoned blast furnace, Uckange (57), France, 2011

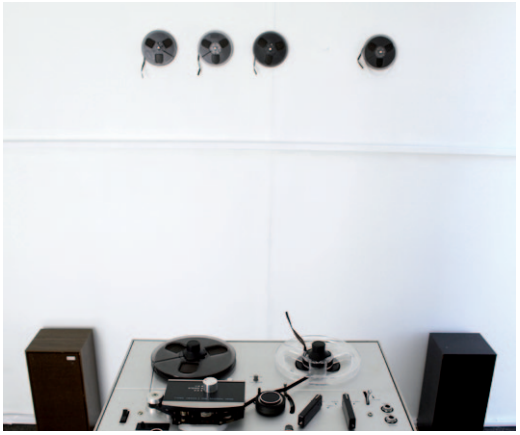
U4 SOUNDS

A sound exploration using the acoustic resonances of an abandoned blast furnace by using a bass-shaker that transform every matters to a speaker by resonance. A place where all worker voices have disapearred relive for few days as an instrument. A place where I exhibited few years ago with LCA Radio installation and lighted by the artist Claude Lévêque since 2007.



SON

Sound installation on magnetic tapes realized by invitation of Élodie Vitrano. 2015



blast furnace office U4, Uckange (57), France, 2011

The LCA radiophonic studio rebuilded from pictures in a old blast furnace (U4 art center) 30 years after the end of siderurgy in Lorraine, France.
LCA radio was a pirate radio station created by the workers against directors of big industries and main french media. A sound documentay with interviews of old workers/LCA animators and archives from LCA radio ; an other documentary about allotments who are the last marks of history of industry.

LCA photo archive from 1979 to 1980

LORRAINE COEUR D'ACIER RADIO

SON

VIDEO

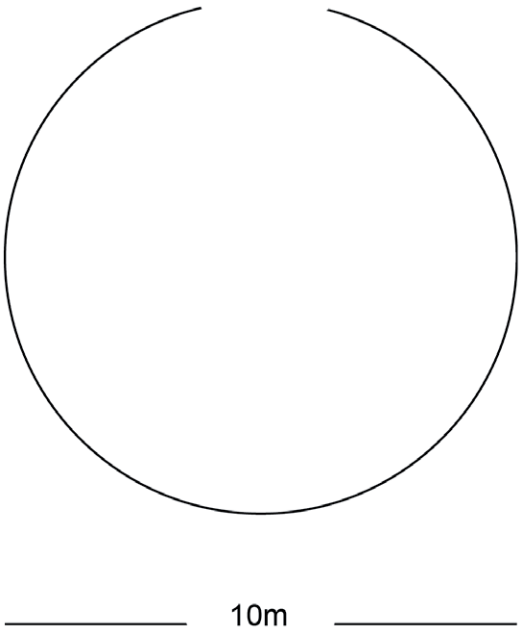
WISCO

Work in progress

During my residency in Wuhan (China) I discovered WISCO (WUHAN IRON AND STEEL CORP.), this industry is the 6th biggest industry in the world for iron and steel. Built on the shores of the Yang-Tsé River it will be totally interessant for me to record the sound of the water movements created by huges boats flux working for this company by using Hydrophonic microphones.
To record these water movements it's also to record Economy, Social, and Biodiversity aspects of this area and the capitalism... To record WISCO it's also to record the European siderurgic delocalisation during the 80's in Belgium, Germany, France and Luxembourg...

The sound captation will be done with hydrophonic microphones as I said and the diffusion will be realised inside the metal itself by a sound system i'm developping with an engineer. This metal sculpture will be a kind of huge speaker where the audience could listen the sound composition by putting the ear against the metal, skull working as a resonator able to hear the sound

My first idea is to put this huge metal piece in an old industrial area...



Island, urban light, LCD panel, ruins - NUIT BLANCHE in Mayenne, 2013

NOT REALIZED

L'ÎLE

About the ***post-landscape observatory*** : I would use the ideas of ruins in landscapes, adapted specially for this island on the Mayenne river.

between fallow and past landscape, Martig wants to create a space where stress and instinct are the main feelings. These feelings will emerge by a work on the light and by the presence of a LCD panel looking like a radio activity dosimeter (but without unit of measurement or other reference).
This island will seem strange and fictional but based on real landscapes from other places and other stories.

Kenishi Watanabe «The world after Fukushima», ARTE

NUIT BLANCHE 4 in Metz, 2011

NOISE-ette

(Martig / Petitgenêt)

Four poles, benches, a string of lights. The stage is set for our Noise music Bal musette. Some different sound qualities speakers on which we inflict our Noise music, electronic ambient minimal or drones, and field recordings. Our field recordings are recorded from some Tuning festival. NOISE-ette is a kind of sound path as crossing a sonic fairground.

Between experimental music and popular culture, NOISE-ette was five versions since 2008 : BAINS NUMERIQUES in Enghien-les-Bains, Ososphère festival in Strasbourg, City-Sonics Mons, and NUIT BLANCHE in Metz.

All collaborations Martig / PETITGENET are available on this website:

http://www.millefoismerci.fr

VIDEO

some

SOUND PIECES

ZONE ROUGE (LA BUITE DE VAUQUOIS)

SON

The Zone Rouge (Red Zone) is a huge sound project. It is the name given to about 1,200 square kilometres (460 sq mi) of land in north-eastern France that was physically and environmentally destroyed during the First World War. From 2007 Francois Martig is invested on this sound project and works with architects, sound artists, curator, forestry agents, etc... to develop sound architectures on the 1st world war battle fields in relation with landscapes, and of course, the History.

TANKER

SON

field recordings, minimal ambiant and noise music for a sound composition realized from the industrial port of Strasbourg

IT'S APOCALYPSE NOW!

SON

t's Apocalypse Now! is a sound track realized for the pankow gallery exhibition, Berlin.
it's about «survivalism».
Survivalism is a movement of individuals or groups (called survivalists or preppers) who are actively preparing for emergencies, including possible disruptions in social or political order, on scales from local to international. Survivalists often acquire emergency medical and self-defense training, stockpile food and water, prepare to become self-sufficient, and build structures (e.g., a survival retreat or an underground shelter) that may help them survive a catastrophe.

THE WHALING

SON

Sound Piece realized by whales recordings I made on Saint Laurent river, Québec. The whaling is down from few decades but the tourism on zodiac is still alive.

QUERELLE DE CLOCHER

SON

Sound piece realized in Belgium during the European Sound Delta... (www.sound-delta.eu). Made by recordings inside bell tower in Brussels, Antwerpen and Mons. Martig is interested by the same sound of bells in flamish (dutch speaking) and wallons (french speaking) cities.

Other sound works at this adresse : http://www.robinsonhotel.bandcamp.com