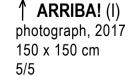


Paul Rosero Contreras (Quito, 1982) is a multimedia artist working with speculative realism, scientific information and fictional narratives. His body of work intertwines distinct epistemologies, ranging from indigenous thinking to the history of science. It explores topics related to geopolitics, interspecies reciprocity, environmental issues and experimentation on future sustainable settings. Rosero holds an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts – CalArts and a Master in Cognitive Systems and Interactive Media from Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Spain. His work has received different prizes and grants, and it has been displayed widely at venues and events such as the 57th Venice Biennale, Musee Quai Branly in Paris, Instituto Cervantes in Rome, Museo de Historia de Zaragoza, 5th Moscow Biennale for Young Art, the 1st. Antarctic Biennale, H2 Center, Augsburg, 11th. Cuenca Biennale, 1st. Bienal Sur in Buenos Aires, at Siggraph in Los Angeles, among other spaces. Currently, Rosero teaches and conducts research at San Francisco de Quito University.





A/P

P. ROSERO - PROJECTS



## ARRIBA!

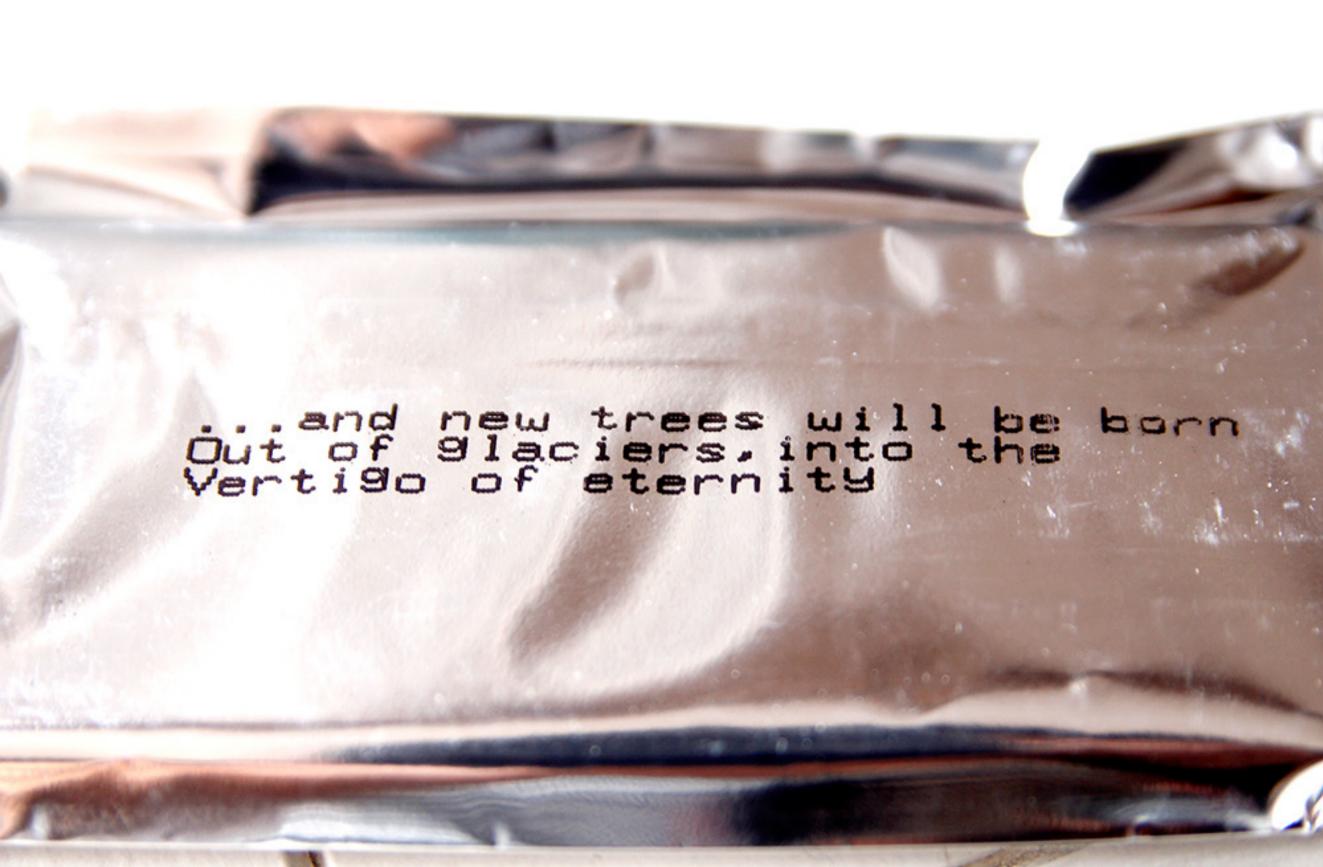
site-specific installation audio recordings, chocolate bar, time capsule containing a living cocoa plant 2017

"Arriba!" is an artistic research project proposing the possible futuristic growth of tropical flora in extremely cold environments. This idea was presented as a temporal site-specific intervention bringing together two dissimilar natural elements. The approach dreams in images related to ecological becomings of life after the so-called environmental cataclysm. In this sense, a cacao plant contained into a temperature-controlled capsule was placed on top of a glacier in Paradise Bay, Antarctic Peninsula. In this magical spot, fossils have been found which date back 55 million years, recalling Antarctica during the Eocene era when it was attached to Australia, where both land masses formed a then pre-tropical environment.

Meanwhile, this artwork proposes a cacao plant as a kind of biological flag, it recalls the idea of planetary movement and the right for migration. Moreover, it is also a proof of concept for a design of greenhouses for extreme and yet to be discovered environments. Ultimately, this project includes an alien plant stating the notion of hybrid and extra-terrestrial ecologies, a custom made chocolate included as a luxurious energy supply, and the sound of the process of harvesting cacao beans. The work is a three-step performance envisioned as an out of context experience for the expeditioners of the South Pole.

This project is partly and generously sponsored by Pacari Premium Organic Chocolate.







ARRIBA! (II) photograph 150 x 150 cm





#### P. ROSERO - PROJECTS



### **EL PENSAMIENTO DE LAS PLANTAS**

## Chapter 2: Cuando despertó, el dinosaurio ya no estaba ahí

ecosystem / installation

sculptures of fungi, susbtrate and plastic waste, audio system, video, drawings, light and evaporated water 2021

This work is part of a long-standing research project focusing on experimental art & science methods for environmental recovery. Within the project, there are attempts to treat terrestrial ecosystems affected by everyday plastic pollution as well as experiments on biodegradation of abandoned fishing nets called "ghost nets" in marine ecosystems. Working with nets gathered from the coast of Esmeraldas, Ecuador, where the number of ghost nets stranded on rocky reefs has increased dramatically in the last ten years, causing changes in marine biodiversity; and with other kind of plastics like cigarette butts (one of the most abundant and toxic plastic polluters on the planet) and plastic bottles, this installation is built up in the form of a forest of hybrid plants, using cacti and succulents as reference. These living sculptures are the result of a biodegradation process of the aforementioned materials. The plants are produced from several experimental processes, where the mycelium of the fungi grows, metabolizes and forms the object containing the plastic waste inside. Overtime, the sculptures keep changing thanks to the aguasystem and living conditions. absorve the mixture of organic and inorganic substrate and possibility to human leftovers. suggests manage the space а





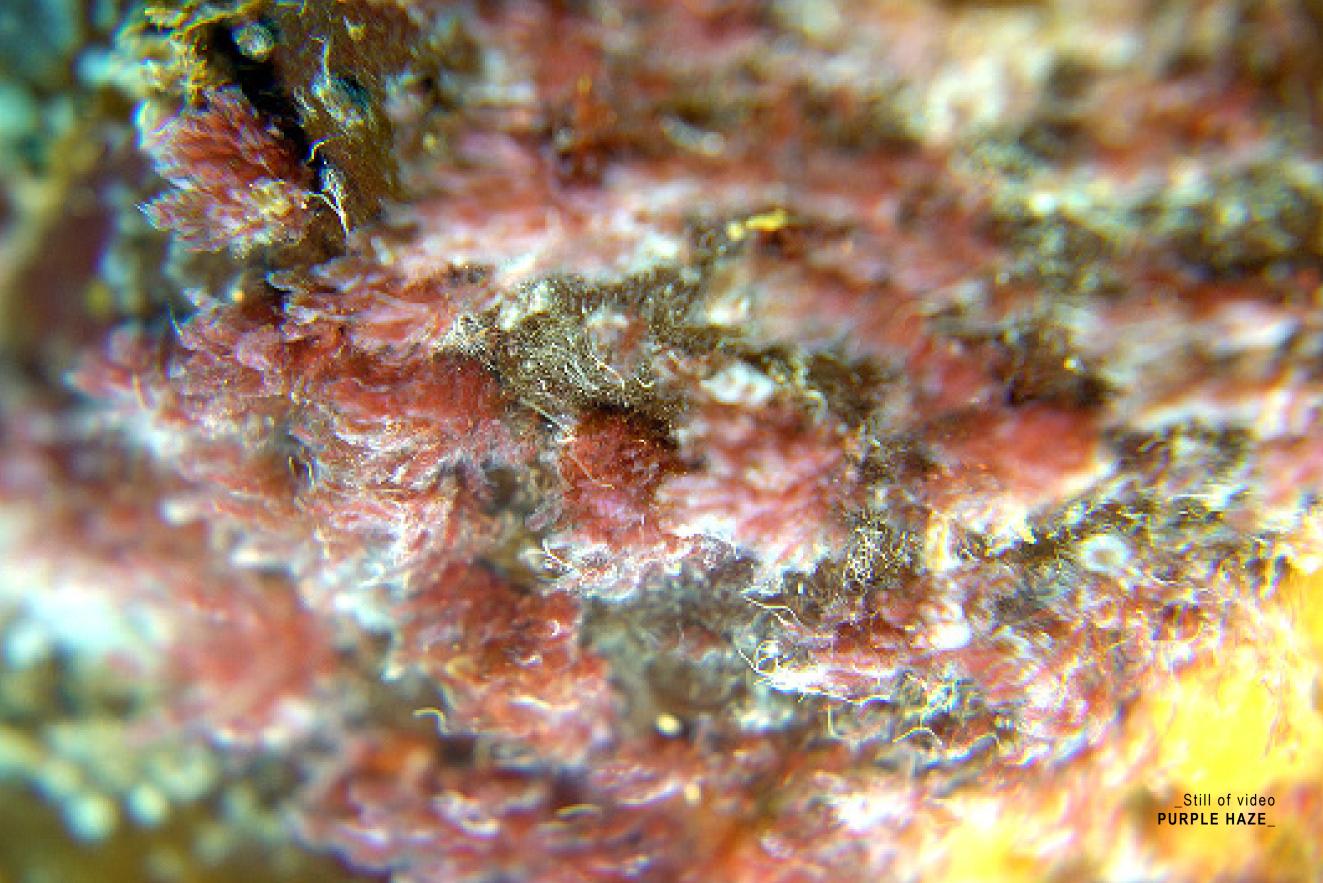


















# polished meteorite 5cmx2.2cmx0.4cm aprox. 2015











DARK PARADISE: Humans in Galápagos

Watch Video https://vimeo.com/364427162

### P. ROSERO - PROJECTS



## DARK PARADISE: Humans in Galápagos 2 channel video installation 4k video, 5.1 surround sound system 2016-2019

The work of the artist Paul Rosero Contreras largely explores the landscape and the myriad and unexpected ways plant and animal life undergoes endless transformation. His art broaches themes related to the environment; the biological modification of species; geopolitics; the effects of meteorological conditions on life; history; and ecosystem change. The artist wrangles with different territories through painstaking scrutiny, which imitates and subverts the visual repertoires associated with representation, science fiction, and the geographical record.

Dark Paradise: Humans in Galapagos explores the territory and forms of life on the Galápagos Islands, which were largely uninhabited until annexation to Ecuador in 1832. This video-installation presents two parallel projects, The Origin of Pink and Purple Haze, counterposing a volcano on land and a hydrothermal vent underwater, both portrayed as forces that reflect the past and design the future of the planet and its species.

The Origin of Pink spins a fictional narrative around the island's iguanas, investigating an apparent biological cause for the pinkish pigmentation of the reptile's skin. This study into the iguana's characteristic hue generates a series of connections with processes of preservation and mutation in an apparently hostile environment. Purple Haze records the underwater activities of hydrothermal vents and their constant belching of hydrogen molecules that generate chemical and physical reactions that create and sustain a host of ecosystems and forms of life.

In this fashion, Rosero Contreras establishes a metaphor for social and cultural change through the uncertain manners in which bodily morphologies transform and adapt over time. His work is a comment on how the manifold solutions life finds in the most inhospitable environments very often remain unseen and pass unnoticed.

Miguel A. López



















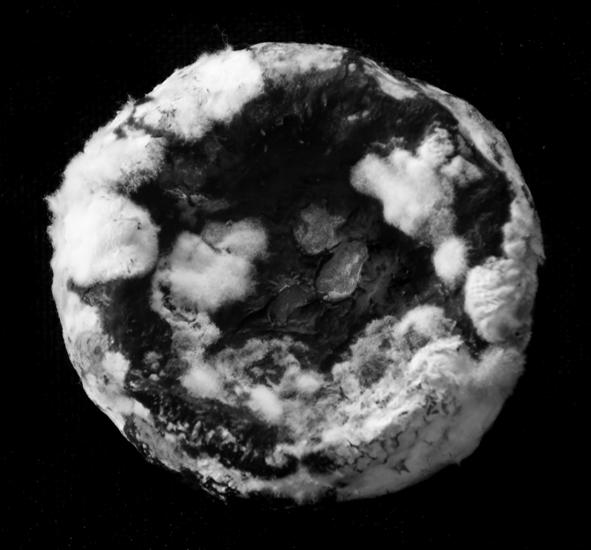
























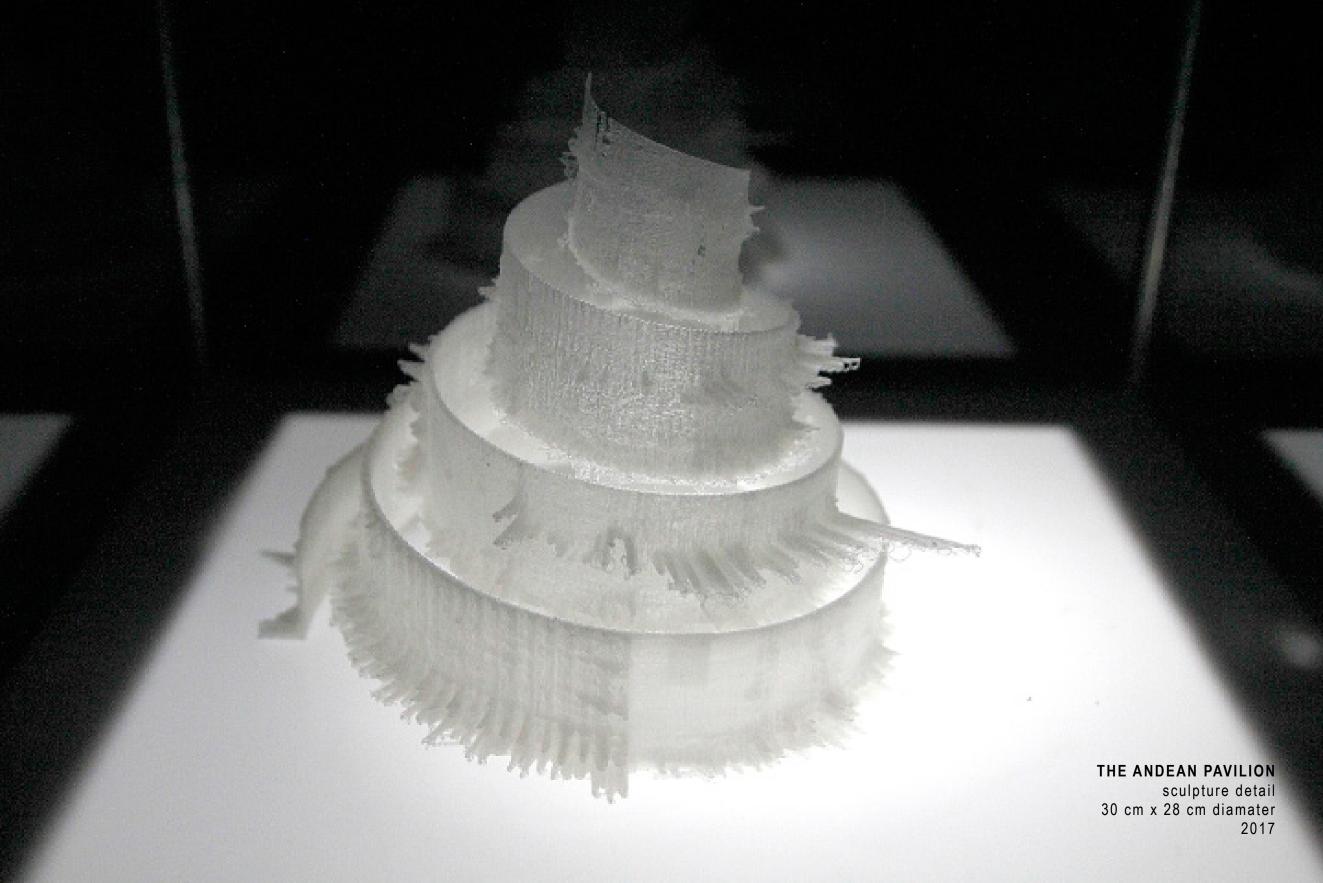


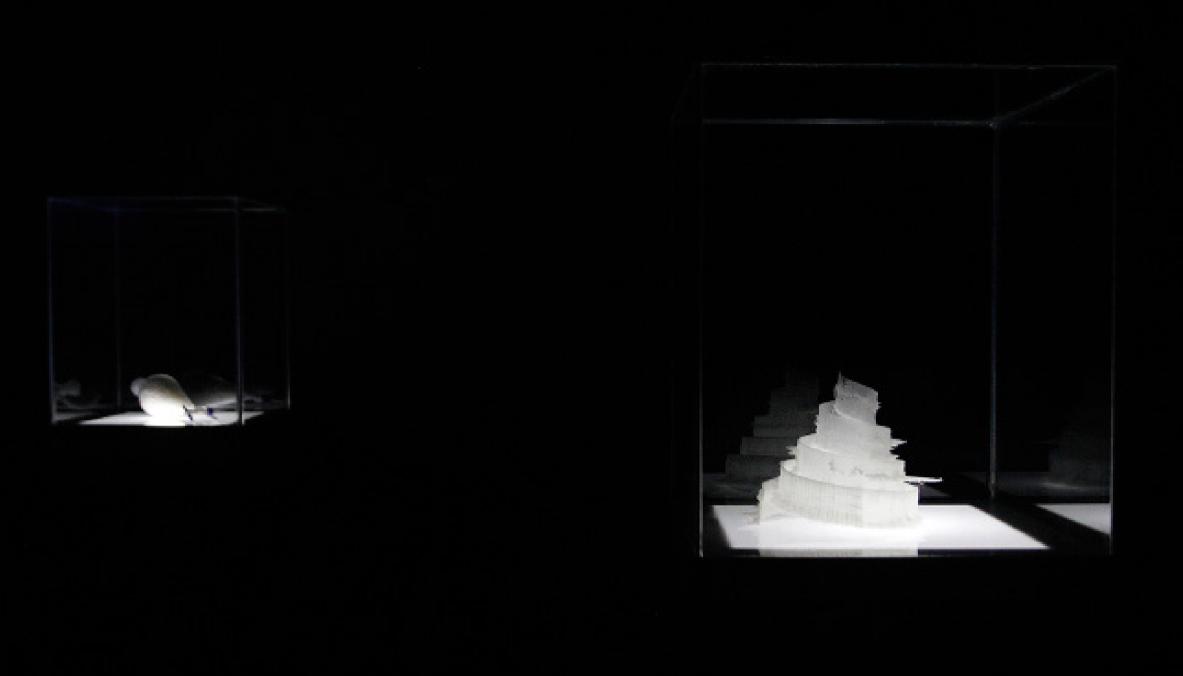






# THE ANDEAN PAVILION installation view 1st. Bienal Sur Buenos Aires, Argentina 2017









#### P. ROSERO - PROJECTS



### EL PENSAMIENTO DE LAS PLANTAS

photographs, inflatable sculpture 2019

El Pensamiento de las Plantas includes photographs, an extraterrestrial object, and the specter of Icarian explorations.

Historically, the view from above or the so-called "God view" has been linked to power. Surveillance, privacy, and information warfare are critical contemporary issues, marked by a constant culture of paranoia about who may be seeing us from above. The intelligence surrounding viewing systems, and the technology used to reach them are decreasingly accessible. While all this may be true, the view from above has existed beyond and outside of humankind, and before history. Birds, tall plants and distinct species who climb up mountains and trees embodied this point of view before religions or capitalism appeared on the earth.

The rain forest canopy is part of this unexplored viewpoint. It has been of interest to some of the greatest biologists for nearly two centuries.

In this project explores the inner dynamics occurring in the tropical rainforest, developing a speculative framework from a multi-species perspective. On one hand, it explores interand-cross-species communication and bio-sensing experiments that have been conducted clandestinely since the hallucinogenic American and European postwar art scene. On the other, it embodies indigenous traditions and ancient knowledge on the interstice of human and non-human interaction around the Amazonian region.

The word dendronautics stems from the Greek words dendron (tree) and nautica (navigation). It is defined as the art of bringing persons or scientific instruments close to the crowns of forest trees, or more generally, as the art of arboreal exploration. Rosero Contreras is particularly interested in the collaboration between Graham Dorrington, an English aeronautical engineer and Dieter Plage, a German wildlife filmmaker whose documentaries brought attention to conservation issues, and who died in an accident while filming on board of a Dorrington's airship in the rain forest in Sumatra on April 3, 1993.

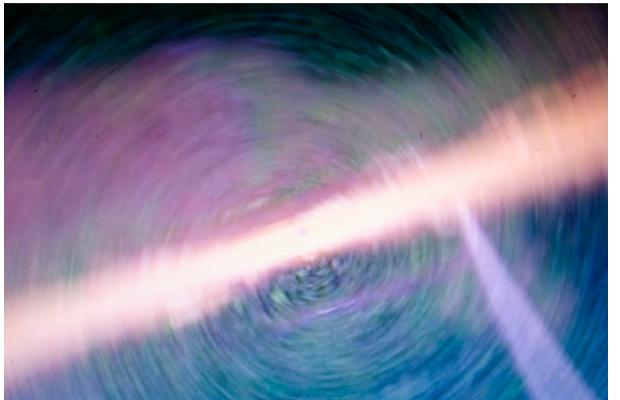
El Pensamiento de las Plantas honors people dedicated to preserving life by proposing non-human agency and the irrational as inspirational. In fact we are all alive, interconnected by similar processes, from the intellectual and multisensory properties that relate humans to other lifeforms; ultimately, from the deep sea to the canopy of rainforests.













## HOME, NO HOME

Urban intervention / Sculpture scrapings of walls, monuments, floors and buildings made by slaves light boxes, photographs 2012

After Nantes, Bordeaux was the second largest city in the slave trade in France. Records indicate that between one hundred twenty thousand (120,000) and one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) people were deported in vessels between 1672 and 1837, making France the third European country, after England and Portugal, with increased travel of ships laden with slaves during the slave period. This percentage reached 12% of the triangular trade started from several African countries such as Mozambique, Angola or Zanzibar islands, among others, and ended the trip mainly in the French colonies as Sant-Dominique (now Haiti). Finaly, in the year 1848 the slavery was abolished from an uprising originated in Haiti and led by Toussaint Louverture (1743-1803). His youngest son Issac, lived and died in Bordeaux. Following a map drawn with simbolic sites of the city regarding this process, I co- llected some material that builds monuments, plaques, houses, government buildings or squares that represent the richness of the city based on slaves work.

### ▼ Toussaint Louverture

(1743-1803) leader of the emancipation of slaves 2015



















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## **CUANDO TÚ TE HAYAS IDO**

installation
16mm film, drawings made of ashes of burned books and wikileaks, reactive lights
2011

Cuando tú te hayas ido, in English, When you have gone focuses on the unveiling of lesser-known or secret information by working with several databases as sources for the images that conform up the installation.

Using Wikileaks cables as literary texts this work departs from the selection of fragments, which due to their visual, aural or sensorial evocation, allow their de-codification towards experimental languages. Subsequently, the discovery of a photographic archive about Afro Ecuadorians from the end of the 19th Century – beginning of the 20th Century, gears the search towards a gap in the visual history of Ecua- dor: the social location of the Afro within a country mired in the dichotomous dialogue of the dominated Indian by its foreign antagonist, thus emphasiz- ing the fact that merely three decades ago the last black slave dies within the Ecuadorian territory.

The third concern lies in the appropriation of the Final Report of the Truth Commission -created to investigate human rights violations that occurred between 1984 and 1988-and its incineration as a metaphorical instrument. Its ashes not only become the material used for drawing, but more importantly, the mechanism to question circumstantial memory.



**Sketch** collage of photographs from archive 2011



Cuando tú te hayas ido 16mm. film. 4'25" (loop) stills 2011











An active volcano at the Ecuadorian highlands is the location of an action where a momentary encounter between a glacier, a human and a machine is carried out. Looking for the production of a symbiotic sculpture that expands the notion of in-situ intervention by means of a translation of natural forces into physical matter.

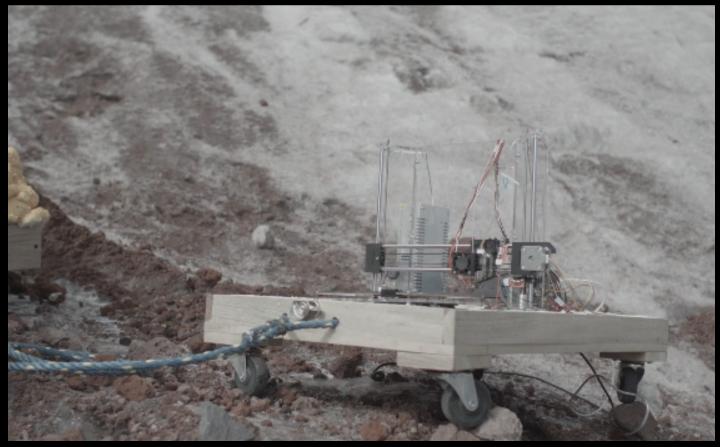
Watch Video (>)
https://vimeo.com/145852937
password: yellow









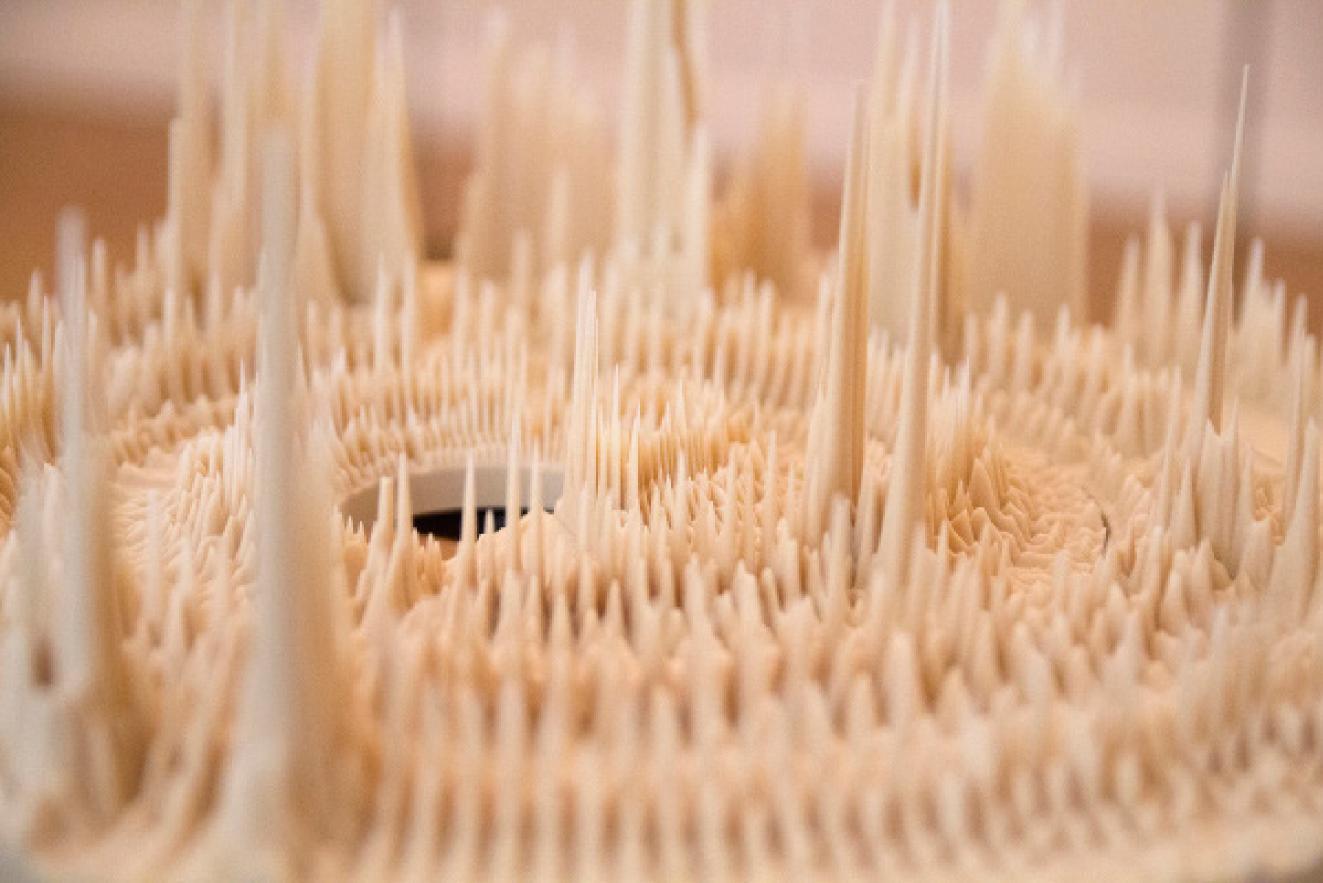


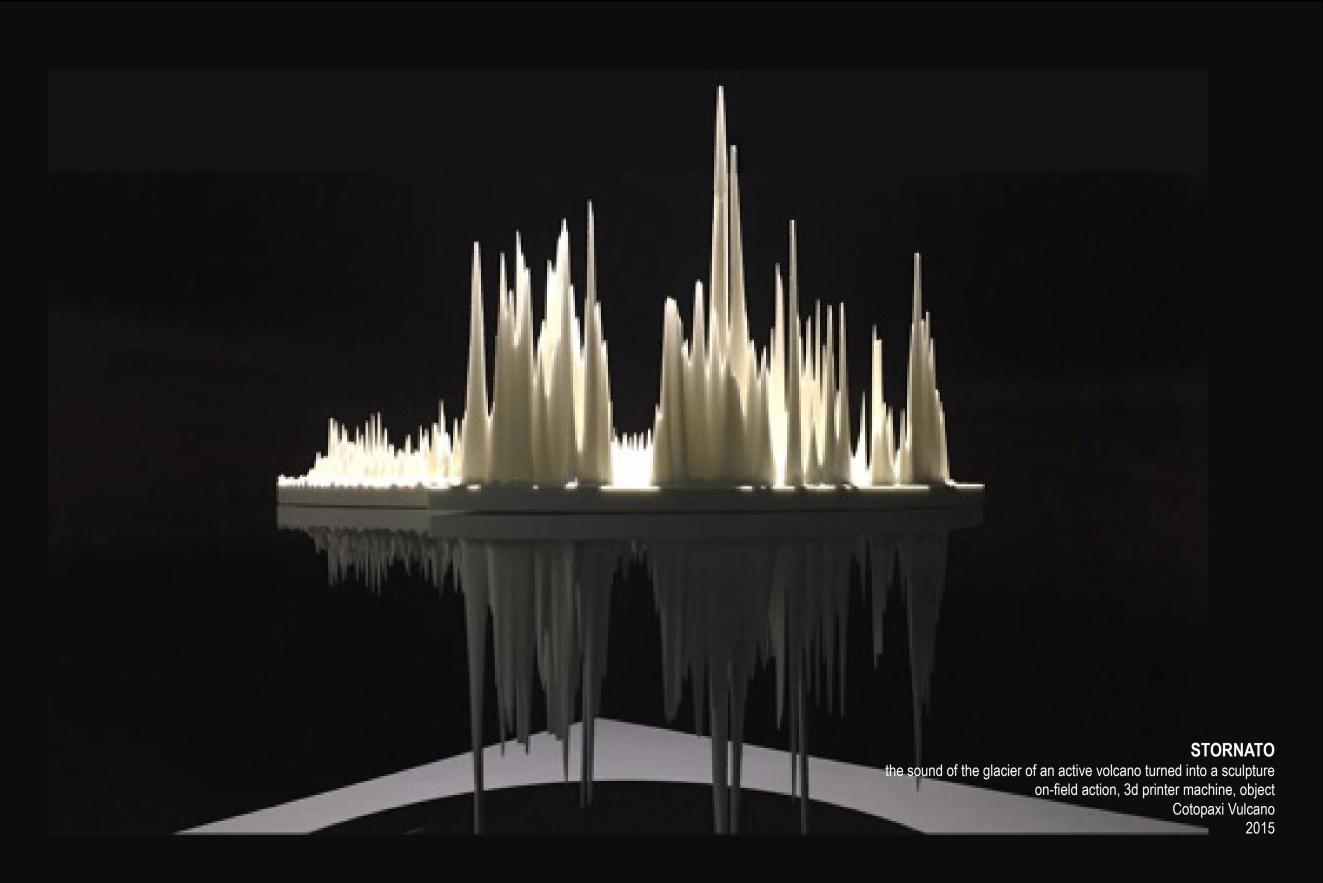
\_Still of video
THE OPENING\_











+

# **STORNATO**

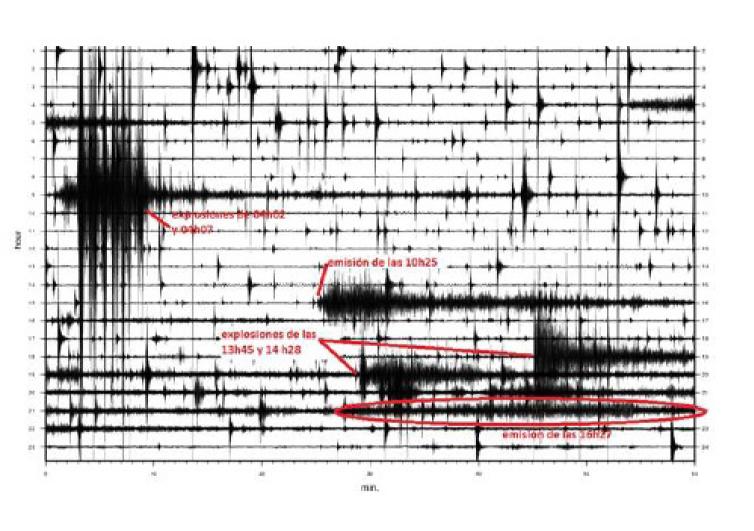
the sound of the glacier of an active volcano turned into a sculpture action, 3d printer machine, object

Cotopaxi Vulcano
2015

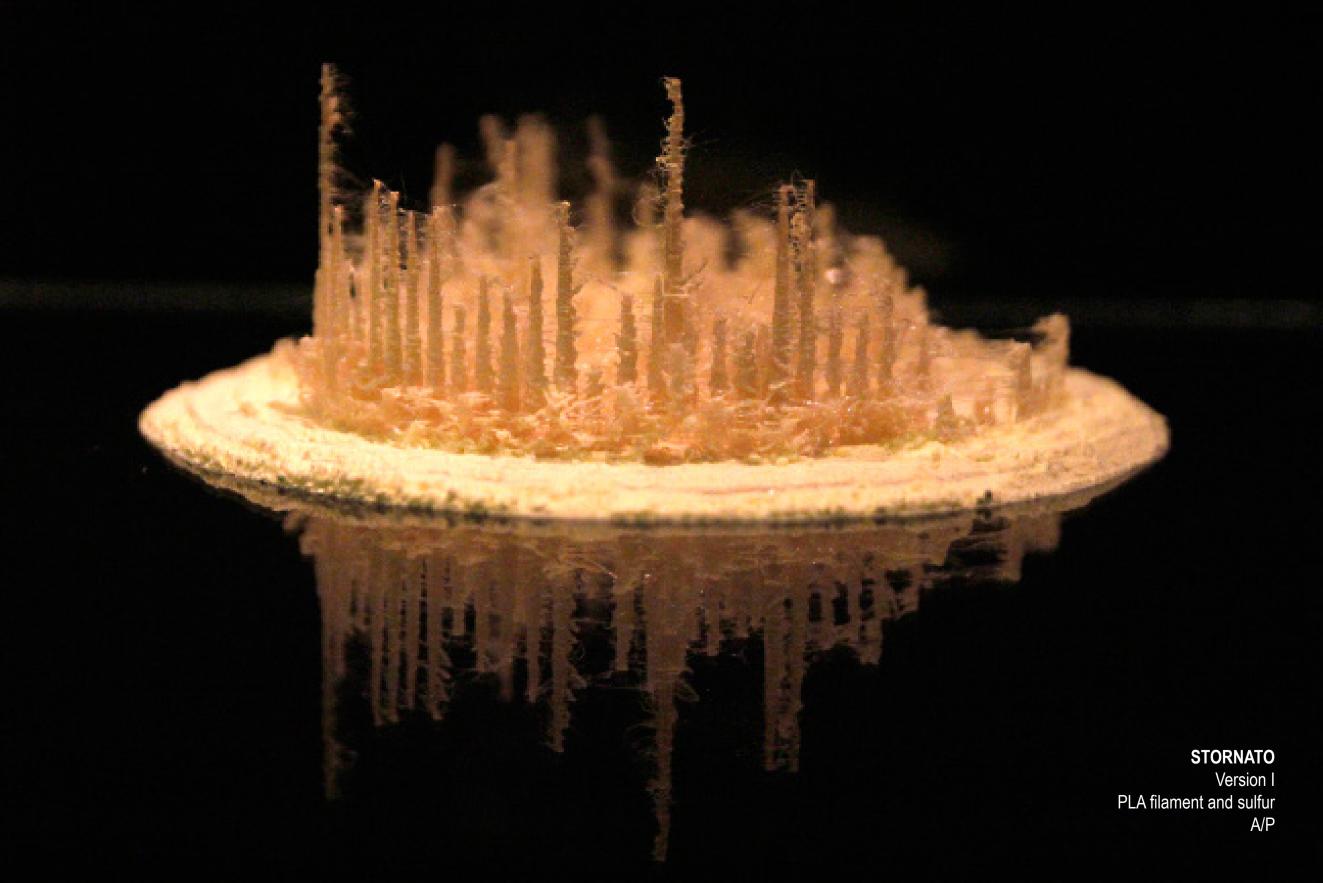
Emergence in the context of hybridity has to do with a spatial and temporal superimposition that becomes visible by means of an action. This action is instituing an advent on and off the hybrid organism. It's the birth of a symbiotic space that is not an utopian space. Regardless, none of them have no real place, a symbiotic space does not spread out onto an ideal, wonderful and flat field. There is no cities with big avenues nor benefic countries. There is neither direct nor inverse analogy to the social space. It is social space by itself.

A symbiotic space acknowledges the heterotopy in the sense that it anticipates language. It breaks its linear syntax. In a hybrid space words stop onto themselves, words arise the myth and dissect the purpose. As well as the heterotopy, a symbiotic space proposes a clash in time of multiple real emplacements. These emplacements fluctuate inside and outside of the given and institute an amalgam. This is a becoming that states a type of contestation to the space we live in without proposing any other specific geography.

Extract from the Hybridist Manifesto by PRC 2015







### P. ROSERO - PROJECTS



# **HABITAT**

HD video + object made out of ashes gathered from an active volcano Cotaló, Tungurahua, 2016

The hybrid inhabits a space constructed in between and within both worlds. Under and above grounds are interconnected in such a way that if you remove one out, both will disappear. In consequence, the flows back and forth both grounds. This flow pulls in and out residues of both. This is the foundation of a mixture that implies an opening. This flow might be correlated with the idea of touch in Merleau- Ponty: "To be touched is, of course, to undergo something that comes from the outside, so I am, quite fundamentally, occasioned by what is outside of me, which I undergo, and this undergoing designates a certain passivity, but not one that is understood as the opposite of 'activity'. To undergo this touch means that there must be a certain openness to the outside that postpones the plausibility of any claim to self-identity" (1).

Extract from the Hybridist Manifesto by PRC 2015

1. Merleau-Ponty Maurice, Galen A. Johnson, Michael B. Smith, The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader: philosophy and paiting. Northwestern University Press, 1993.

























interactive exploration in Antarctica audio recordings, photographs, video, drawings 2011-2013

What does frozen history sound like?

**audiopoiesis** is an interactive sound system that - through the use of contact hydrophones (vibration sensors) and software - records and decodes a spectrum of imperceptible audio frequencies of various surfaces.

The first recordings were realized in the Antarctica from February to March, 2013. The metaphor revolves around the exploration of secret sounds, or sounds that are trapped in polar surfaces, as banks that contain and preserve human history. From the biological theory of Autopoiesis, the Antarctica is assumed as a great junction of ecosystems that are self-sustainable and capable of producing and maintaining symbiotic life. In this sense, vibrations are decoded to be used as parameters for the generation of sound. This idea is researched in terms of energy, subjective unveiling of frozen history, self-displacement and sound as presence. The project is conceptualized as an interface for developing ways of human-environment communication.

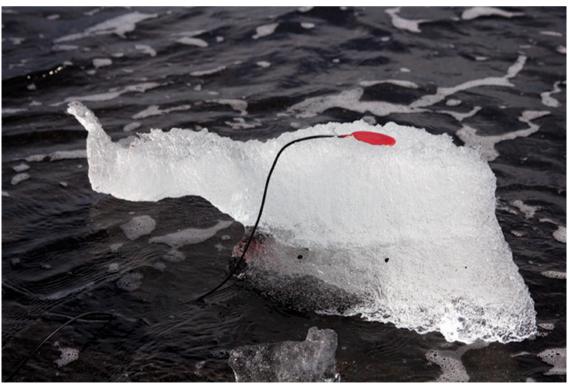






















# Protests Atomic Cake



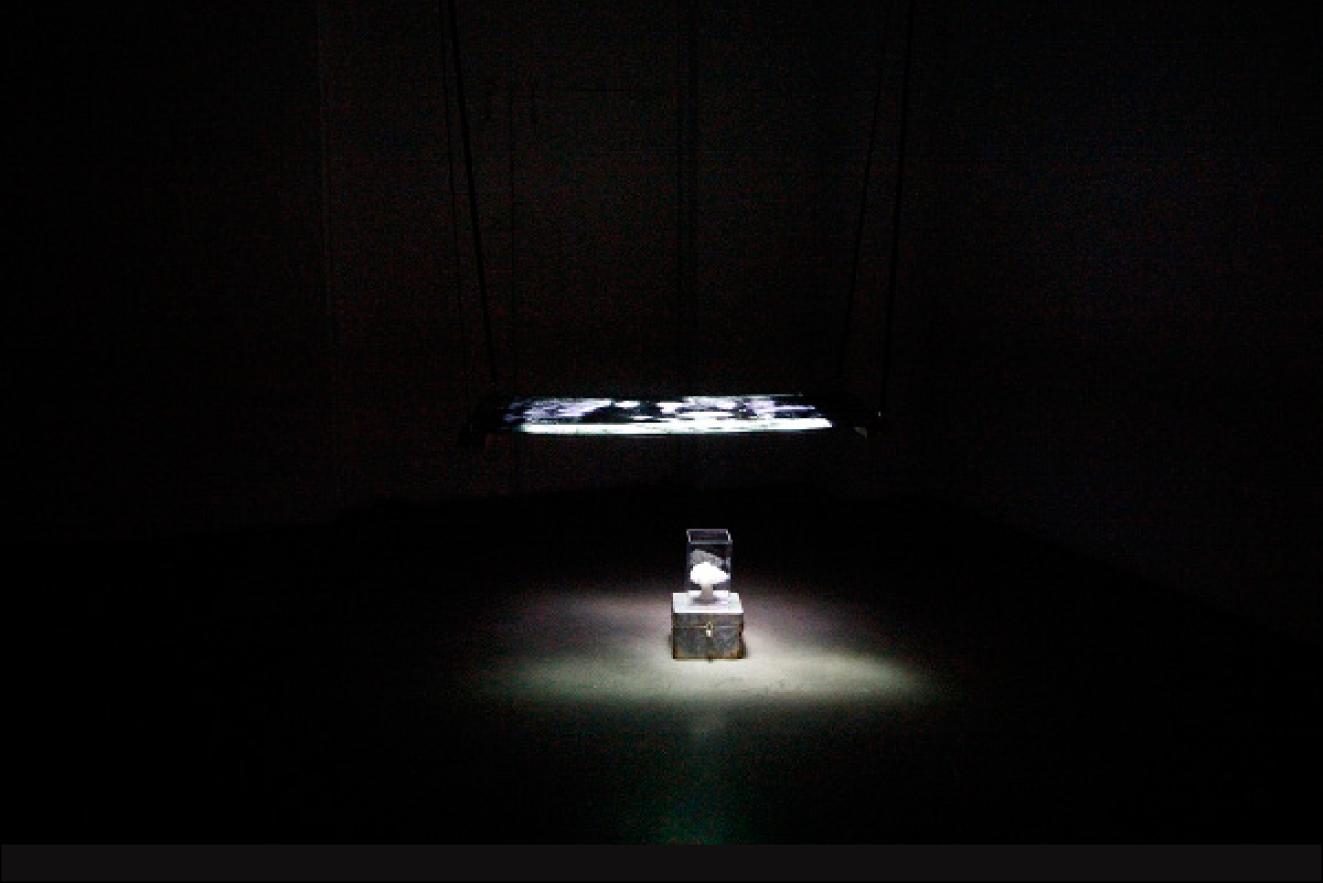
# **SALUTE TO BIKINI**

atomic mushroom cloud sculpture, multimeter slide projection on drawing made of marine salt 2015

Salute to Bikini makes reference to the place where the first atomic bomb was released. The installation focuses on how images lose impact over time. By revisiting the atomic mushroom cloud image from 1946 as an example, the project points out how images are assimilated until the point of becoming souvenirs.

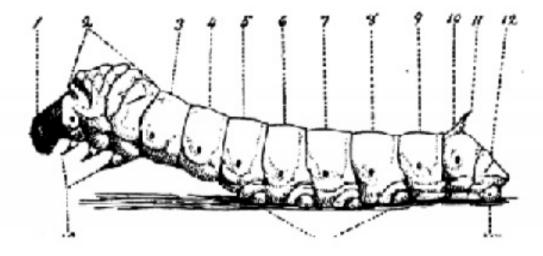
→ installation object + drawing + slide projection 2014











# Wave. Version II Object sculpted in silk

Object sculpted in silk documentation 2016

#### P. ROSERO - PROJECTS



## **WAVE**

biological sculpture, tracking system, video, sound 2013- 2016

Wave is a bio-driven reactive installation composed by a 3D prototype of a sound wave sculpted in silk by a swarm of *Bombyx mori* silkworms along with a generative sonification and visualization of this process. In the context of a post-human life, the idea of organic 3D printing is introduced as part of a hybrid process of construction.

Bombyx mori is a species of silkworm genetically-engineered to achieve a number of labors within the textile industry as well as in the field of design. By using the spinning capabilities of silkworms as a multi-axis 3D printer, it is viable to obtain patches of silk instead of only cocoons during their weaving process. This project explores this procedure by situating a reactive color tracking system in a synthetic environment in order to shape glitchy hybrid sculptures. It also reflects on how genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) constantly redefine our social perception of artificial entities and transform our embodied relationship with nature itself.

Wave is part of an ongoing research project that focuses on mutualism and in-terspecies collaborations to generate artificial ecosystems based on the idea of post-humanism. This artifact/habitathybridizes digital and biological construction not as a metaphor but as a way of rethinking phenomenological experiences. By utilizing computer vision and ultravi- olet lights, the movements of a swarm of color-coded silkworms are interpreted into a generative sound and visual framework, while a bio-sculpture is built together in a real time semi-autonomous living installation.

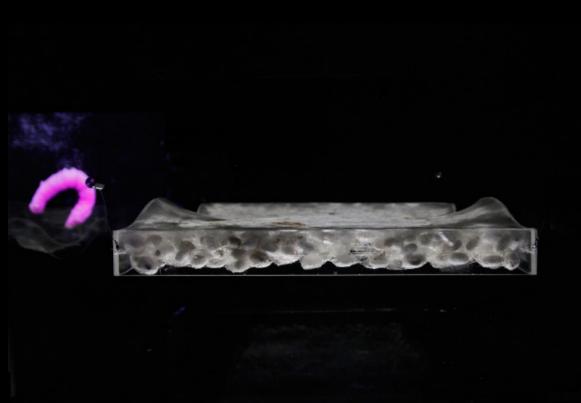






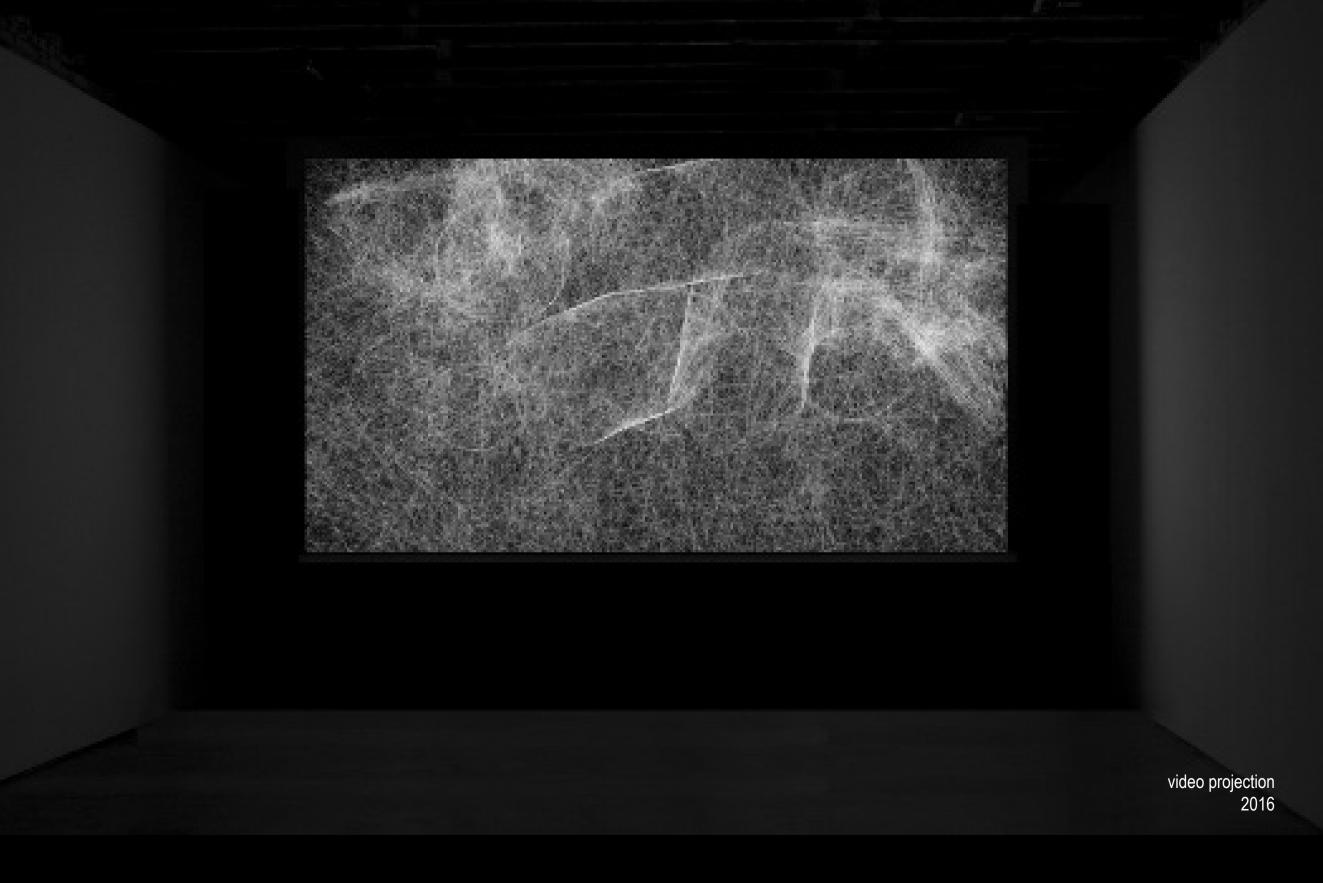
















**ENSAYO SOBRE LA CEGUERA** 



4

In an isolated beach on the border of Russia and Abkhazia, industrial waste is found adapting to the environment: water and oil pipes sharing space with introduced bushes and a big tire with crustaceans growing on it.

These materials are symbolically reutilized in an installation that proposes a way of perceiving the current situation of seas, as supposed, a blind person could do. Or, as Sabine Wilke phrased it, can we imagine a multi-sensory dimensional response to landscape that is not automatically enveloped in the paradigm of subjectivity? In this sense, there is no romantic view on how the ocean was, rather than a critical perspective in regards of symbiotic processes taking place on the shores and on open ocean.

Natural rubber is native of the Amazonas but it is not cultivated widely due to the existence of South American leaf blight and other natural predators of the rubber tree. In this context, it is not only a nomad material, but also one that embodies great part of the history of industralization.

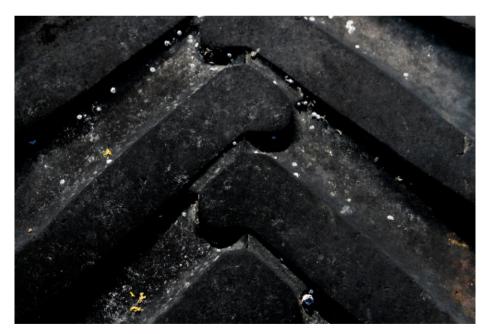
This project reflects on how a product originally used from a natural source, becomes artificial and has the potentiality to become part natural once again. In this possibility, this project institutes the notion of hybridity.

**The Castle**, is a sculpture produced by replicating a 'found-process' as an analogy of this promising nature. The space that generates this speculation is thought as a space of eternal becoming, where beings are not pre-designated to a given life. Then, there is something that always will affect from the outside in a movement working as a gate to the unknown. The idea of industrial waste constantly adapting to different ecosystems turns fundamental within the artist's body of work.



<sup>→</sup> Tire found on the shore of a beach on the same border.









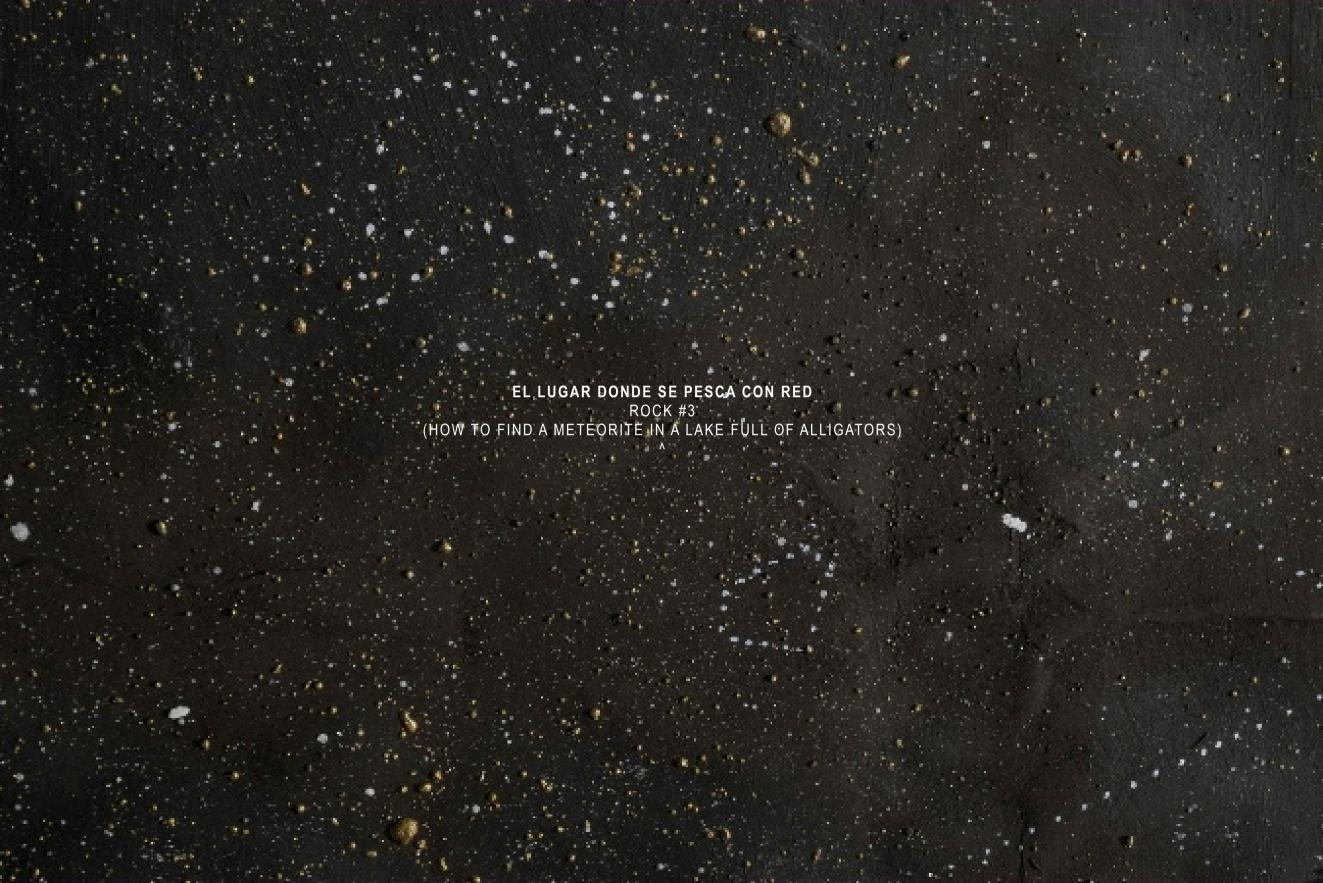












### **ROCK #3**

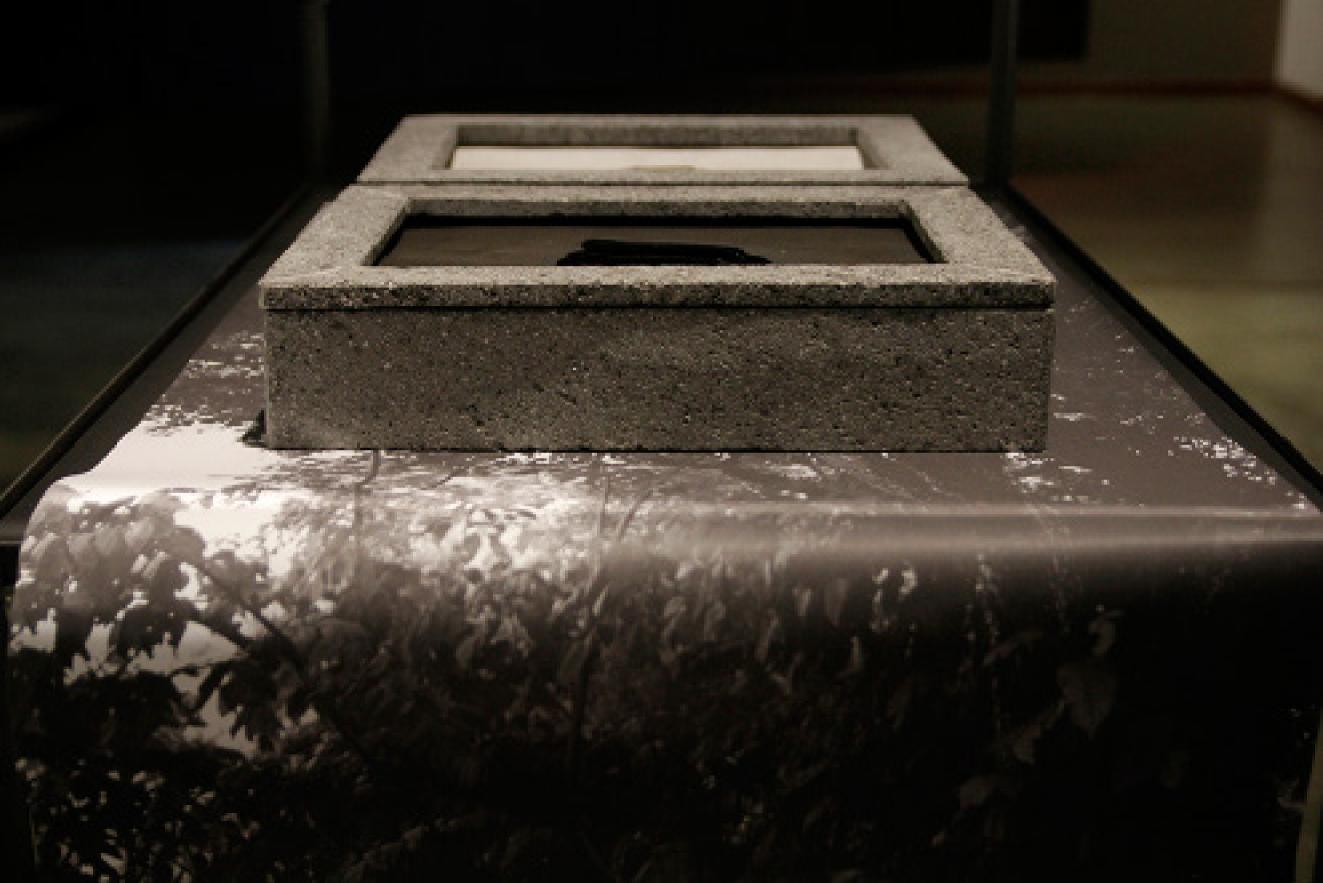
how to find a meteorite in a lake full of alligators installation 2016

The question is how we think projects that are not subscribed to States or regions marked by borders and by the Official History. I think when we explore places or te- rritories with forms of knowledge that do not necessarily have to do with rationality but pwith other sensibilities, is that we are getting into the territory of language, and that is something very complex to manage. I still believe in some level of mystery in art, but that has nothing to do with that Benjamin's aura, but rather, that I think that art, whatever it is, although not material, still keeps certain level of "indecipherability". It is a mystery that does not necessarily translates into an apprenticeship. The work-spectator experience is not given solely on the ground of reason or communication. Art is not communication.

- In this case, I propose setting up an emerging geography, linked to certain places in dispute, where the idea of sovereignty is still suspended. That is the entrance to the geopolitical issue of Antarctica, for example, and that happens when an object falls from space: Who owns it? I think these examples allow me to disrupt the ideas of territory and think how man colonizes not only from the superposition of the human species, but with the specific charge of the country even in the most inhospitable environment and in the most fantastic circumstances.

Conversation between the artist and curator Pablo Jose Ramirez





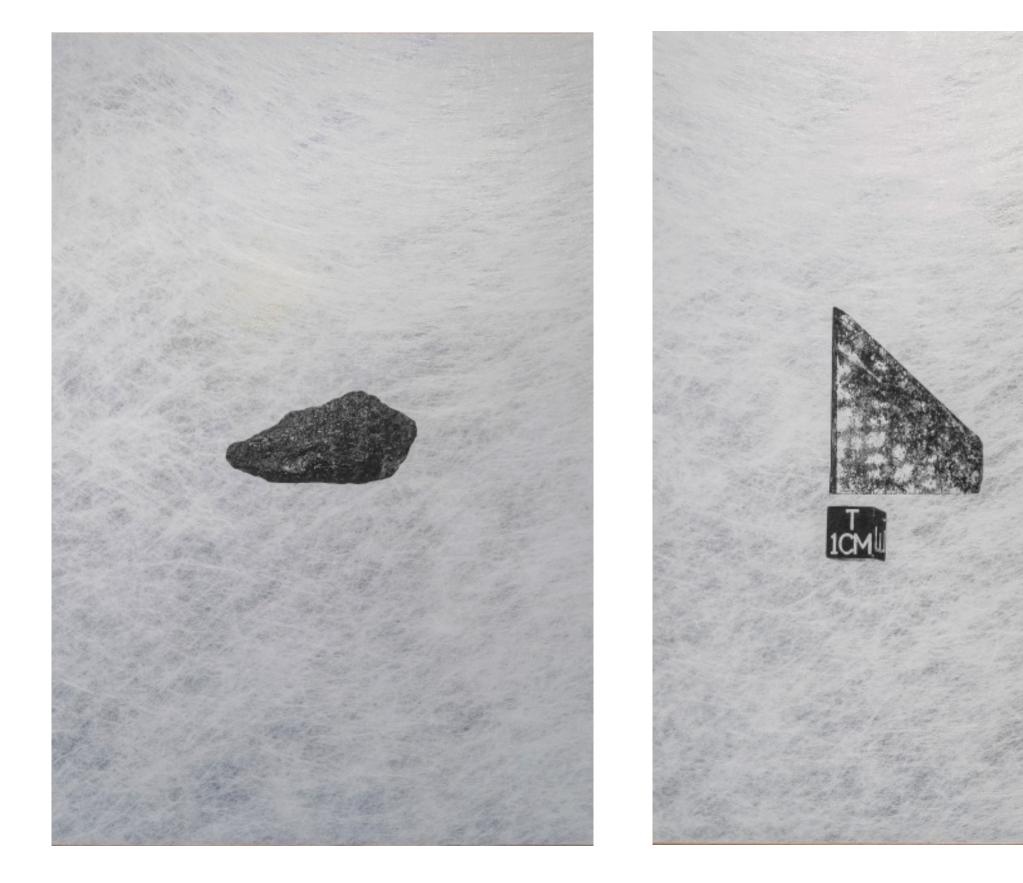


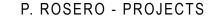










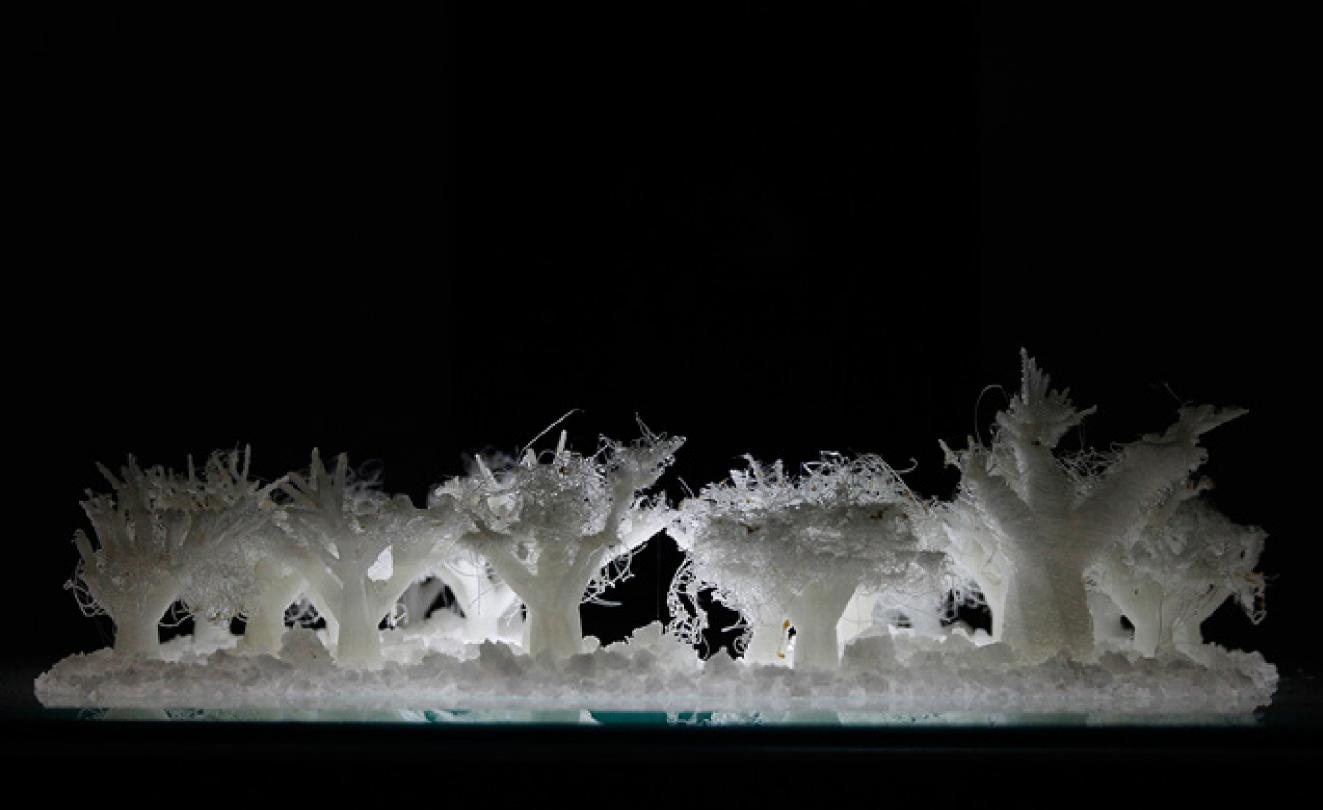


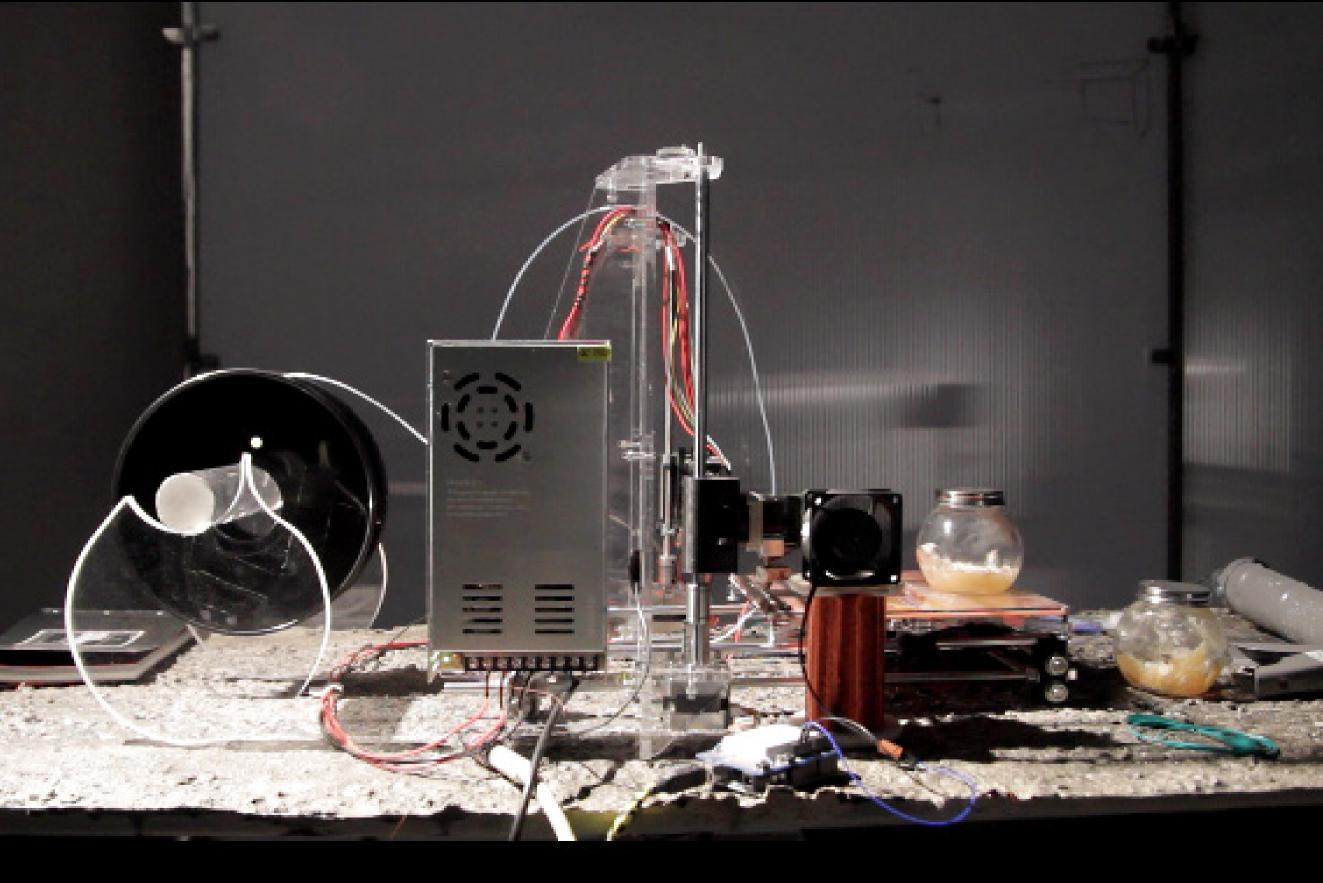
## ANTICIPATION TO AN ABSENCE

artificial living forest made of pastic and mushrooms 2015

For making this project, a custom 3D printer was constructed. Poiting out the ideologies behind every technology and practizing a type of revertion of its meanings. In thi sense, the project especulates around distinct ways of utilizing technology in relation to the environment and plays with the idea of power distributed by means of how we use machines.











#### GOLD - INTERSECTION IV - ÓXIDO II

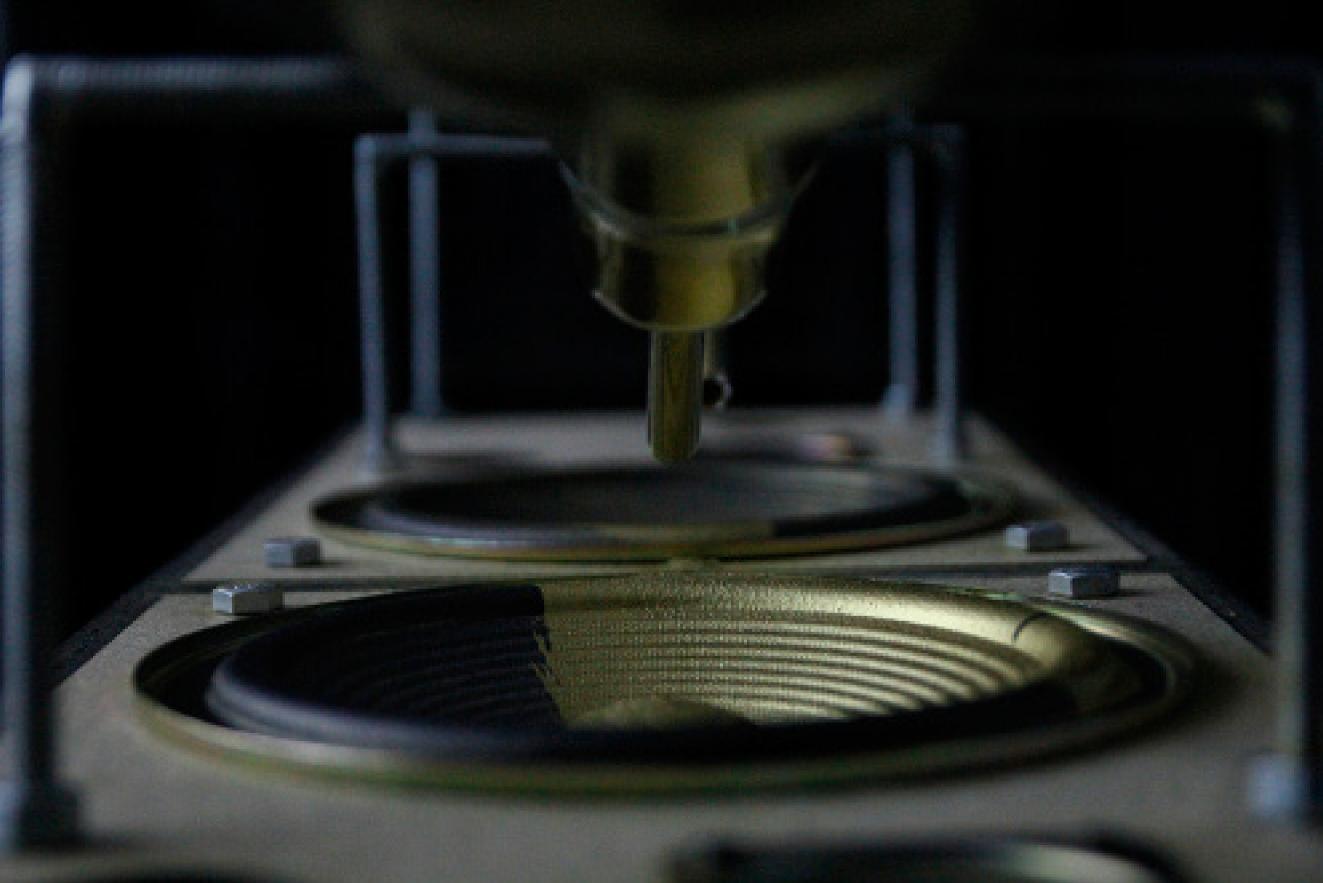
installation sound objects made of glass, gold sand and HDV video 2015

This project was filmed in a closed down gold mine in the border between Ecuador and Peru. It is one the mines located right on the frontier between countries and the main reason to dispute the territory by going on repetitive wars throughout the years.

The two sound objects amplify audio recordings taken in the mine. The vibration of soundwaves onto glass objects make them to drop small pinchs of gold pigment conforming an new space in between both objects.

Watch Video https://vimeo.com/145284875

Intersection IV sound glass objects, audio system, video 2015















\_Still of video **GOLD**\_













# FROM LIGHT TO LIGHT

photography series - published book 2013

Looking for human traces in the most far--away place on Earth. From trafic signs to lights to working vehicales this photographs are part document and part intervention in the landscape.

FROM LIGHT TO LIGHT photographs 2013

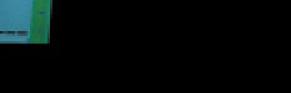






















THE RETURN OF A VISION slide projection 2015

## THE RETURN OF A VISION

Slide projection photograph taken by a drone 2015

\_

What does it mean God view? Having access to see from above does it necessary imply spionage? This project explores the power dynamics related to those ways of seen that are closely aligned to the use of technologies like drones.

slide projection 2015



# CONSTALLATION II [ECO-MIMETISMOS] in collaboration with Kuai Shen

Bio-driven sound installation Ants colony (Atta Cephalotes), glass spheres, mics, code, sound system 2016

