

A long-exposure photograph of a field at night. In the foreground, a line of people wearing white, reflective suits stands across the field. The suits are illuminated from within, creating a bright white glow. The background features several tall streetlights with red lights at the top. The sky is dark, and the overall scene is captured with a long exposure, resulting in some motion blur and a dreamlike atmosphere.

# Portfolio

Hugo Pétigny

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1. Biography

Hugo Pétigny was born in le Havre in 1992. He is interested in the ability of images to transmit energy.

These interests oscillate between contemporary energy issues, social rhythms, new technologies, electricity, matter and light. In these pieces, Hugo Pétigny shows emotions that take the form of different energies coming together to form images.

Hugo Pétigny is graduate of the University of Lille, les Beaux-arts de Tourcoing and Le Fresnoy Studio National des arts contemporains,

He incorporates reflections on the production of works of art in the context of global warming. Preferring to work on long-term projects, Hugo Pétigny defends a conception of artistic production inspired by the ideas of degrowth. His works, which are constructed through experimentation and the passage of time, offer viewers the chance to experience visual and cognitive issues such as identity, the economy, renewable energies and our relationship with time.

## **2. Portfolio**

### **A. Installation**

## Du travail et du temps (2024)

(Curatorial and installation project) Print, screen, matte photography, video projection, film

### Curatorial part :

Six artists were invited to write a text on how they managed their working time. These texts were printed on sheets available at the entrance to the exhibition.

A stopwatch lasting 12 hours (the legal working time in France) was started each time the exhibition opened, to show how much working time is invisible in artistic practice.

### Installation part :

### Photography :

A photograph seeks to show the different energies present in a finished image. We can see the artist's research, a line of fire, a mirror in which is reflected a video-projection of the Gravelines nuclear power station in Nord-Pas-de-Calais, this place being the starting point of a film presented in the same exhibition.

### Film 3D :

The film is a journey through Google Earth 3D from Gravelines power station in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region to the exhibition venue. The power station is the source of the electricity used to project the film.

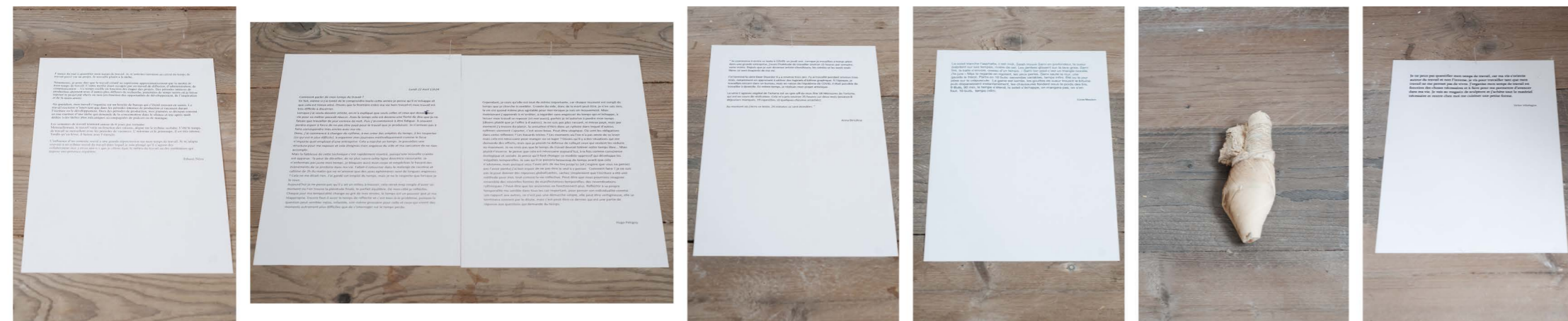
### Project in progress' film made with exhibition visitors :

During the exhibition, visitors are invited to talk about what they know about working as an artist. These interviews are brought together in a film about the precarious status of artists in France.

The entire project was supported by the City of Roubaix's Citizens' Initiative Project.



A stopwatch lasting 12 hours (the legal working time in France) was started each time the exhibition opened, to show how much working time is invisible in artistic practice.



Six artists were invited to write a text on how they managed their working time. These texts were printed on sheets available at the entrance to the exhibition. Link texts transcription : <https://hugopetigny.com/index.php/du-travail-et-du-temps/>

A photograph seeks to show the different energies present in a finished image.





The film is a journey through Google Earth 3D from Gravelines power station in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais  
Link film 3D : <https://hugopetigny.com/index.php/en-passant/>



## Résilience, une histoire aux alentours de 12800 watts

Photography on glass, aluminium, mirorr, solar modules. 2023

«Résilience, une histoire aux alentours de 12800 watts» is an outdoor photovoltaic installation accompanied by an audio recording. It explores a contemporary tension: what choice should we make between degrowth and progress in the face of global warming?

The audio part tells the true story of a journey inspired by Don Quixote, in which the artist and his companion attempt to cycle to France's largest wind farm in the Nord Pas de Calais region. Wind turbines they see as a representation of contemporary industrial giants.

On the bikes, the two partners charge torches with the dynamo, in order to take a photo at night in the field with an exposure time of one hour with this light. However, bad weather forced the travellers to abandon their ecological transport and return to the comfort and safety of a car and train.

In the end, the story tells of the difficulty of changing models and the importance of resilience in this process. Because the final image is nevertheless achieved despite the feeling that the attempt has failed.



Screenshot from the movie «Projet en cours»

Link movie : [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X-tXwFza4PyICfKSoOL4bdPgtFG-TLWD/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X-tXwFza4PyICfKSoOL4bdPgtFG-TLWD/view?usp=drive_link)

This photograph is then printed on a glass plate installed in a structure inspired by a camera mirror and reminiscent of a solar panel.

New-generation photovoltaic modules made from organic materials by a French company are glued to the back of the structure. These charge a battery that switches on the lighting in the area at night when the public passes in front of a movement sensor. The structure is therefore self-sufficient in electricity. At night, the lights also recharge the battery, so forming a closed circuit.

Finally, the title of the piece includes a calculate of the amount of electricity used during shooting and post-production, which is around 12,800 watts.

The whole project is a meeting between the logics of degrowth (long time, craftsmanship, eco-production, energy resilience, etc.) and those of industrialisation (immediacy, technical progress, power, network, etc.).

This project was developed with the help of artist Julien Prévieux.

Link teaser : <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10747029/video/878255053>

Audio part ( to be listened to on headphones )

Link : <http://hugopetigny.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Resilience.mp3>









Photograph taken at the Fruges wind farm (Nord-Pas-de-Calais) 1 hour exposure time (November 2022)



Presentation at the Multiplex exhibition - Dunkerque - November 2023



Preparing the cycle route from Roubaix to Fruges.

## Électrographie de l'argent

Table, glass plate, solar cells, silver nitrate, solar panel, lamps, water.  
2022



Time of shooting at the Fruges wind farm.

A solar panel from a Chinese company, suspected of using Uighur labour, provides power (without a battery) for thirty-two bulbs that light up solar cells glued to a glass plate.

These cells produce different levels of electrical current which, when they come into contact with a solution of water and silver nitrate, trigger the creation of silver crystals on the glass plate.

Depending on the weather fluctuations at the exhibition site, the forms take more or less time to build up, until they create a glass plate covered with crystal connections. Once the composition is complete, the glass plate is removed from the lighting system and becomes an electrograph with an electrical energy accumulating the power of all the solar cells.

This project is the beginning of a research into the creation of an image, whose components are inherited from photography and which includes an ecological response in its creative process.

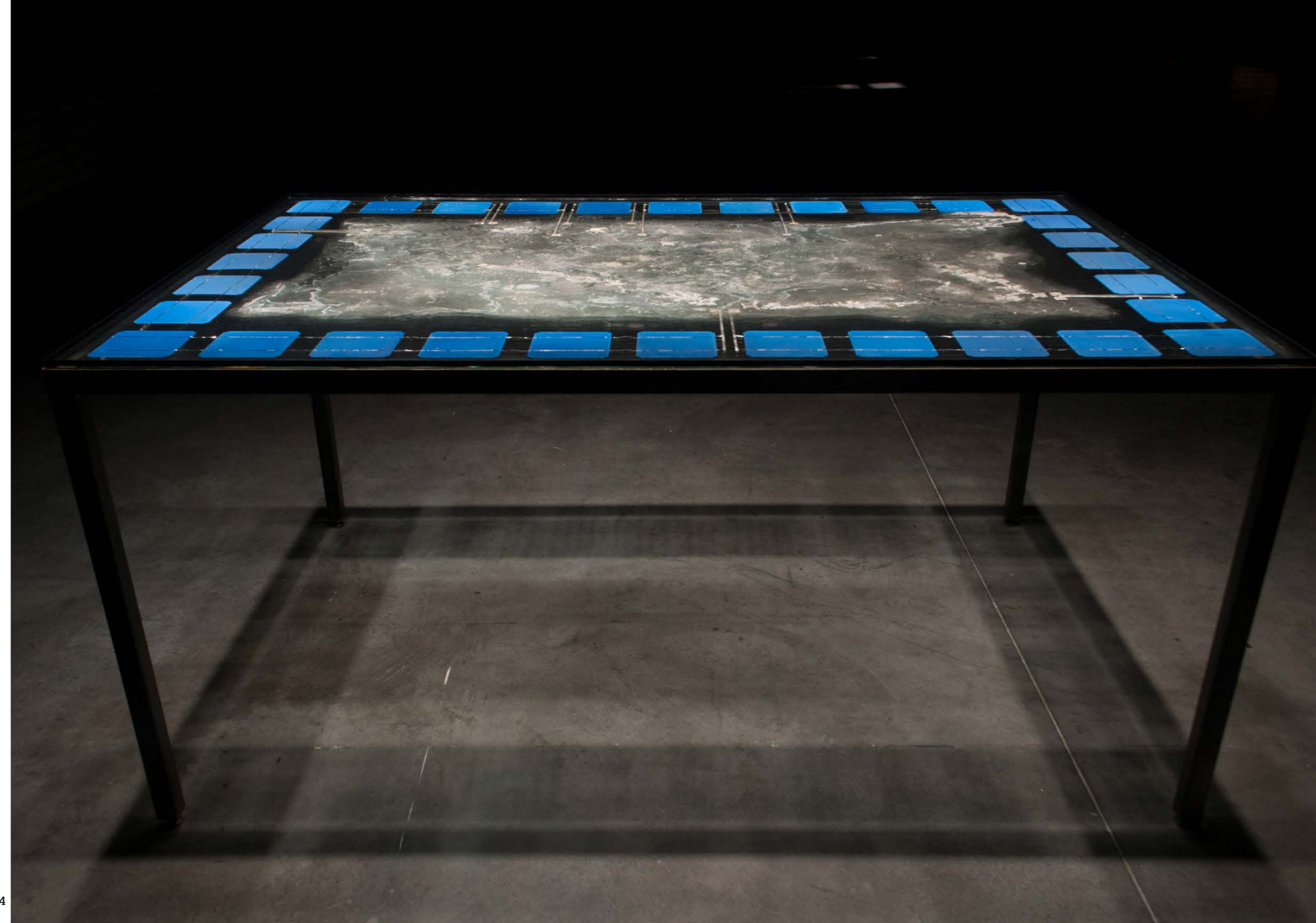
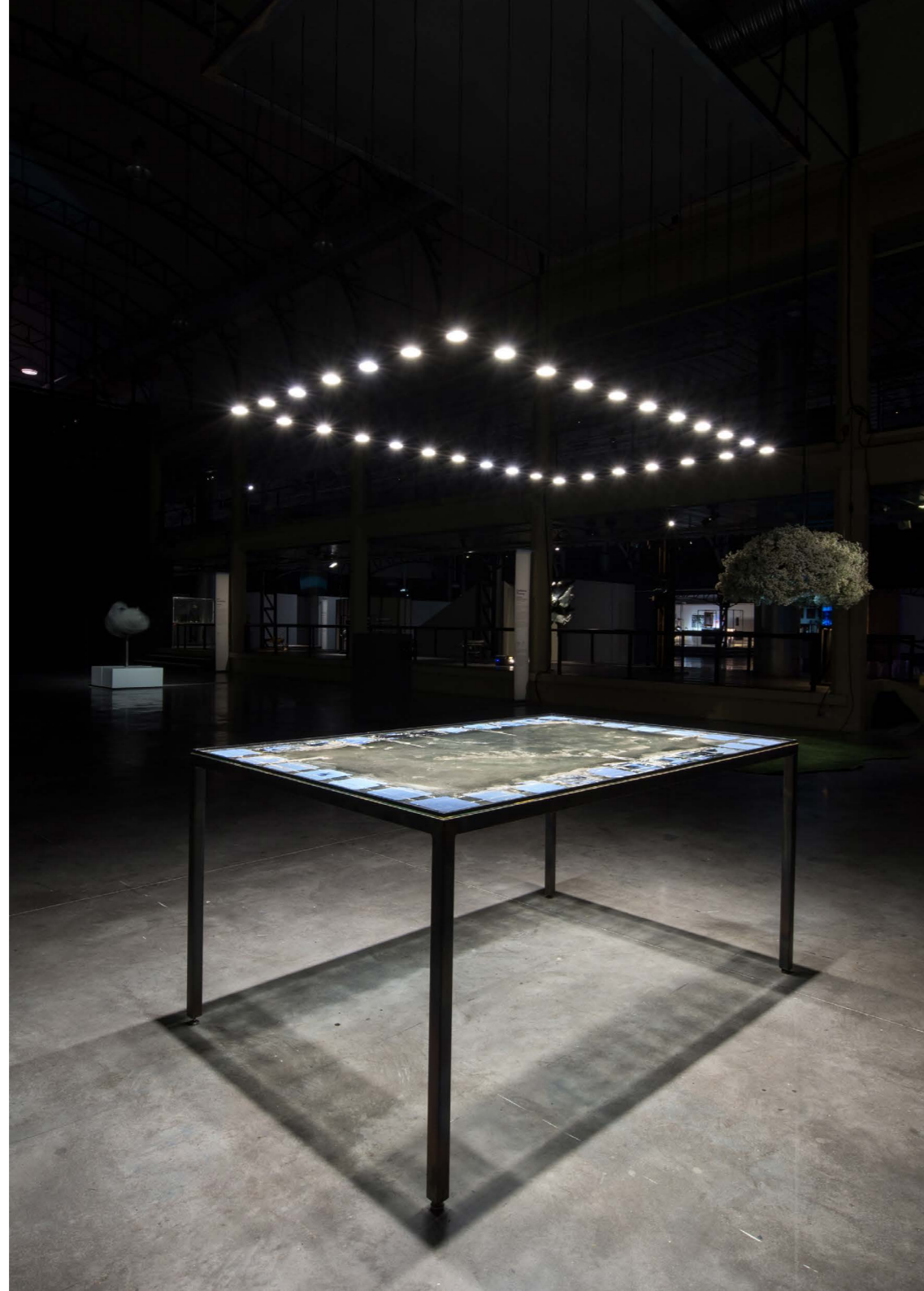
The extraction of silver, which is expected to run out around 2035, is the subject of this electrography, which reminds viewers that the use of silver in the creation of photosensitive emulsions was the responsibility of the photographic medium, and that this extraction continues in the creation of photovoltaic cell connectors.

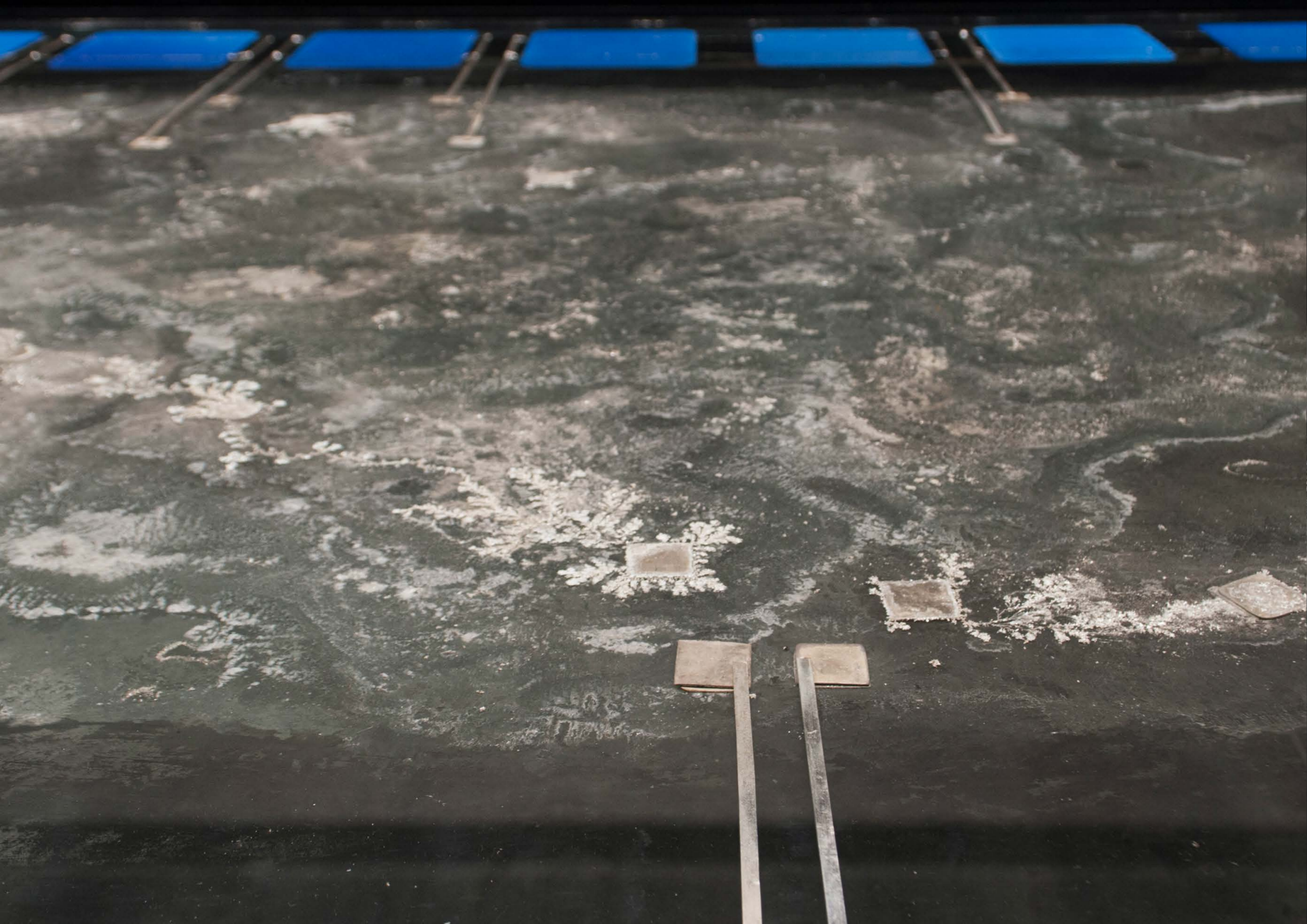
The infinitesimal is built up on the glass plate as long as water is added, creating a world where silver is the driving force behind the connections between the different powers of cells that seek to join together in order to grow.

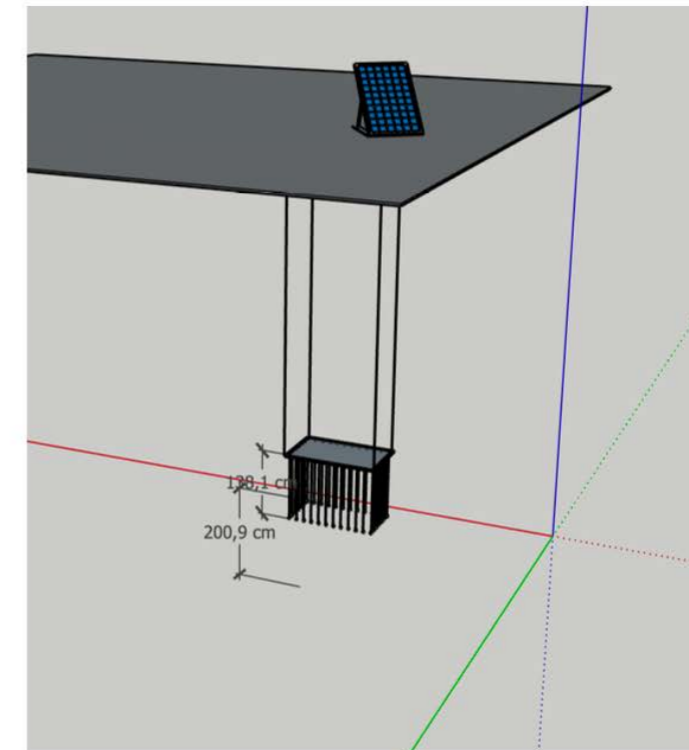
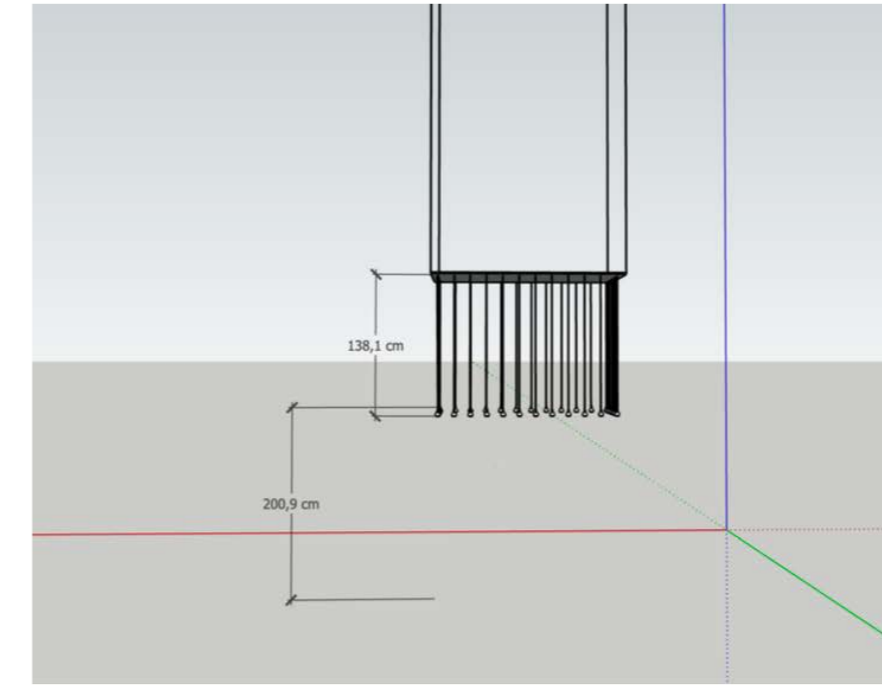
This project was built with the help of artist Edyth Dekyndt.

Link silver nitrate progression : <https://hugopetigny.com/index.php/electrographie-de-largent-2022/>

Link teaser : <https://vimeo.com/799806174>







3D plan of the installation

## I.R Interactions Relativistes

Light, photosensitive paper, 3D printing, light sensors - 2021

IR is a project inspired by the Thomas Young slit experiment. This experiment allowed scientists to understand the wave and particle behaviour of light by creating an interference system.

In this project, light is projected and then interfered with by a cylinder made up of 14 slots ranging from 3.80mm to 7.50mm. The light rays then pass over a translucent paper frieze covered with photosensitive emulsion before light sensors trigger two simultaneous sound frequencies ranging from 30 Hz to 80 Hz.

This frequency delimitation is based on the principle of cerebral rhythms observed in human beings. The speakers are doubled to create a binaural sound system that, according to certain scientific approaches, can have an effect on meditation.

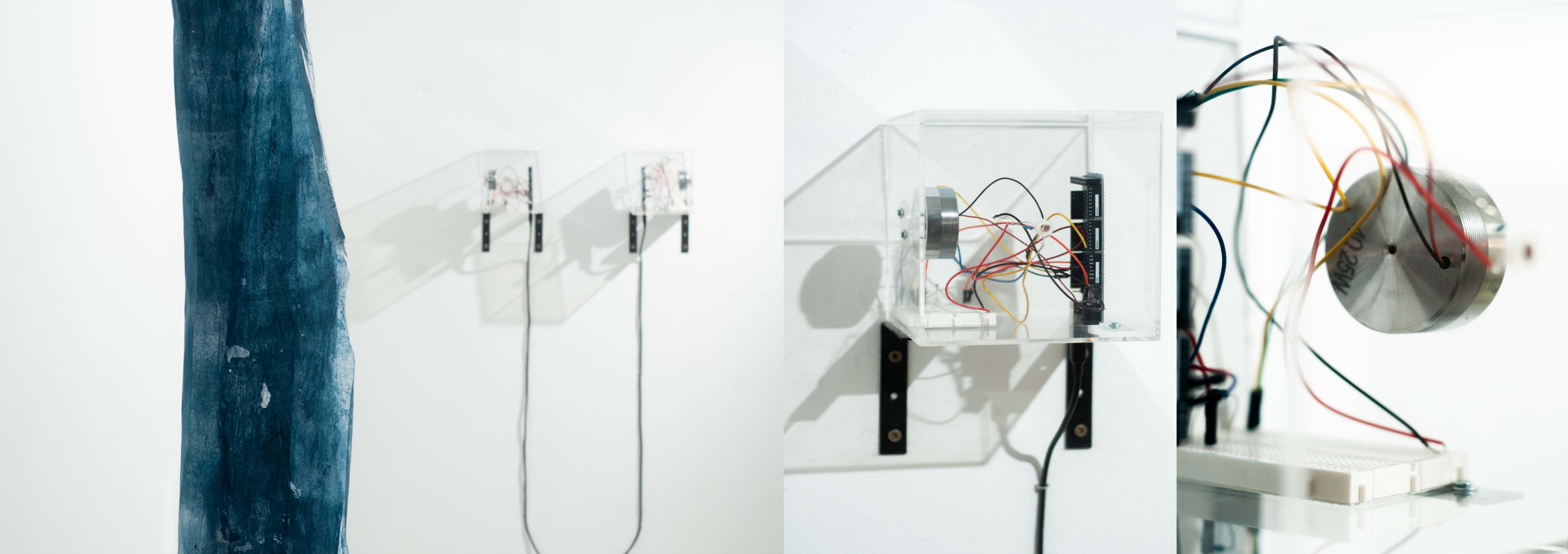
The installation is a space where light, body and sound interact. The public is invited to discover and influence the various phenomena that take place there, because each movement will cause a change in the environment.

This piece is part of an exploration of energy connections and the body's presence within them.

This project was carried out with the help of engineering student Léo-Paul Babout as part of the Co-creation module, Polytech'Lille / Esä.









## Close to the universe

Photograph on Epson Semi-gloss 250g paper, 50\*70 cm - 2021

Silver nitrate and water are added to a solar cell. The different elements start to interact.

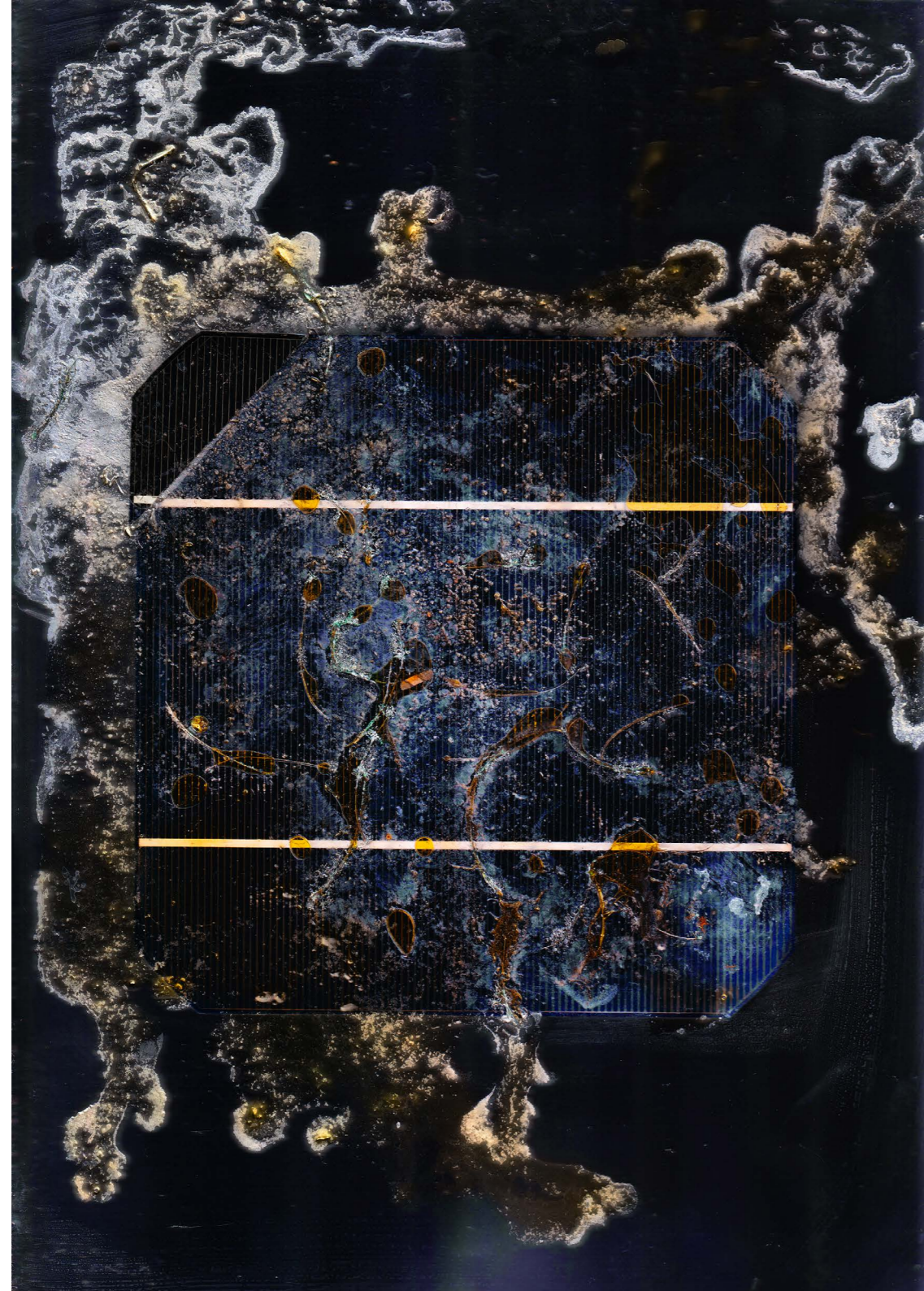
The nitrate develops crystals and is mixed with the components of the cell. Silver nitrate is the basic agent of argentic photography, while the photo-electric effect is that of digital photography.

A mixture of the two uses of photography is made, and asks questions about the relationship between the image at a time of global warming.

This image is part of a research project into understanding emotions as electrical phenomena.

It raises questions about the possibility of an internal energy in the photographic image that might resonate with cerebral electrical phenomena.

## B. Photography



## Energy meeting

Photograph on Epson Semi-gloss 250g paper, 50\*70 cm - 2020

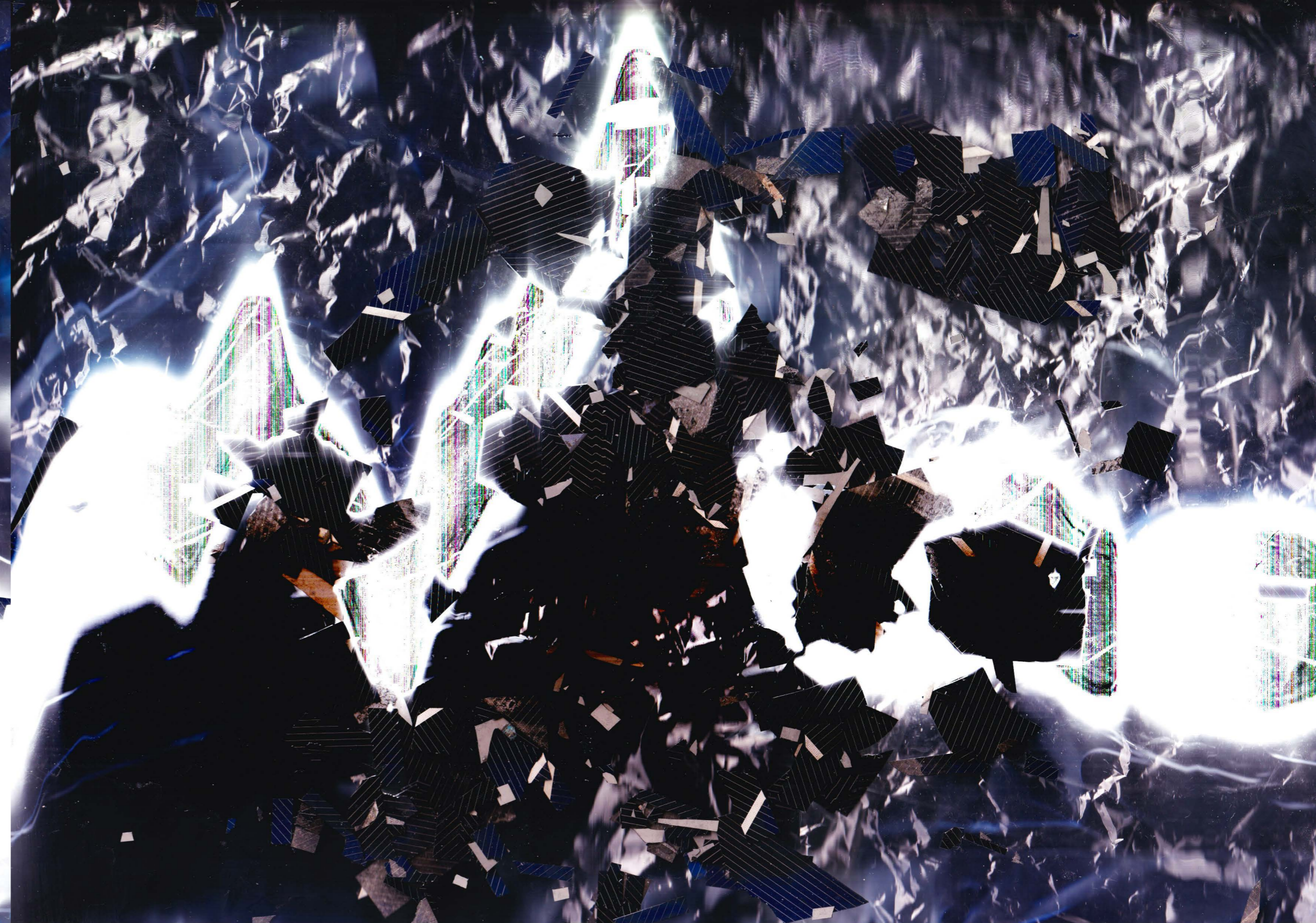
This series is part of an experimental investigation into the electricity present inside the photograph and the creation of an image provoking a sensation of visual energy.

Part of solar cells are installed on a scanner with reflective materials.

Light is transmitted during scanning, producing both a reflective effect that reveals the material and a photovoltaic effect on the solar cells.

A link is created between photovoltaics and photography by the photoelectric effect present in photographic sensors.

Electricity is present during the capture of an image and this series attempts to show this moment.



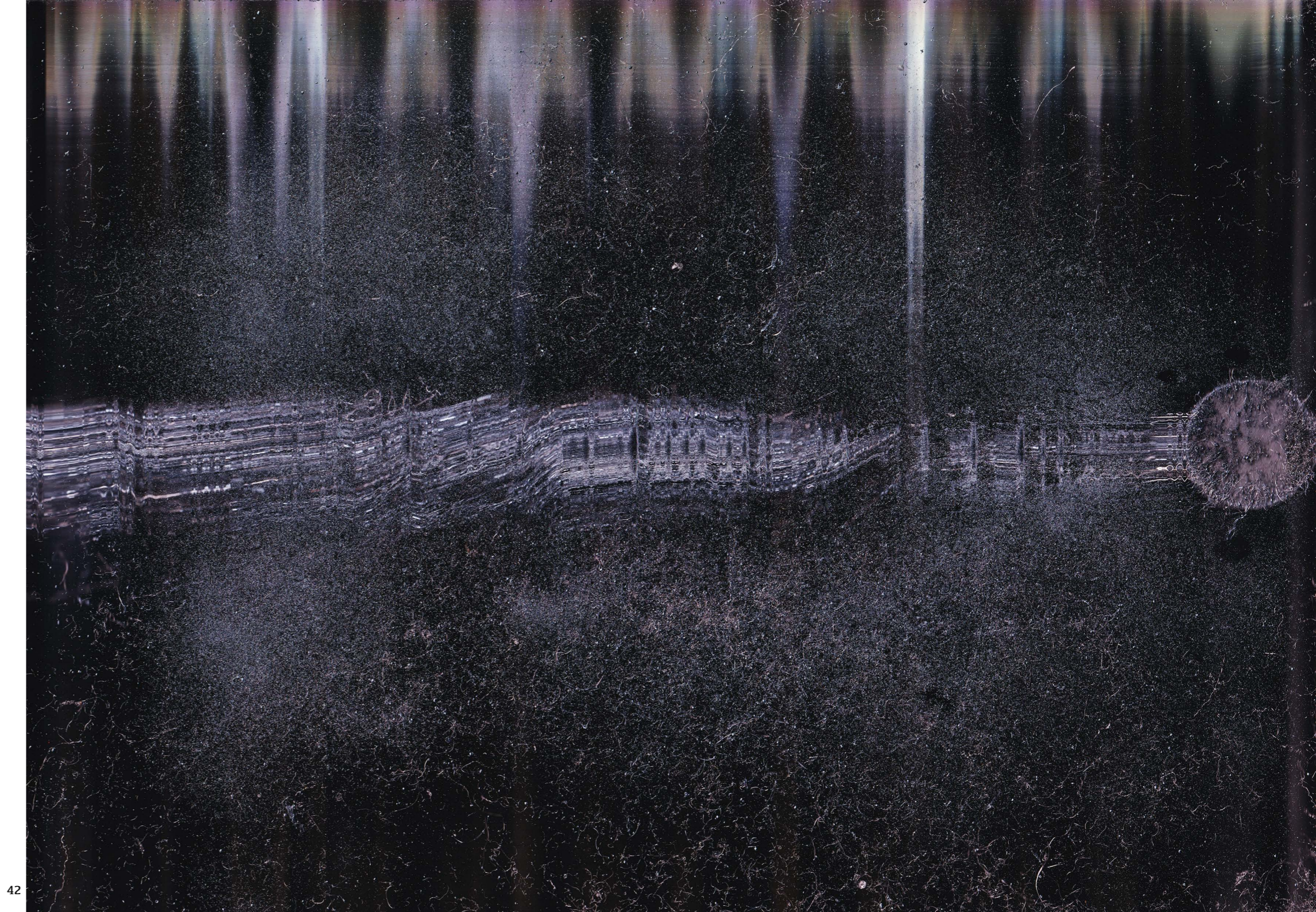
## Magnetic fields

Photograph on Epson Semi-gloss 250g paper, 50\*70 cm - 2019

Inspired by the first experiments on electromagnetism, iron filings are placed on a scanner fitted with a magnet.

This experiment shows the electromagnetic fields around the magnets. The scanner, which has an internal magnet, causes the other magnet to move in an exchange. As it goes along, the iron filings will move along with the electromagnetic field.

The final image is part of an investigation into the internal energies of still images, representing the interaction of these magnets with matter and the production of a space filled with moving electromagnetic fields.





## Neuronal story

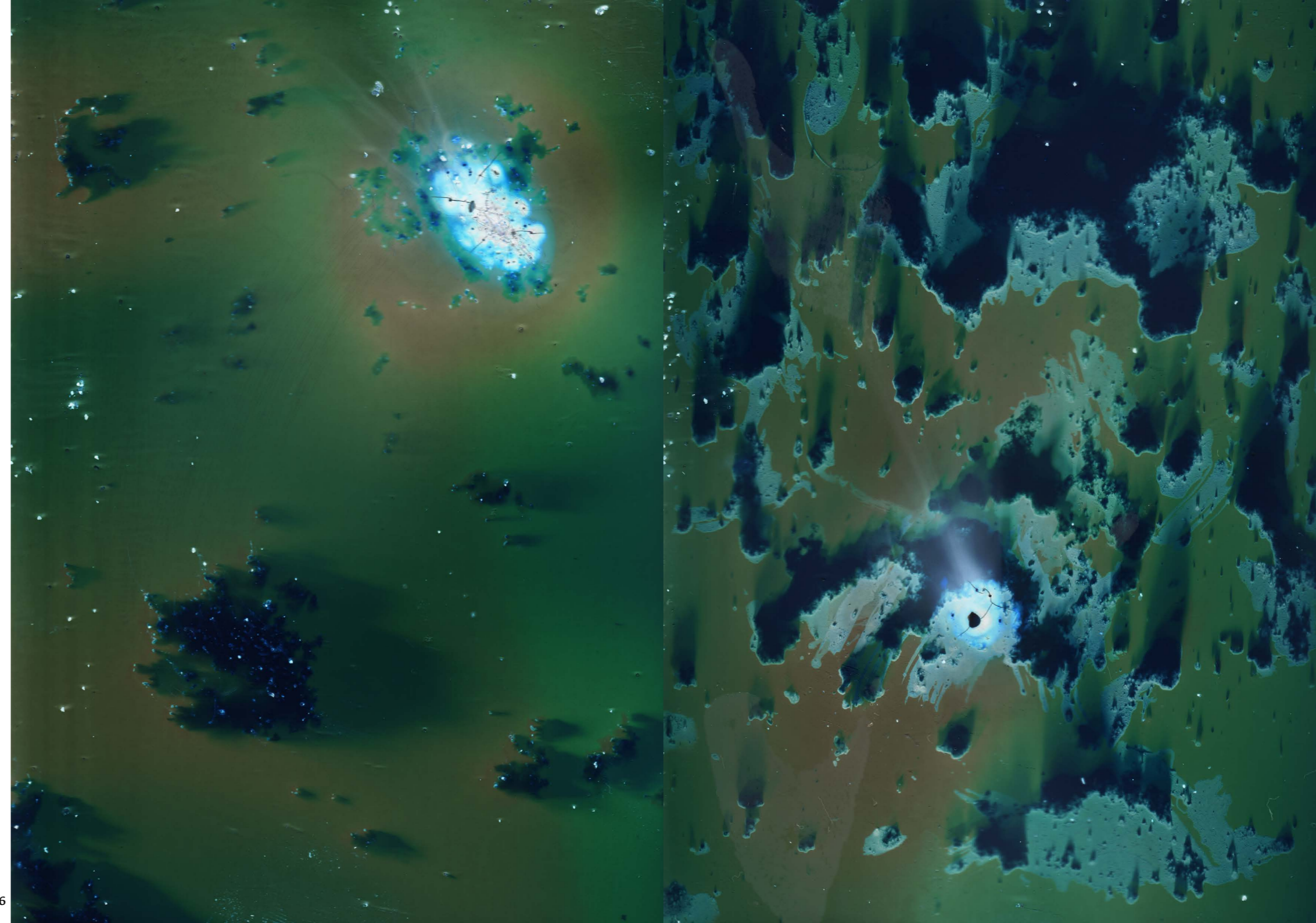
8 Photographs on Epson Semi-gloss 250g paper, 15\*20 cm - 2019

This series of images is based on the optogenetic technique, which emerged at the beginning of the 21st century and enables neurons to be modified using light.

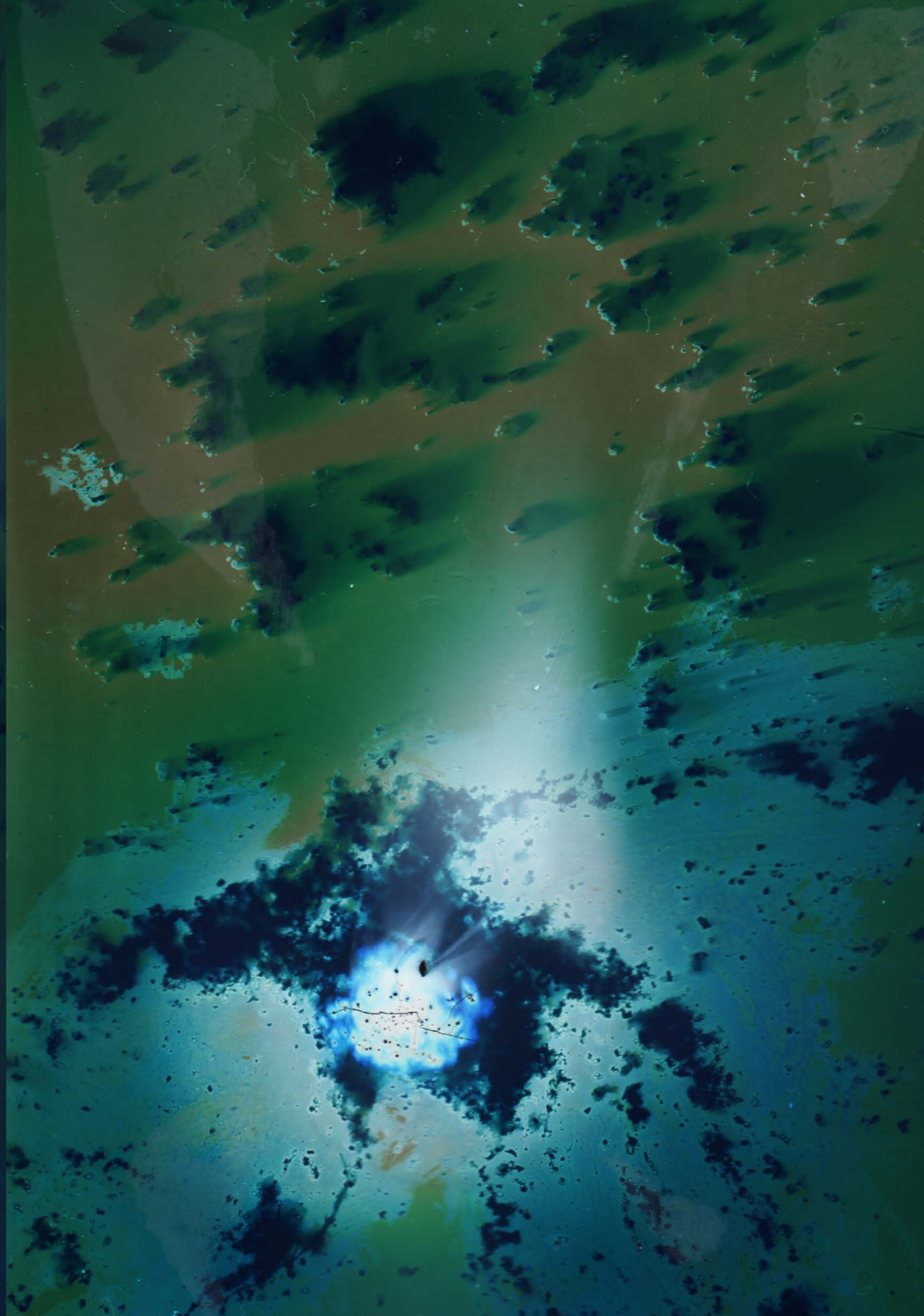
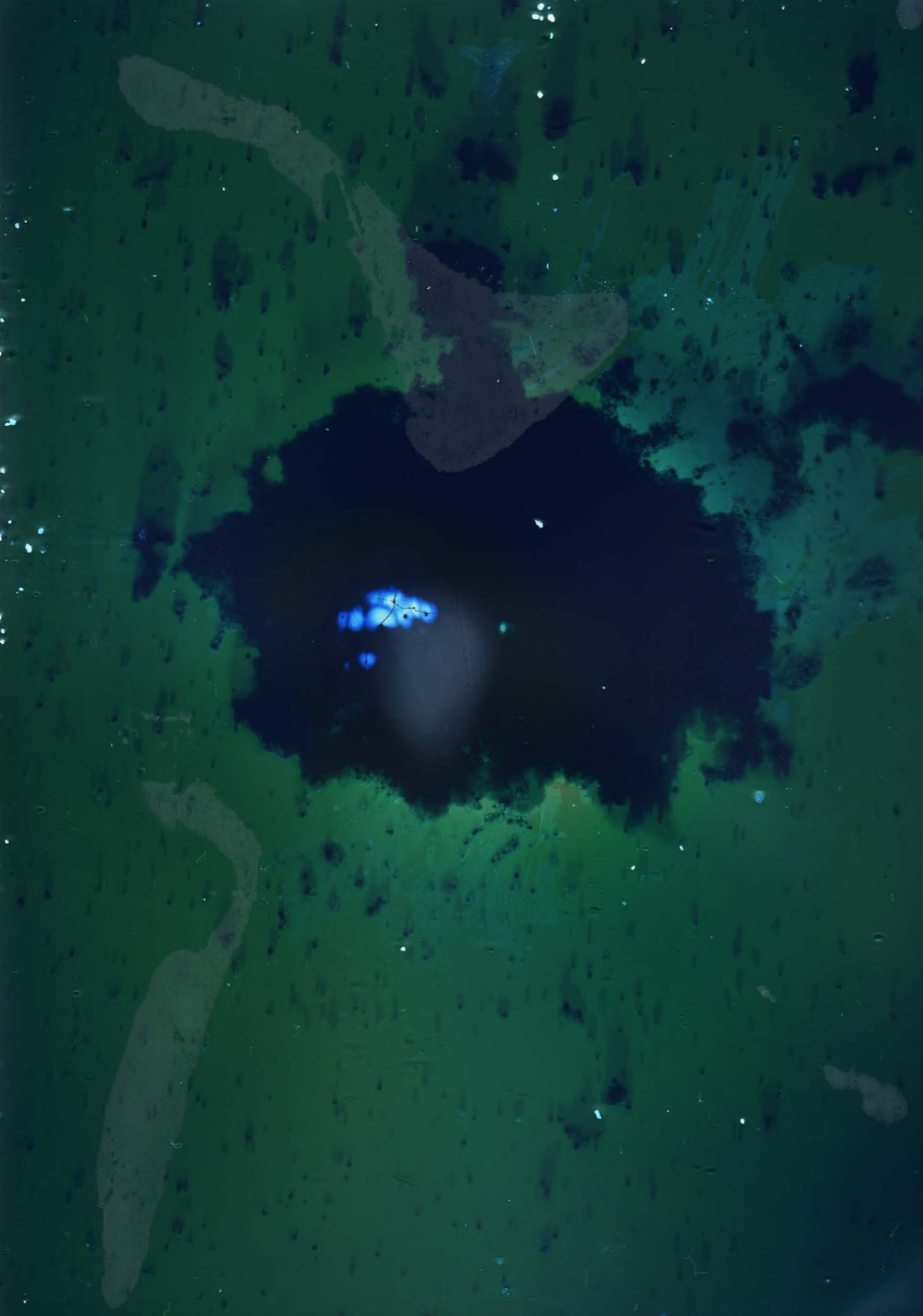
A specific area of photosensitive paper is burnt with a flame.

Sand from the beach at Ouistreham in Normandy (the site of the 1945 D-Day landings in France) is then added to the image to form a landscape.

The photographs are then scanned and turned negative, revealing environments in which light seems to want to integrate itself into neuronal forms, in a series presented as a fiction about memory.

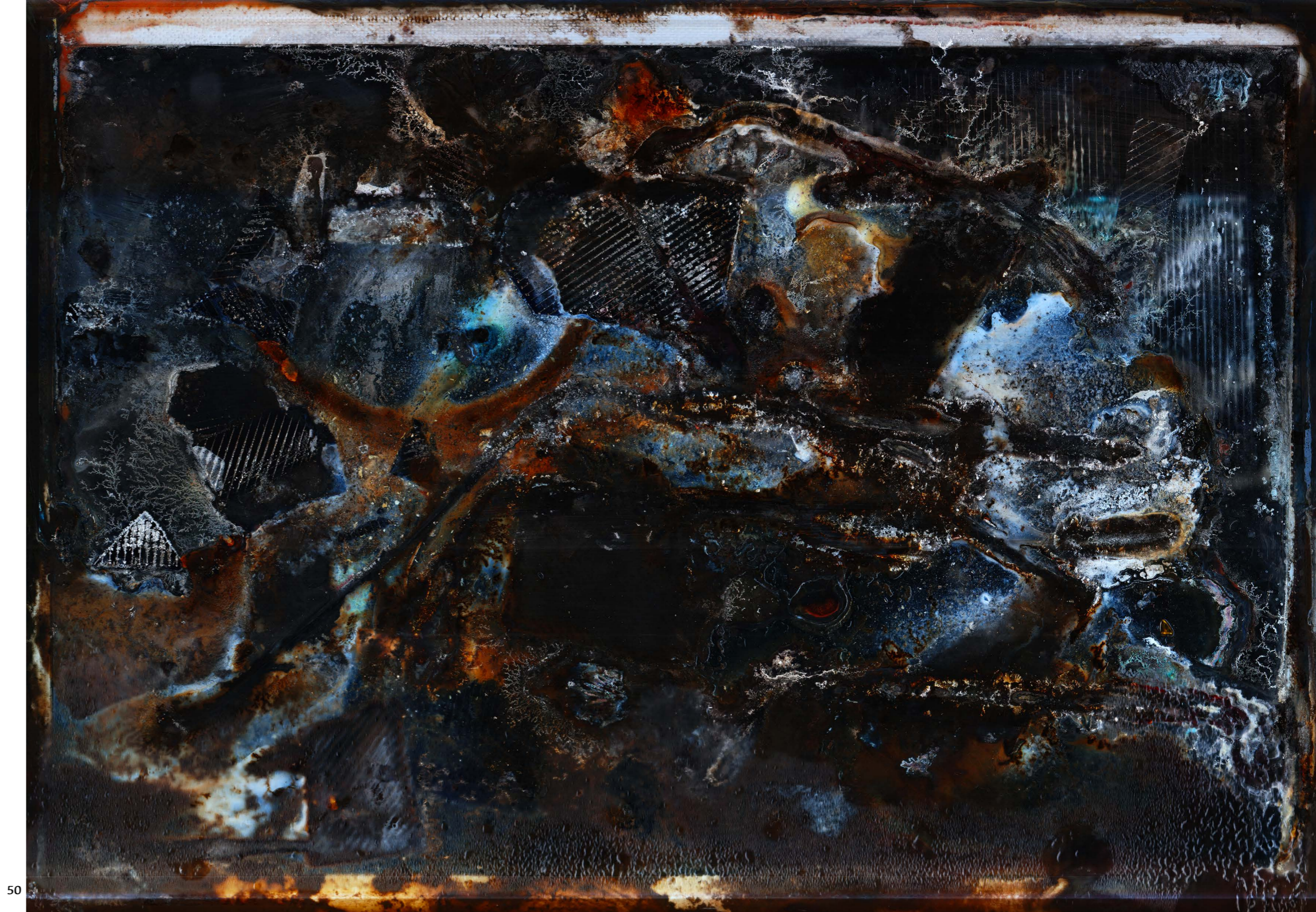




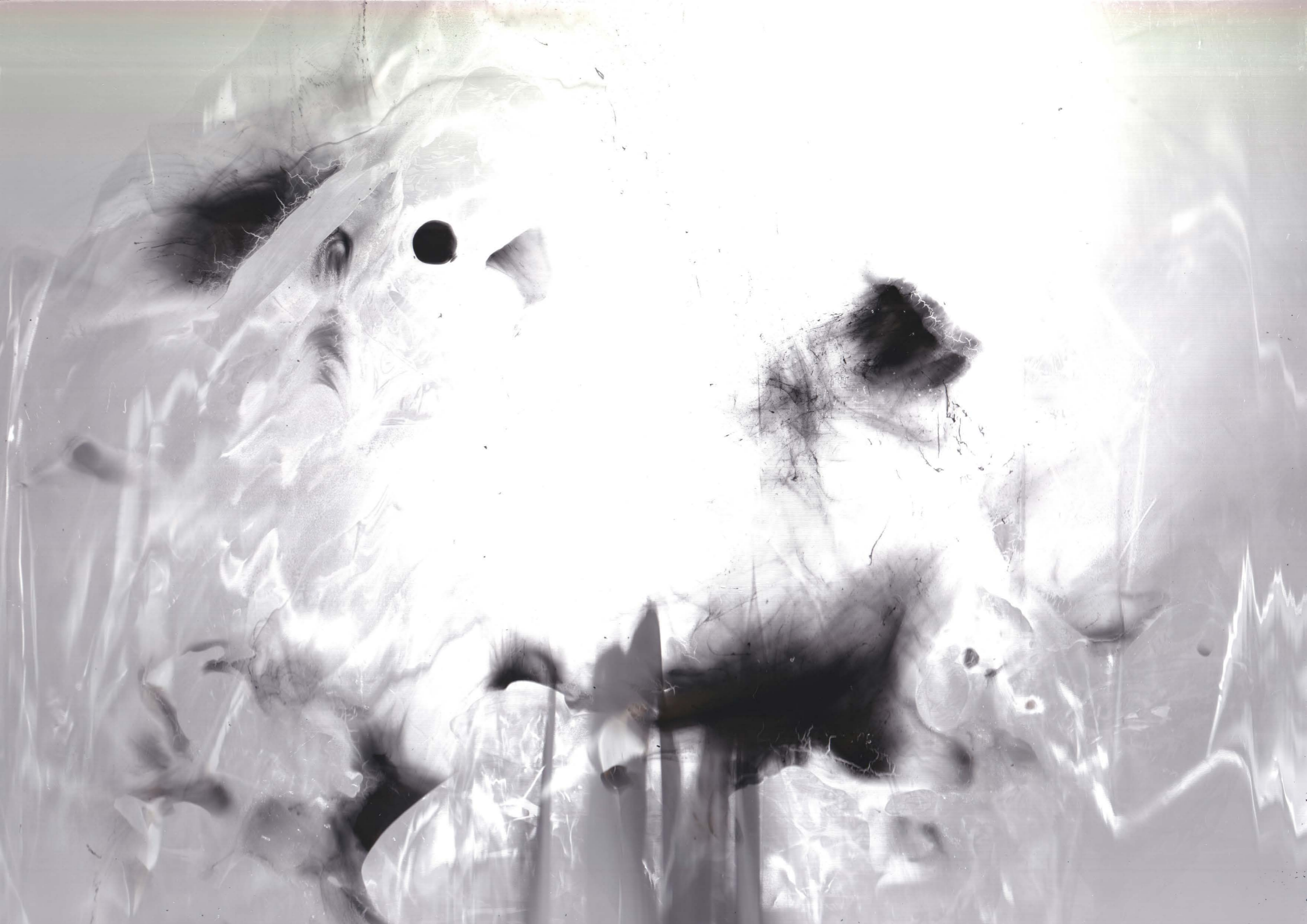


### C. Photographic experimentation

The following images are experiments that do not form part of a series. The idea of converting emotions into energy is central.









### 3. CV

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#### Formation

Le Fresnoy Studio National des Arts contemporains – Graduated  
with honours - 2021-2023

DIPLÔME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR D'EXPRESSION PLASTIQUE  
(École supérieure d'art de Tourcoing) 2019 - 2021

LICENCE ARTS-PLASTIQUES - Université de Lille 3 - (2016 -  
2019)

DEC PHOTOGRAPHIE, (Cégep de Matane (Canada) 2015-2016)

BAC PHOTOGRAPHIE (Lycée des Métiers de l'image Le Havre)  
2013

BEP ELECTROTECHNIQUE (Lycée Jeanne d'arc, Le Havre) 2011

#### Show groups

- Die Noordelingen - La plus petite galerie du monde (Ou presque)  
2eme édition  
May - June 2024

- Multiplex - Rencontre des écoles d'arts du Nord Pas de Calais -  
Dunkerque  
- 8 November 2023

- Panorama 25 - Le Fresnoy Studio National des Arts contemporains  
- Tourcoing  
- 1st october 2023 - 1st january 2024 - Commissariat Chris Dercon

- Die Noordelingen - La plus petite galerie du monde (Ou presque) -  
Roubaix  
- 13 May 2023 - 13 June 2023 - Commissariat Victor Villafagne

- Panorama 24 - De l'autre côté - Le Fresnoy Studio National des Arts  
contemporains - Tourcoing  
- 1er October - 31 December 2022 - Commissariat Marie Lavandier

- DÉ-RÉALITÉ - DES RÉALITÉS — Galerie Commune, Esä site de  
TOURCOING  
- 8 - 22 April 2021

- CO-EXISTENCE.S Galerie Commune - Exposition du programme de  
recherche PRIST- Tourcoing  
- 12 - 25 March 2020.

## Publications

[November 2024 - Conference at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels - Artist wanted - on the theme 'How to make your practice ecological'.](#)

[La voix du Nord - Hugo Pétigny, étudiant au Fresnoy, a l'énergie comme source de création - 2023](#)

[Fisheye - Panorama 25 : les artistes du Fresnoy réinventent l'espace muséal- 2023](#)

[PRIST ESA -Interview Hugo Pétigny - Énergie transmise et lumière - 2023](#)

[art-icle.fr -Hugo Pétigny, jeune artiste passionné de lumière, à l'École du Fresnoy - 2022](#)

[Arthebdomedia - Panorama 24 : le monde sous un autre angle - 2022](#)

[Libération – Au Fresnoy, l'image dans tous ses éclats - 2022](#)