

A wide-angle photograph of a large solar farm. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, dry grass. A green metal fence runs across the middle ground, separating the grass from the solar panels. The solar panels are arranged in neat, parallel rows that stretch far into the distance. In the background, a dense line of green trees separates the solar farm from a small town or village with several buildings visible on the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

Hugo Pétigny Selected work

Artist statement

My research is rooted in a critical reflection on contemporary energy production, consumption and circulation vis-à-vis dynamic of power and socio-economic systems. Through multidisciplinary installations incorporating image, sound, text, and drawing, I explore the ways in which art can interact with, transform, or reconfigure energetic discourses.

With an initial background in electrical studies, I have chosen to focus this investigation specifically on the challenges related to electrical energy.

I create works which examine the power structures embedded in the electric sector, and which aim at developing forms of counter-power.

My practice thus engages with strategies of energy resilience, theories of degrowth, and the representations of time, space, and contemporary economic dynamics.

Collaboration, dialogue, and the political dimension are at the core of my approach, which is socially engaged and critically positioned with regard to existing systems of production-consumption and social stratification. My work aims to open up new possibilities for transforming the use of electricity, both within the field of art and in society at large.

I integrate my creative process and a rhizomatic mode of thinking into my works, conceived as condensations of temporal energy intended to be transmitted to the viewer. This approach leads me to examine the relationship between time and energy, privileging slowness and duration, as essential conditions for artistic creation.

SOLAR WORLD - Work in progress - Berlin 2025

Video, solar panel, raspberri pi, sound, drawings, text

This piece, currently in production, is a video installation whose playback speed will be modulated in real time by a solar panel. The video features key locations in Berlin's electrical grid, explores the photovoltaic sector and its economy, as well as the solar punk utopia that accompanies its development. A poem about time and space is recited by an employee of a solar field monitoring company. In parallel, a video of the electric fish *Gnathonemus petersii*, studied for its "irregular" rhythms, reinforces a reflection on the possibility of reconnecting with nature in the use of electricity.

Link trailer : <https://vimeo.com/1102447830?share=copy> (2min22)



Resilience, a story around 12,800 watts

Photography on glass, aluminium, mirorr, solar modules. 1,80m * 2,50m . 2023

This project is a photographic and photovoltaic installation inspired by Don Quixote. The artist and their partner undertook a bicycle journey to the largest wind farm in France, charging flashlights with the dynamo on their transport. Their goal is to create a photograph in which they will use all the light from these lamps to precisely measure the energy used in the final image. An audio part tells the story of their journey and its transformation.

The final photograph is installed in a sculpture using organic solar cells without silicon, powering a nighttime lighting.

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

Audio part (French) (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



Preparing the cycle route from Roubaix to Fruges.



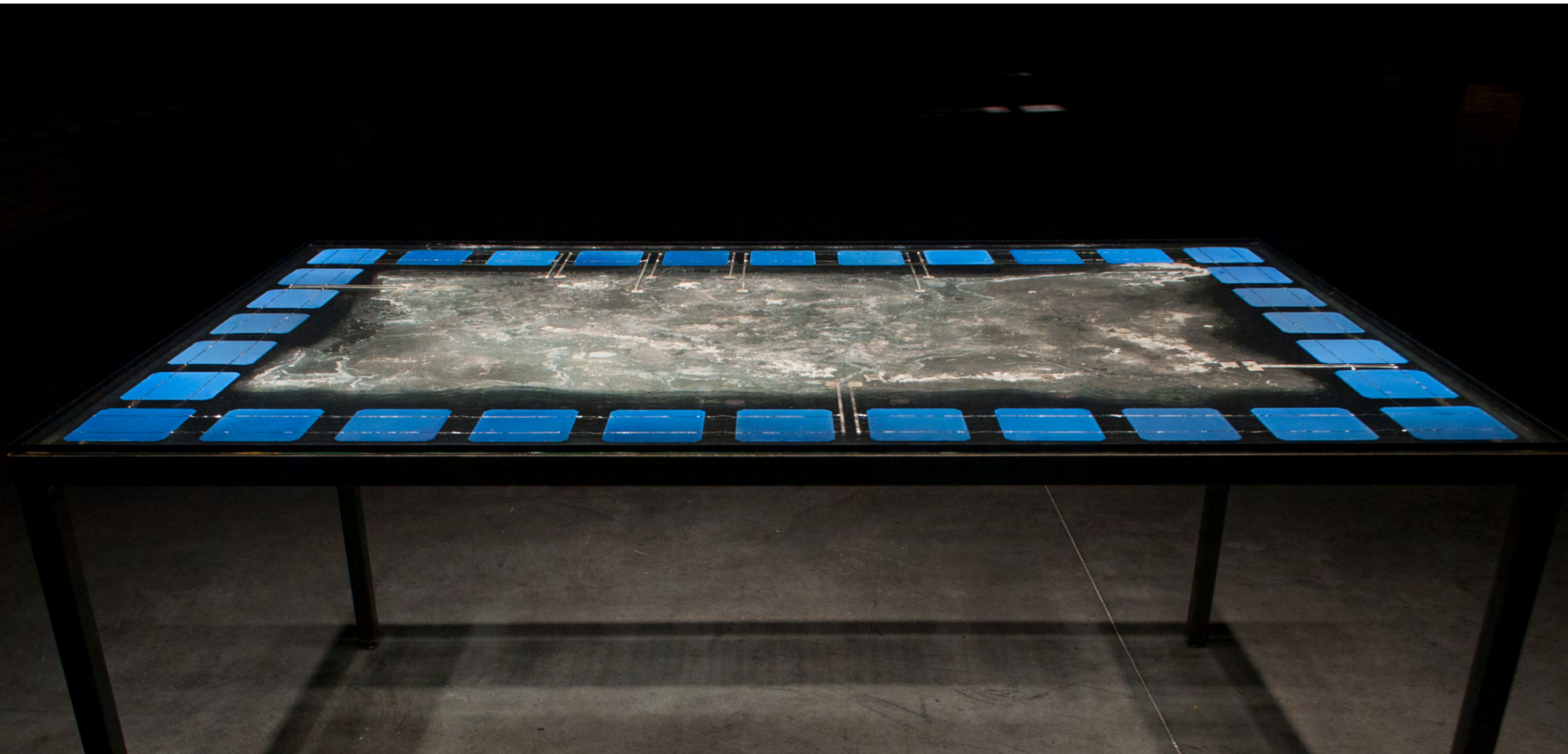
Time of shooting at the Fruges wind farm with Agata Wieczorek

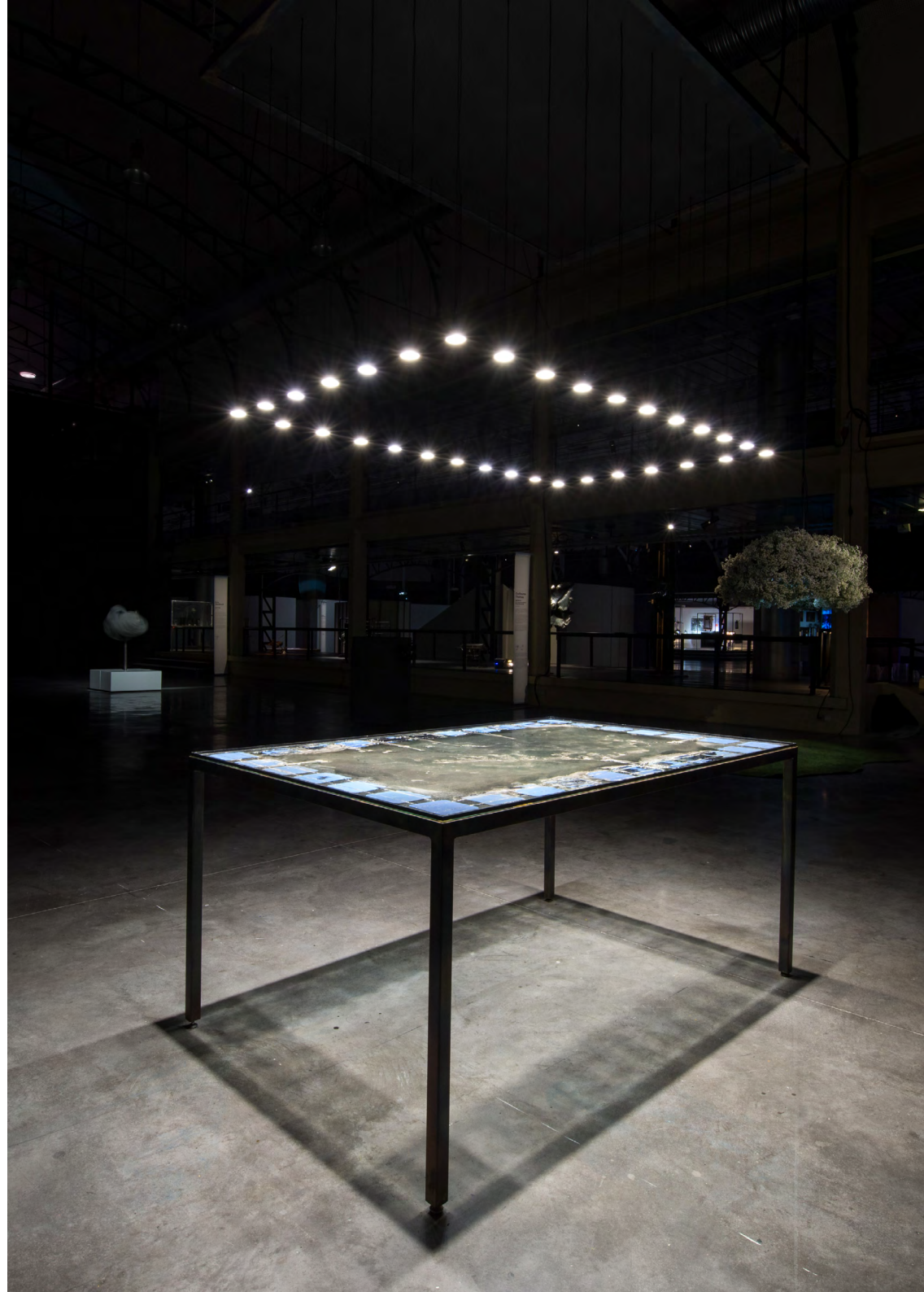
Silver electrography

*Table, glass plate, solar cells, silver nitrate, solar panel, lamps, water. 1,80m * 2,50m 2022*

A solar panel, purchased from a company suspected of using enslaved Uyghur labor in its production, powers light bulbs that enable the growth of silver nitrate crystals on a glass table. The piece recalls that silver was extracted for analog photography and continues to be used in photovoltaics. It raises the question of the origin of the energy used in the creation of an artwork and attempts to produce a single, unique final image in order to escape overproduction.

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







About working time

Print, screen, matte photography, video projection, film.

This piece, supported by the Citizens' Initiative project of the City of Roubaix, is divided into three parts. The first is a photograph presenting the project's research. The second is a video made with Google Earth, tracing a journey from the power plant supplying electricity to the exhibition site. The third features interviews conducted during the opening, in which visitors reflect on artists' working time in France. The piece explores the various forms of energy involved in creating an artwork and how they can be transformed into political discourse.

Link trailer : <https://vimeo.com/1103140928?ts=88926&share=copy> (2min15)



Screenshot from the movie «Work in progress»





The film is a journey from the power plant supplying electricity to the exhibition site.
Link film 3D : <https://hugopetigny.com/index.php/en-passant/>

HUGO PETIGNY - Curriculum Vitae - 2025

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Formation

2021-2023 - **Le Fresnoy Studio National des Arts contemporains** -
Graduated with honours - Tourcoing - France - Artist referent : 2021-
2022 : Edith Dekyndt - 2022-2023 : Julien Previeux

2019 - 2021 - **DIPLÔME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR D'EXPRESSION PLASTIQUE** - ESA Ecole superieur d'art de Tourcoing-Dunkerque - France

2016 - 2019 - **LICENCE ARTS-PLASTIQUES** - Lille University - France

2015-2016 - **DEC PHOTOGRAPHIE** - Cégep de Matane - Canada

2011- 2013 - **BAC PHOTOGRAPHIE** - Lycée des Métiers de l'image, Le Havre, France

2009- 2011 - **BEP ELECTROTECHNIQUE** - Lycée Jeanne d'arc, Le Havre, France

Group show

- **Fresh Air Residency** - Stiftung Berliner Leben - One year residency in Berlin - *In progress*

- **Die Noordelingen 2nd edition**- La plus petite galerie du monde (Ou presque) - Roubaix - May - June 2024 - (*Artist and curator*)

- **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 - Curator Chris Dercon

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

- **Panorama 24 - De l'autre côté** - Le Fresnoy Studio National des Arts contemporains - Tourcoing- 1st October - December 2022 - Curator Marie Lavandier

- **DÉ-RÉALITÉ - DES RÉALITÉS** - Galerie Commune, Esä site de Tourcoing - 8 - 22 April 2021

- **CO-EXISTENCE.S** - Galerie Commune - Tourcoing - 12 - 25 March 2020.

Publications

[2024 - Conference at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels - Artist wanted - on the theme «Penser durablement la production artistique»](#)

[2023 - 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](#)

[2022 - 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 - PRIST Ecole superieur d'art de Tourcoing- Dunkerque -Interview Hugo Pétigny - Énergie transmise et lumière](#)