

HUGO PETIGNY  
PORTFOLIO



## Curriculum Vitae

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### Education

#### Le Fresnoy – Studio National des Arts Contemporains

Graduated with honors – Referent Artists: Edith Dekyndt, Julien Previoux  
Tourcoing, France  
2021 – 2023

#### National Higher Diploma in Visual Arts (DNSEP)

ESA – École Supérieure d'Art de Tourcoing-Dunkerque  
Tourcoing, France  
2019 – 2021

#### Bachelor's Degree in Visual Arts

University of Lille  
France  
2016 – 2019

#### High School Diploma in Photography

Lycée des métiers de l'image, Le Havre  
France  
2011 – 2013

#### Vocational Certificate in Electrotechnics (BEP)

Lycée Jeanne d'Arc, Le Havre  
France  
2009 – 2011

### Residencies

#### Riddergade AIR

Viborg, Denmark  
Ongoing – March 9, 2026 – June 8, 2026

#### Fresh Air Residency

Stiftung Berliner Leben  
Berlin, Germany  
January 20, 2025 – December 12, 2025

#### Le Fresnoy – Studio National des Arts Contemporains

Tourcoing, France  
October 2021 – June 2023

### Group Exhibitions

#### Fresh Air Residency – I am Flux

Stiftung Berliner Leben  
Berlin – November 7, 2025 – March 29, 2026

#### Die Noordelingen 2nd edition

La plus petite galerie du monde (ou presque)  
Roubaix (artist and curator) – May 14 – June 14, 2024

#### Multiplex

Meeting of art schools of Nord-Pas-de-Calais  
Dunkerque – November 8, 2023

#### Panorama 25

Le Fresnoy – Studio National des Arts Contemporains  
Tourcoing – Curated by Chris Dercon – September 22, 2023 – January 7, 2024

#### Die Noordelingen

La plus petite galerie du monde (ou presque)  
Roubaix – May 13 – June 13, 2023

#### Panorama 24 – De l'autre côté

Le Fresnoy – Studio National des Arts Contemporains  
Tourcoing – Curated by Marie Lavandier – September 30, 2022 – December 31, 2022

#### DÉ-RÉALITÉ – DES RÉALITÉS

Galerie Commune  
Tourcoing – April 8 – 22, 2021

#### CO-EXISTENCE.S

Galerie Commune  
Tourcoing – March 12 – 25, 2020

### Grants

#### Citizen Initiative Grant of the City of Roubaix

La plus petite galerie du monde (ou presque)  
Roubaix – May 14 – June 14, 2024

## **Press and conferences**

[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](#)

## ARTISTIC PRACTICE / BIOGRAPHY

My work explores the temporal regimes generated by energy infrastructures and the possibilities of transforming the modes of production they condition.

Through installations, films, and time-based devices, I create situations where duration becomes unstable and where the infrastructures governing contemporary temporalities become perceptible. Videos slow with the movement of clouds, silver crystals cease growing at night, sounds distort gradually, drop by drop. These works expose the interruptions, dependencies, and hidden material conditions that underlie the apparent continuity of technological systems.

Rather than treating time as a stable and measurable resource, my practice approaches it as irregular, fragile, and contingent – something that can stall, drift, or become unavailable. Working across moving image, photography, electronics, and reactive materials, I develop devices that operate at the threshold between control and failure.

My installations often rely on environmental fluctuations, chemical processes, or unstable feedback systems, allowing external conditions to directly shape the form and temporality of the work.

Originally from Normandy, I grew up surrounded by the changing light of the Impressionist landscapes and by the material culture of electrical infrastructures through my father, who worked as an electrician. At the same time, I witnessed within my family the effects of the acceleration of social and productive rhythms. These experiences continue to inform my attention to exhaustion, interruption, and technological dependency.

Initially trained in electrotechnics in Le Havre before studying photography, I later earned a BA in Visual Arts from the University of Lille, a DNSEP from the École Supérieure d'Art du Nord-Pas-de-Calais, and the postgraduate diploma of Le Fresnoy – Studio national des arts contemporains.

## PORTFOLIO

## SOLAR WORLD

Video, solar panel, raspberri pi, sound, drawings, text - 2025

Solar World is a video installation whose playback speed is modulated in real time by a solar panel.

The work reflects on the relationship between the control of electricity and the control of time, by confronting two ways of using electrical energy in nature:

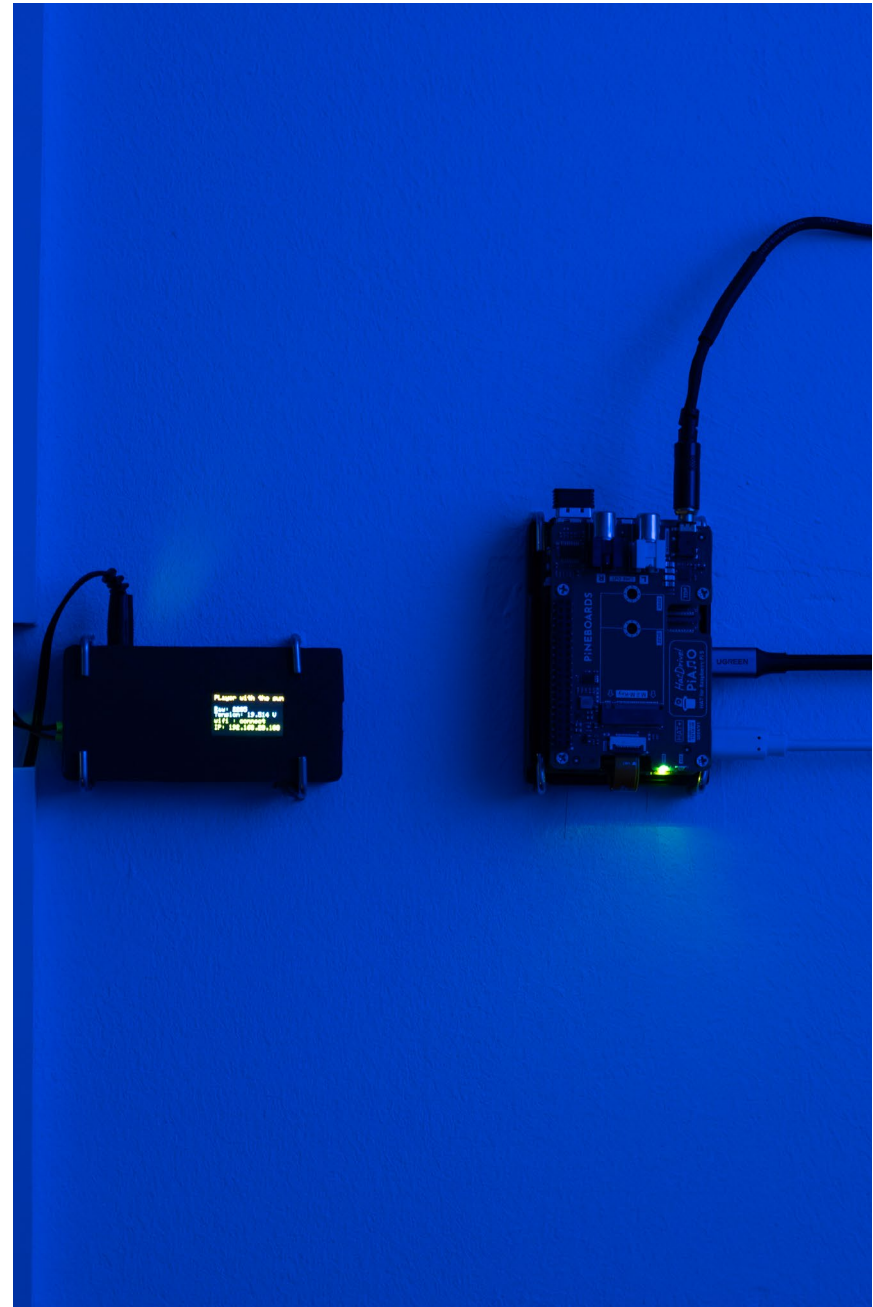
that of the electric fish *Gnathonemus petersii*, which emits impulses with irregular rhythms, and that of the human photovoltaic industry,  
which produces regular and linear rhythms.

As a whole, the piece explores the future of the electrical sector and the possibility of harmony between technology and the human being.

Link full video (7min47) : <https://youtu.be/2e5Uq6QjwVQ>

Link mindmap : <https://kumu.io/Petignyhugo/solar-world#solar-world>





*From left to right : A solar panel is connected to a Raspberry Pi which modulates the video playback speed.*



## **Resilience, a story around 12,800 watts**

Photography on glass, aluminium, mirror, 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. 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.

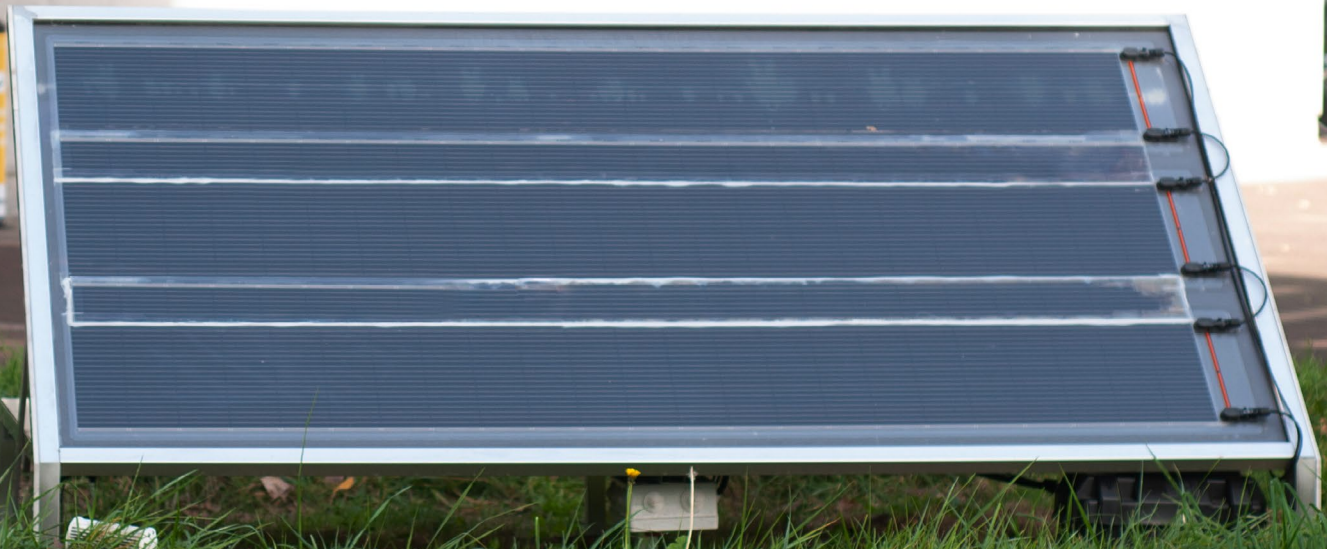
Link teaser : <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10747029/video/878255053>

Audio part (French with english subtitles) (12min)

Link : <https://youtu.be/Gb2YSU15j6E>



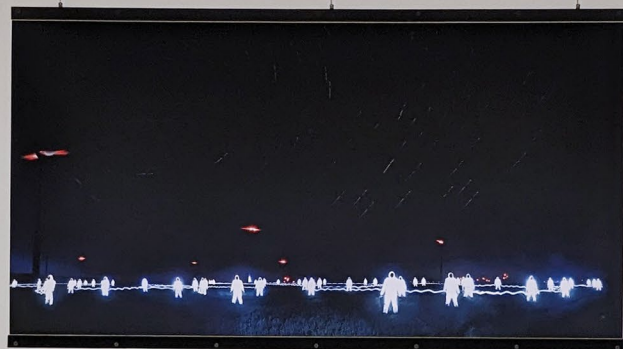
LE FRESINOY







*Photograph printed on glass plate – exposure time of one hour – taken at the Fruges wind farm – Nord-Pas-de-Calais. 150 cm x 280 cm*





*Images of the journey and the shooting*

## 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.

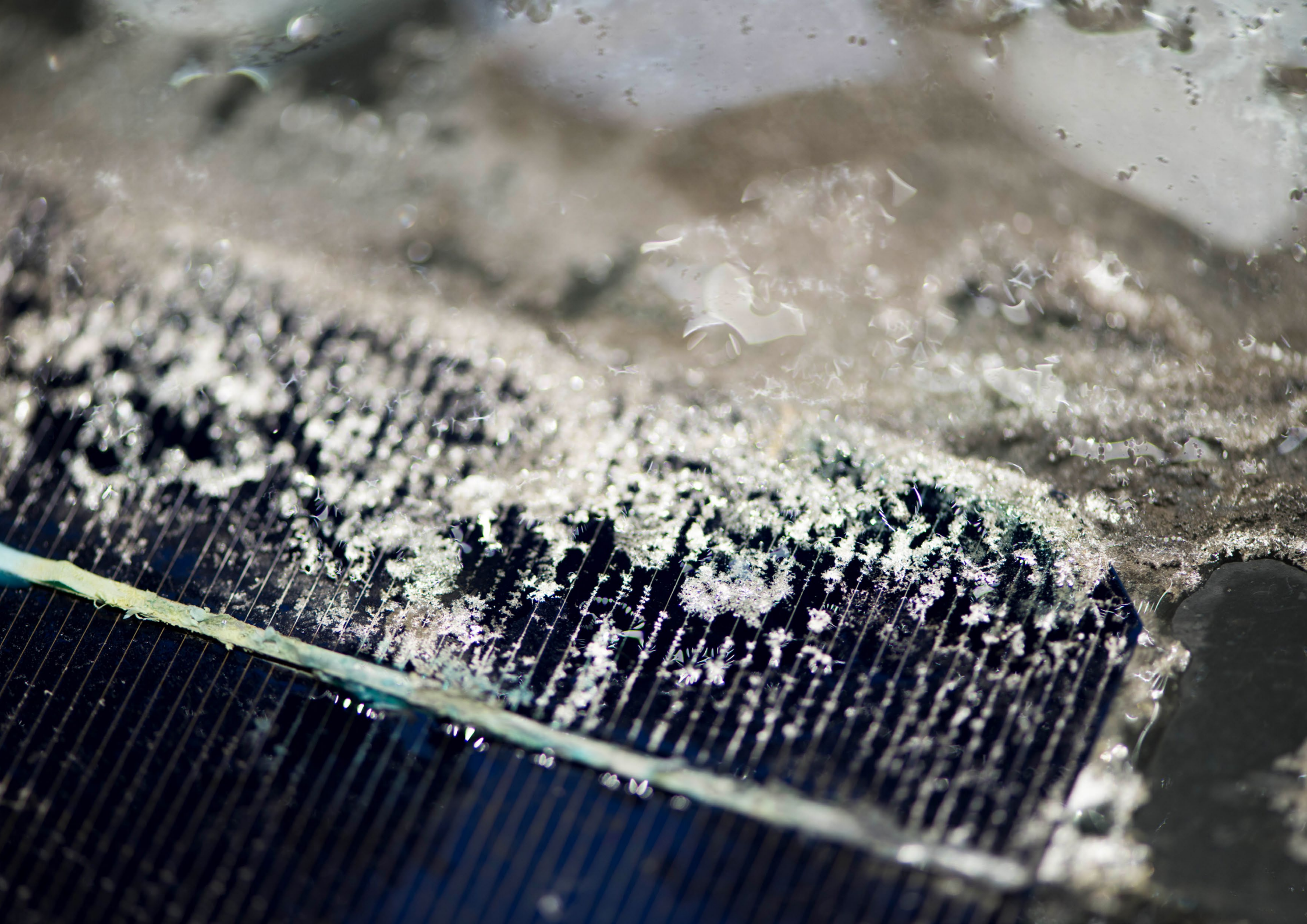
Link teaser : <https://vimeo.com/799806174>

Crystals evolution (one month) : <http://hugopetigny.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Evolution.mp4>

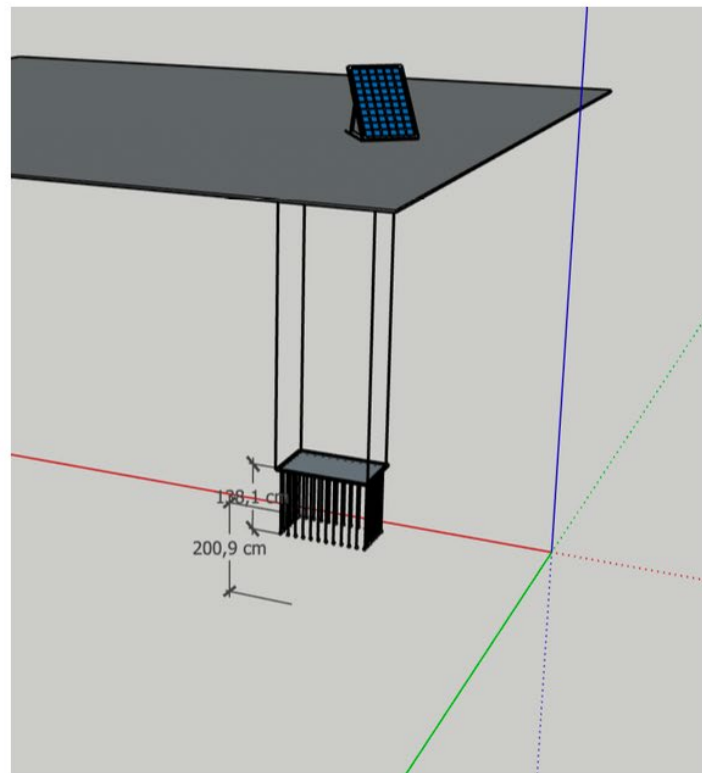
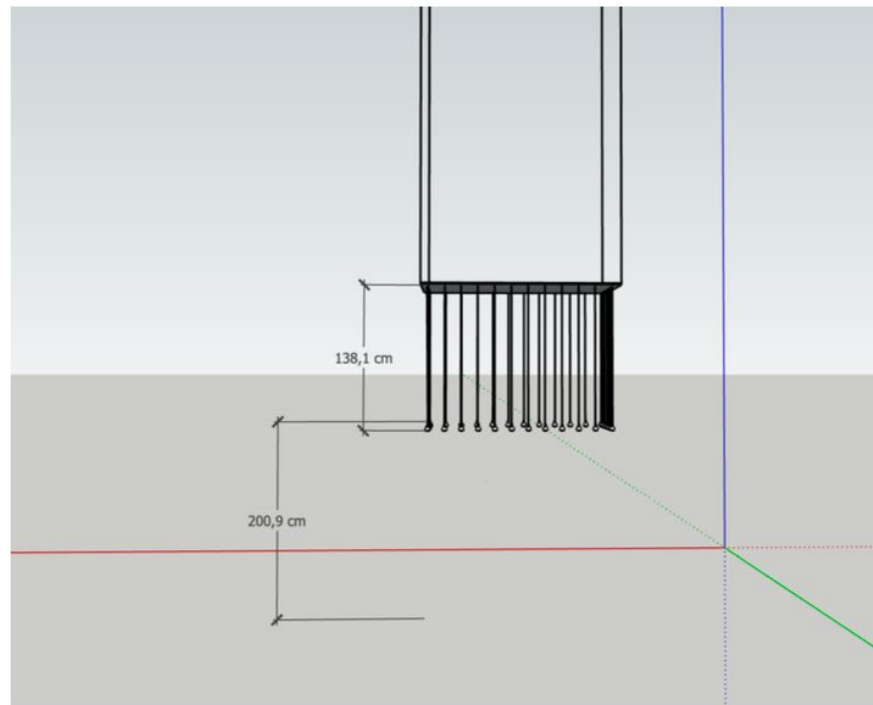








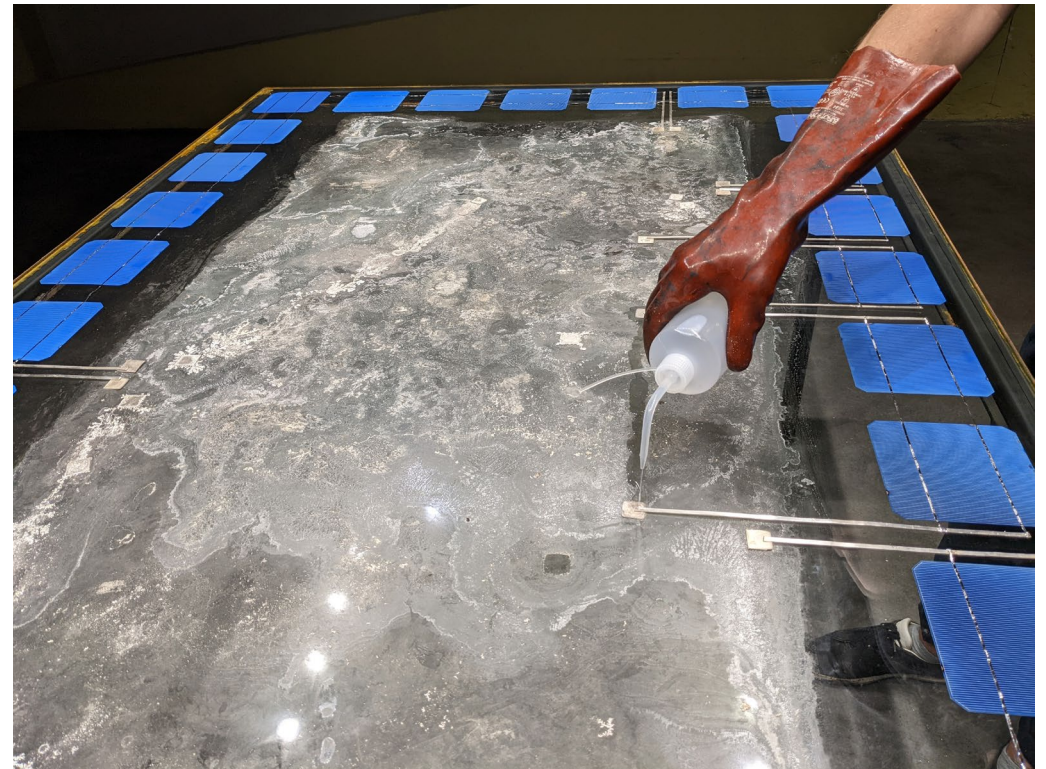




*Installation plan*



*Solar panel powering the light bulbs*



*Silver nitrate poured onto the table*

## About working time

Print, screen, matte photography, video projection, film. 2024

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)





Photograph on matte paper  
«Work in progress» – 50 × 70 cm





Journey from the power plant supplying electricity to the exhibition site.  
Link 3D video (9min25) : <https://hugopetigny.com/index.php/en-passant/>

## Photographs

The following photographs are experiments on energy within images, all made with a scanner.

