

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](#)

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

The River and the Dam (2026)

metal, aluminium, water, Arduino, speakers

is a sound installation.

You are invited to enter this space, take a break, and listen to the story of an impossible love between the Gudenå River and the Tange Power Plant in Denmark.

The installation consists of two metal tubes. One of them is filled with water, which slowly drips out. A water sensor measures the water level and affects the speed of the sound: the more water flows out, the slower the narration becomes. When the tube is empty, the sound becomes indistinct and then stops.

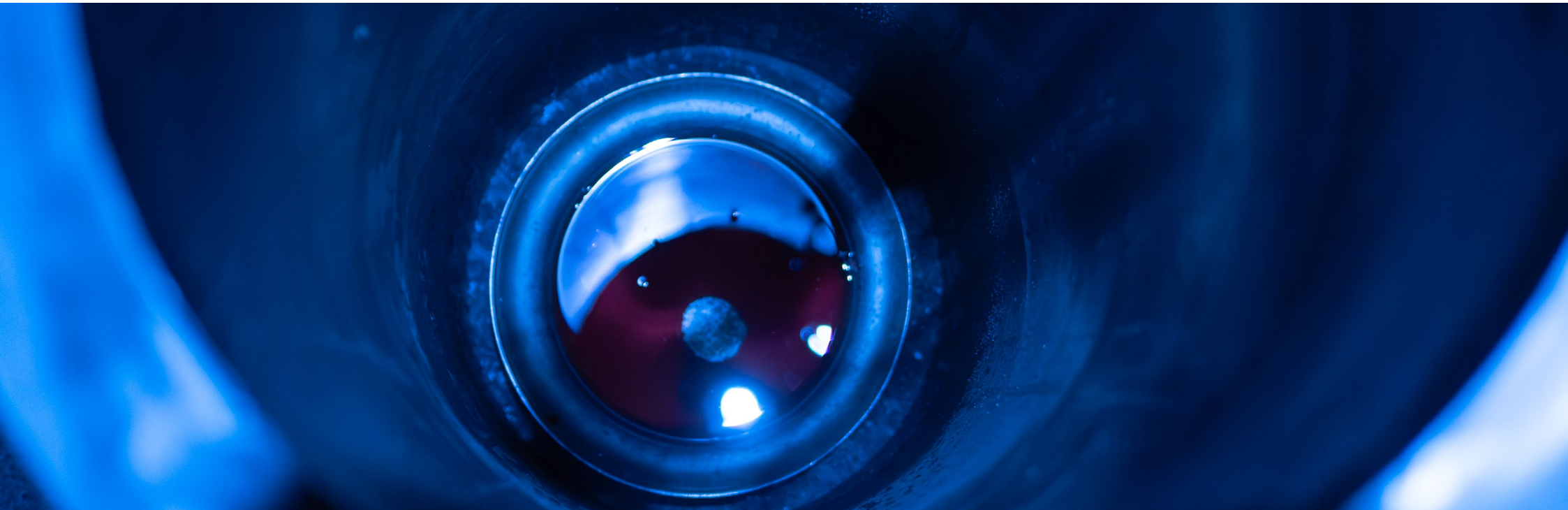
The tube is refilled three times a day: in the morning, at noon, and in the late afternoon.

The mechanism is inspired by the clepsydra, an ancient water clock used to measure time and known since Antiquity.

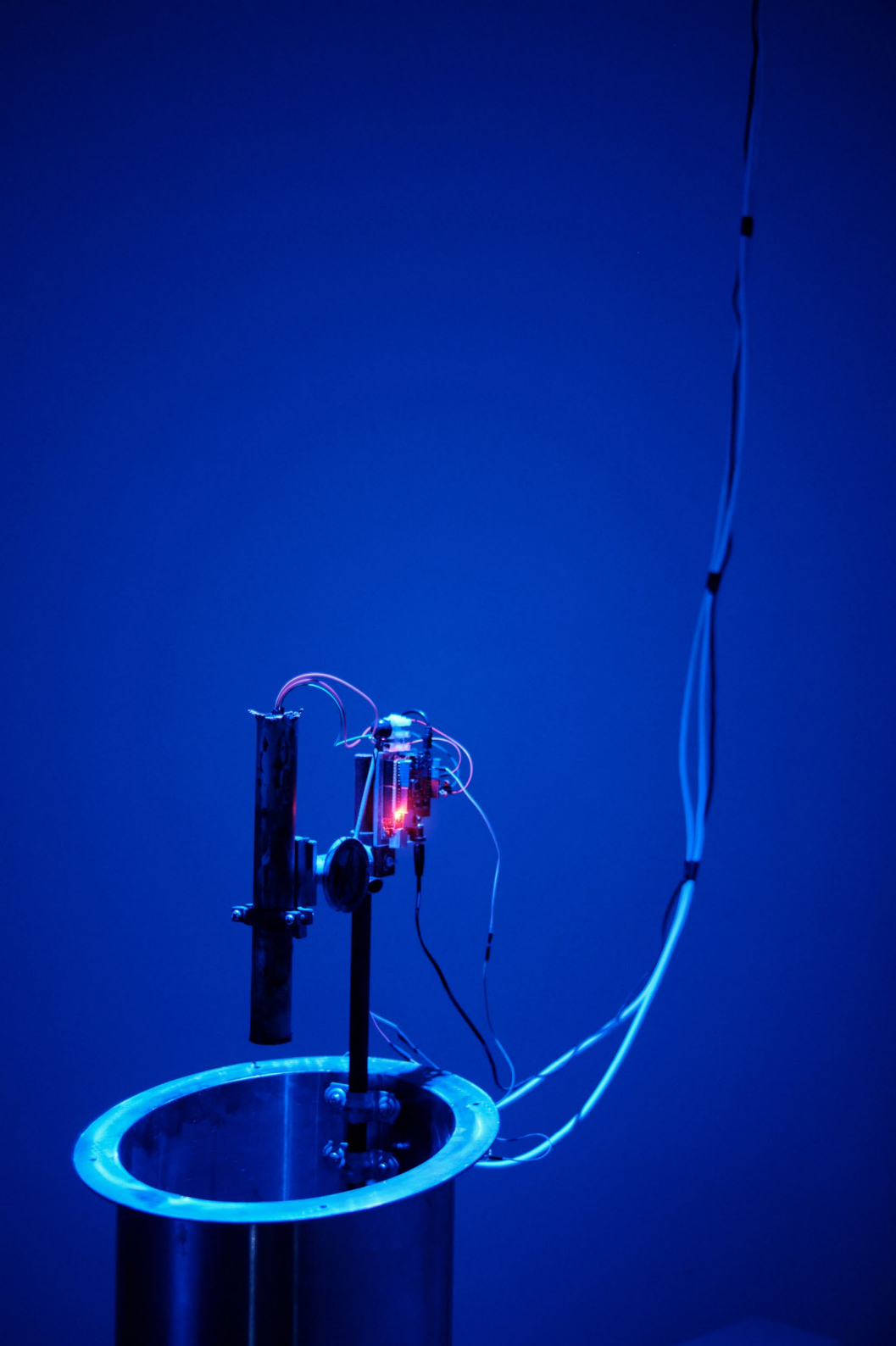
The project is a prototype work created during the three month Riddergade AIR residency at Viborg Kunsthall. It explores the connections between energy production, the experience of time, and the social changes associated with the history of electricity.

Link trailer (1min) : <https://vimeo.com/1197382859?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

Link audio (24 min) : http://hugopetigny.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/The-story-tell-by-the-water-_FINAL_FINAL.mp3







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:

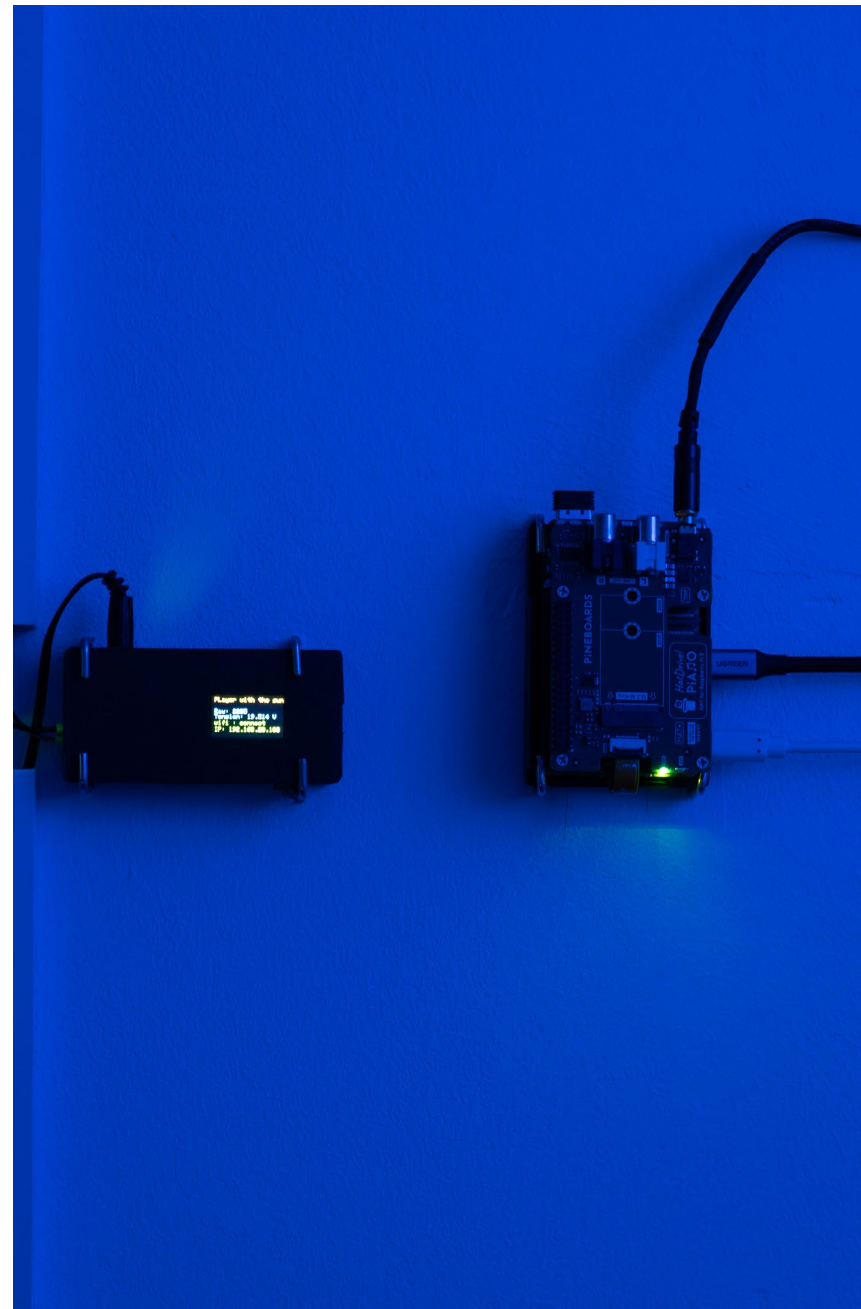
that of the electric fish *Gnathonemus petersii*, which emits impulses with irregular rhythms, and that of the human photovoltaic industry,
which produces regular and linear rhythms.

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.

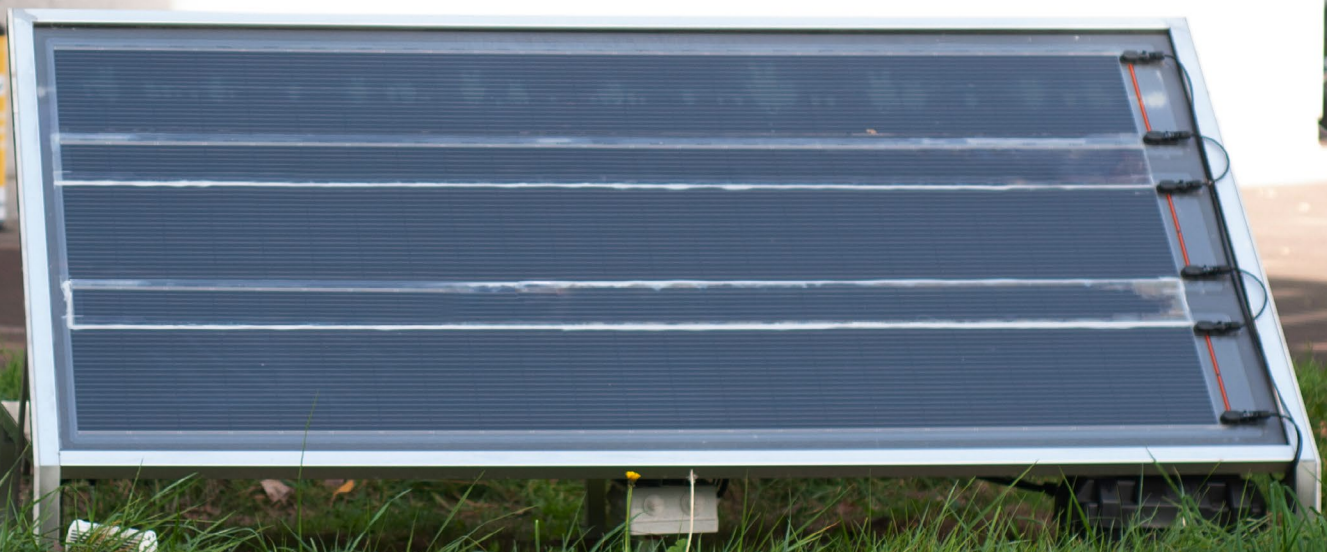
Link teaser : <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10747029/video/878255053>

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.

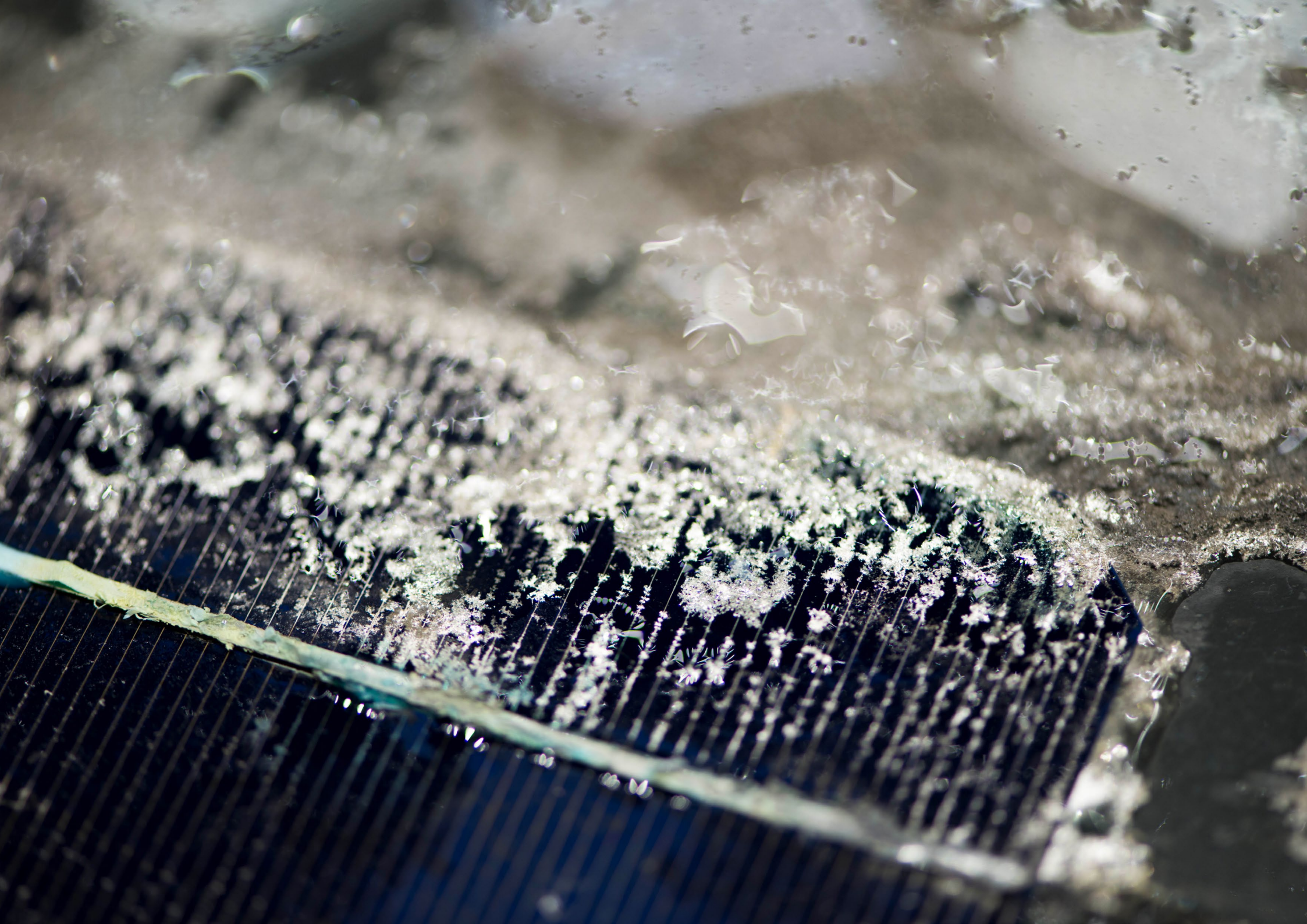
Link teaser : <https://vimeo.com/799806174>

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

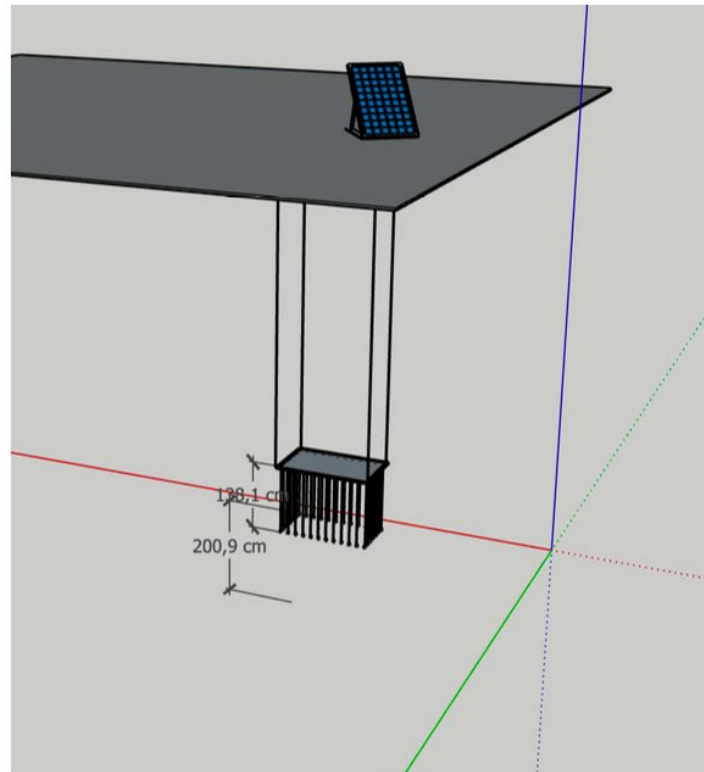
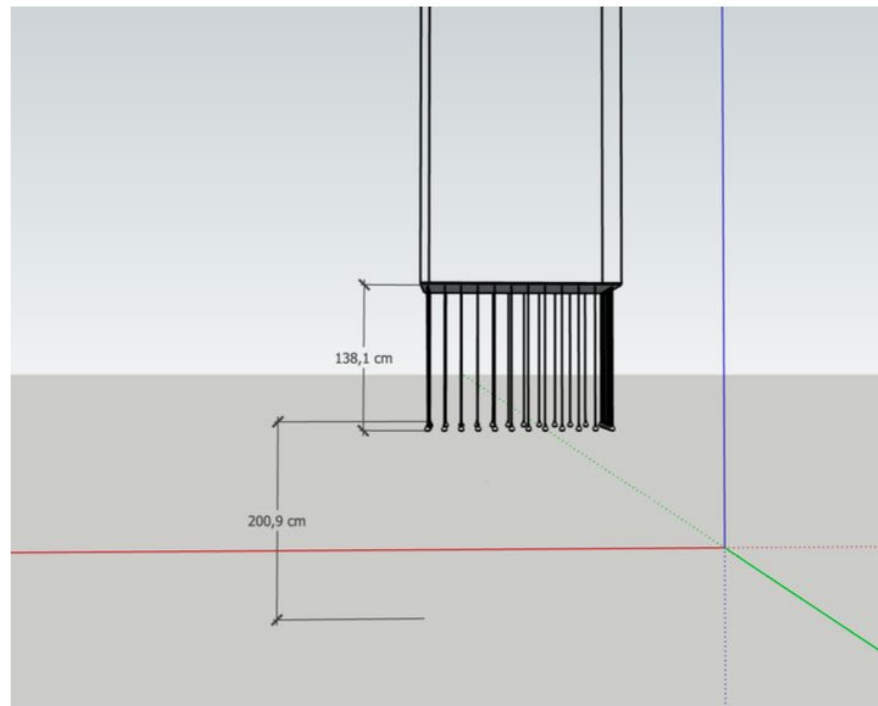








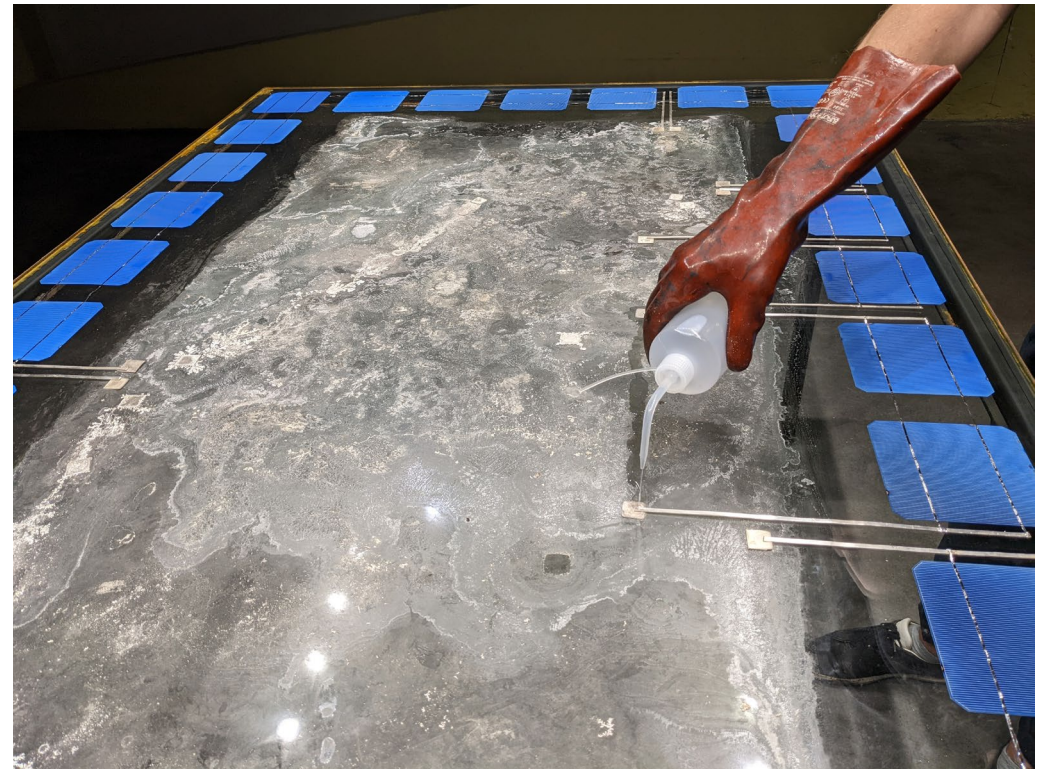




Installation plan



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.

