

CAGOL Stefano

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Artistic approach

I face the so called hyperobjects, very global issues such as climate change, the energy sources, the mutation of borders, the avian flu and September 11.

My research includes video, photo, performance and installation.

My means are both technology and nature as I use natural elements like fire and ice, and experiment a poetic use of technical devices like the infrared camera.

Key words in my practice are dissemination, displacement and involvement as I force the limits of the engagement of the public and even of the institutions using propaganda, playing in the public space, including a transnational traveling process in the projects.

Curriculum Vitae

Group shows (selection)

2019

- *Curitiba Biennale*, Curitiba, 21.09.2019-23.01.2020
- *Writing the history of the future*, Karlsruhe, ZKM, 23.02.2019-28.03.2021
- *Antipasti*, curated by Veit Loers, Bonn, Sauvage, 15.02-26.04.2019

2018

- *Something Else*, curated by chief curator Simon Nijami, artistic director Moataz Nasr, curator Valentina G. Levy, Cairo, Off Biennale Cairo, 01.11-10.12.2018

2017

- *Landscapes of Loss. The Exhibition for the UN Conference on Climate Change Conference, COP23*, curated by Constanze Kleiner, Rachel Rits-Volloch, Berlin, The Ministry of Environment, 3-5.11.2017
- *Aftermieter / Lodgers*, curated by Veit Loers, Kerpen, Köln, Haus Mödrath - Räume für Kunst, 23.04.2016-09.09.2017

2016

- *Manifesta II*, curated by Christian Jankowski, Zurich, Cabaret der Künstler - Zunfthaus Voltaire, 11.6.-18.9.2016
- *PIGS*, curated by Blanca de la Torre, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Artium, 19.02-15.05.2016; Oporto, Galeria Municipal do Porto, 3.06-21.08.2016

2015

- *Collezione per un domani: nuove opere a Museion*, curated by Letizia Ragaglia, Bolzano, Museion, 21.03.2015-10.01.2016

2014

- *The 2nd Xinjiang Biennale: New Art on the Silk Road*, curated by Peng Feng, Urumqi, 25.06-23.07.2014

2013

- *Padiglione Nazionale delle Maldive*, curated by CPS-Chamber of Public Secrets (Khaled Ramadan, Alfredo Cramerotti, Aida Eltorie), Venezia, 55. Biennale Internazionale d'Arte di Venezia, 1.06-26.11.2013

Books

2019

- Alessandro Castiglioni, Blanca de la Torre, Julie Reiss, *Stefano Cagol: Hyperobject. Visions btw borders, energy and ecology*, Tokyospace, Milano
- Julie Reiss, (edited by), *Art, theory and practice in the Anthropocene*, Vernon Press, Wilmington

2018

- Christian Jankowski, *Cabaret der Künstler Zunfthaus Voltaire. Joint.venture performances*, Foundation Manifesta 11, Zurich

2015

- Andreas Beitin, Daniela Berglehn, Tobia Bezzola, Giovanni Carmine, Veit Loers, Letizia Ragaglia, Andrea Viliani, et al., *Stefano Cagol. The Body of Energy (of the mind)*, Revolver Publishing, Berlin

2013

- Stefano Cagol, (edited by), Camilla Boemio, Iara Boubnova, Giulio Bursi, Alfredo Cramerotti, Blanca de la Torre, Peggy Gale, Esther Lu, Chiara Parisi, Emanuele Quinz, Maren Richter, Fatos Üstek, Kamila Wielebska, Eric M. Wilcox, June Yap, Raul Zamudio, et al., *The Ice Monolith. Platform*, Tokyospace, Trento

2011

- Andrea Viliani, (edited by), Iara Boubnova, Gregor Jansen, Luba Kuzovnikova, Michele Robecchi, *Stefano Cagol. PUBLIC OPINION*, Charta, Milano

2009

- Daniela Ubaldi, (edited by), *Young Blood 08, Annual di talenti italiani premiati nel mondo*, Iron, Roma

1969 — Born in Trento

Education

1998 — Postdoctoral Fellowship, Toronto, Ryerson University

1993 — MFA, Milano, Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera

Awards

2018 — *Step Travel Grants*, recipient, European Cultural Foundation

2014 — *VISIT # 10*, winner, Essen, Innogy Stiftung

2009 — *Premio TERNA 02 per l'Arte Contemporanea*, winner, Roma, Terna

2008 — *Targetti Light Art*, 2nd prize, Prato, Targetti

2008 — *Art & Ecology*, shortlisted, London, RSA – Royal Society for Arts

Artist Residencies

2018 — *Residency.ch*, Bern, Progr Zentrum für Kulturproduktion, 9-29.01.2018

2017 — *AiR Kristiansand*, Kristiansand, Agder Kunstsenter, 9.01-28.02.2017

2016 — *Return, 1st Ruhr Residence*, Essen, Kunstvereine Ruhr, 5.10-20.11.2016

2016 — *Cambridge Sustainability Residency*, Cambridge, Ruskin Un., 18-31.07.2016

2015 — *Momentum Berlin*, Berlin, Momentum, 1.11-31.12.2015

2014 — *AiR Bergen*, Bergen, Stiftelsen Kulturhuset USF, 3.04-26.06.2014

2013 — *AiR Drake Arts Center*, Kokkola, Drake Arts Center, 1.12.2013-15.01.2014

2013 — *VIR Viagarini-in-residence*, Milano, Viagarini, 1.07-30.09.2013

2010 — *BAR International*, Kirkenes, Pikene på Broen, 29.11.2010-12.02.2011

2010 — *International Studio & Curatorial Program*, New York, ISCP, 1.05-31.08.2010

Lectures

2016 — *Public Art and New Art Strategy*, Weimar, Bauhaus Un., 26.10.2016

2015 — *Internature: Stefano Cagol*, Milano, Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera, 27.03.2015

2014 — *Critical ways of seeing*, London, Goldsmiths University, 21-22.5.2014

2014 — *Stefano Cagol: Trigger the Border*, London, Goldsmiths University, 12.2.2014

2009 — *The New Paragone*, Toronto, Ryerson University, 14. 03, 2009

2008 — *Visiting Artist*, Gent, HISK – Higher Institute for Fine Arts Flanders, 11-13.06.2008

Workshops

2019 — *Paesaggio come performance*, Bologna, Premio Roberto Daolio per l'arte pubblica 2019, Accademia Belle Arti Bologna, 15-17.01.2019

2017 — *The Body of Energy. Kristiansand*, Kristiansand, Cultural Rucksack program, Agder Kunstsenter, 13-17.02.2017

2014 — *The Body of Energy (of the mind)*, Gallarate, MA*GA Museum, 17-22.11.2014

2007 — *Museion Summer Lab. Stefano Cagol*, Bolzano, Museion, 16-20.7.2007

Solo shows

2019

— *Hyperobject. Visions btw borders, energy and ecology*, curated by Alessandro Castiglioni, Gallarate, MA*GA, 23.03-15.09.2019

2016

— *Stefano Cagol. Works 1995 | 2015*, curated by Margherita de Pilati, Denis Isaia, Trento, Mart, Galleria Civica di Trento, 24.03-12.06.2016

2015

— *The Body of Energy (of the mind)*, Berlin, CLB Berlin Collaboratorium, 6.11-12.12.2015

2012

— *Sensor: Stefano Cagol*, curated by Idis Hartmann, Daria Mille, Karlsruhe, ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art, 25.07-23.09.2012

2011

— *CONCILIO*, curated by Gregor Jansen, collateral event, 54. Biennale Internazionale d'Arte di Venezia, Venezia, Chiesa di San Gallo, 31.05-27.11.2011

2007

— *The Flu ID*, curated by Yuka Uematsu, Tokyo, NADiff – New Art Diffusion, 5-25.04.2007

2005

— *Lies*, curated by Mami Kataoka, London, Platform, 4.02-12.03.2005

2000

— *Contemporanea: Stefano Cagol*, curated by Gabriella Belli, Giovanna Nicoletti, Trento, Mart, Palazzo delle Albere, 8.11-10.12.2000

Portfolio

A journey, from north to south of Europe started in 2014, has been the core of a project that is still open, investigating resources, the environment and our relationship with them, through performances for a vision of warmth as a manifestation of energy in images shot with infrared camera.

After using the light, even in a blatant way, I decided to look at the invisible to talk about energy. I focused on that portion of light that we do not see, but we perceive as heat. I make the invisible visible. I use a technical instrument, an infrared camera, in a poetic way, capturing traces of heat as manifestations of energy. I look for the energy emitted by our bodies, the objects, the energy we take and give in the relationship with the environment. The project, born as part of the Visit program by Innogy Stiftung, was transnational, from Bergen to Gibraltar, also stopping by museums like mental energy factories, and continued with symbolic interactions between the warmth of my body and iconic architectures in large-scale video projections at the opening of Manifesta 12 and on the monumental façade of the Royal Palace of Caserta.

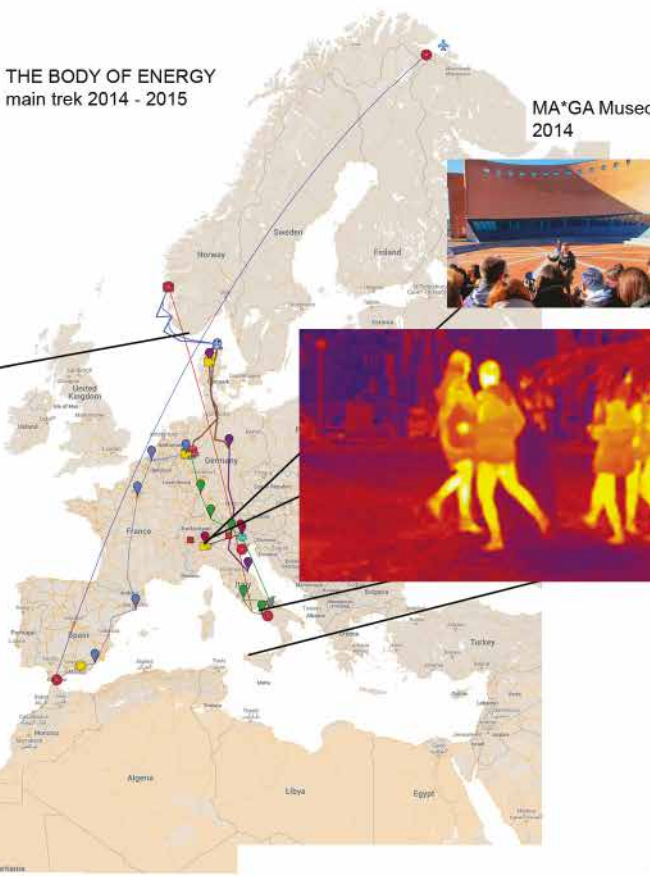
The Body of Energy (of the mind)

THE BODY OF ENERGY
main trek 2014 - 2015



KRISTIANSAND
2017

- NORTH - SOUTH: THE BODY OF ENERGY**
- ★ Prehistoric site: 8000-13,500 YOUNG ERASER (DK)
 - ★ Preparing the contemporary scene
 - ★ Maching Bank Street
- NORTH - SOUTH: EXPOSITION**
- ★ Near and distance from France to Denmark
 - ★ Exhilarating energy @ Hvidehuset Arhus (DK)
 - ★ Crossing North Sea
 - ★ Bergen from @ IGF
 - ★ Norway Kunstnall Leirvik (NO)
 - ★ Kuningas muoto: Sirenja, Kuningas Leirvik (NO)
 - ★ Norway, Gateway for Asia
 - ★ The night - house
 - ★ The wind and the forests
 - ★ Luleåhuset (SE)
 - ★ Gagnef Huset (SE)
 - ★ Gagnef and Sweden
 - ★ From stone to stone to Kurfürstburg
 - ★ Royal Arch (Kurfürstburg) (DE)
 - ★ Four Seasons in Erdmannsdorf
 - ★ Central Axis, Three Phases in Praha (CZ)
 - ★ St. Vitusgate 4th floor in Prague (CZ)
 - ★ Museum complex, Oldham in London (GB)
 - ★ Museo Teodoro @ Trieste (IT)
 - ★ Sculpture at the Alps (IT)
 - ★ MUSEO MAFIA (IT)
 - ★ Mafiosa & Times @ MAFIA (IT)
 - ★ Mafiosa (ES)
 - ★ Mafiosa (FR)



MA*GA Museo
2014



- ★ Karlsruhe Gewerbestrick (DE)
- ★ Schlosser, Bienen (DE)
- ★ Produktions @ Strande (Damen - from CZ)
- ★ Dringing - Leipzig from the film - Miss @ Diego Gaudino (IT)



- Along the Mediterranean coast of peninsula
- ★ Stolper - Antiklinik (BE)
 - ★ Artificial solar power station, Ciudad @ (CZ)
 - ★ Lines in the Street, Okonahr (CZ)

- SOUTH/NORTH: THE BODY OF ENERGY**
- ★ Musei di Palermo (IT)
 - ★ Museo Mafia Napoli (IT)
 - ★ MUSEO MAFIA (IT)
 - ★ Sonn wind farm (IT)
 - ★ Giacomo, Bologna (IT)
 - ★ Muro Halls Santa Gallina (CH)
 - ★ ZIMA, Strasbourg (FR)
 - ★ Four Mediterranean Sea to Sicily
 - ★ Farsi, Bergamo, Venezia (IT)



MANIFESTA 12 Palermo
2018

REGGIA DI CASERTA
2018

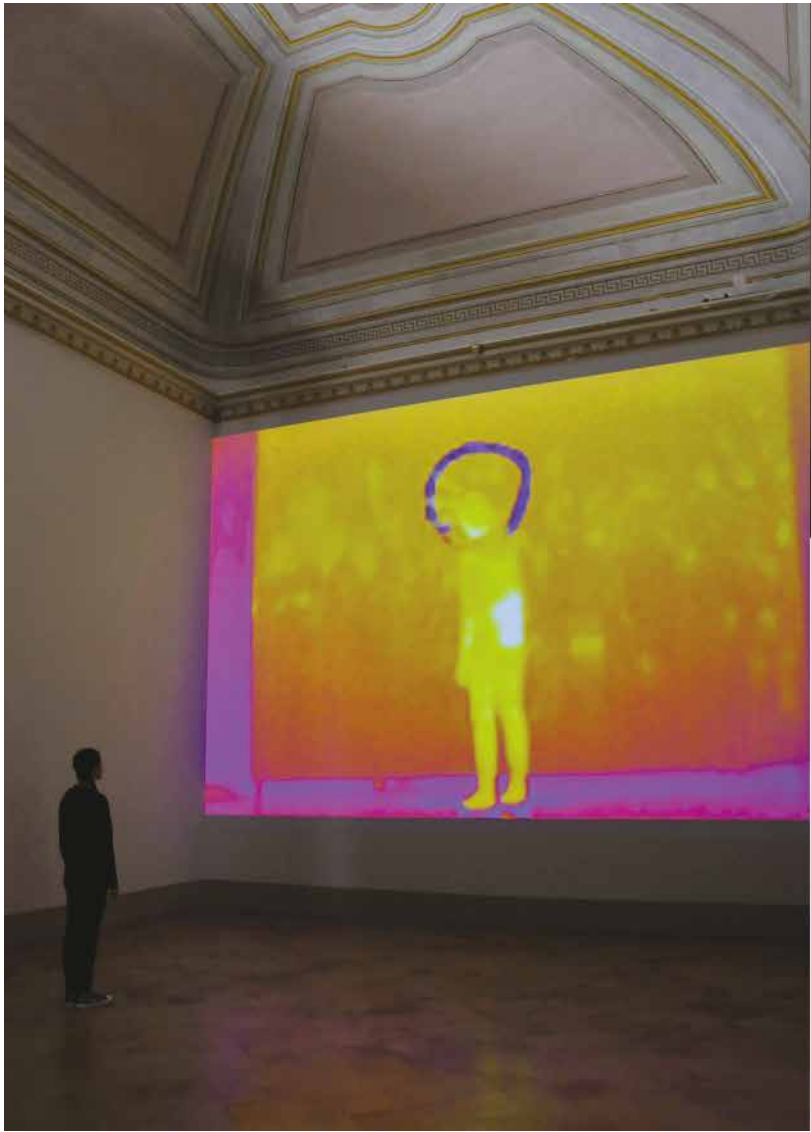














Invited to participate in the Maldives National Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013, the artist decided to realize a symbolic action, letting a block of ice melt down the lagoon, drawing attention to the effects of climate change such as the disappearance of glaciers and the rising of the seas.

I remember my father pointing to the white mountain top as "eternal ice". Now the glaciers are disappearing and their water raises the sea level. A common destiny of disappearance. Invited to take part in the Maldives National Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale, I brought to Venice a crystalline block of a ton and a half of ice that I let melt along the shore facing the lagoon, a highly sensitive area like the Maldivian archipelago, destined to disappear under the rising of the seas caused by the retreat of the glaciers. The Alps and the Maldives united in the same destiny. In Kubrick the monolith symbolizes eternity, here transitory. In three days it disappeared under the eyes of passers-by, while inside the Pavilion was a video, Fade, that evoked this idea of flooding with mountain peaks coming out of the waves.

The Ice Monolith









The installation takes its title from a Norwegian island, but in the Antarctic, which symbolically represents the opposites, the contradictions of our closeness-distance from nature.

Rock and ice, the work refers to extreme natural conditions through shapes and surfaces that I create by cutting and bending the metal sheet by hand, until I get the blood out of my hands. Bouvet Island is considered one of the most remote ones on the planet, a Norwegian island, but located in the Antarctic area. Made of very dark volcanic stone covered with white ice, the high cliffs of unstable frozen matter make it unapproachable for humans, but it is rich in fauna. Yet the consequences of human choices have not even preserved this place so far, the protagonist of a nuclear experiment among the most mysterious, the Vela Incident, recorded by the surveyors, but never claimed.

I had experimented with this technique at the Academy in '92-'93 and I took it up again in this series of works started in 2013 in conjunction with the project The Ice Monolith.

Bouvet Island







**In 2013 in a
transnational trek that crossed
Europe to its far north, the artist
launched powerful signals of
light that broke physical and
mental boundaries, like barriers
raised by fears.**

*Called to realize a project for
the Barents Art Triennale with
the invitation coming from the
Norwegian institution Pikene
på Broen, I decided to test
the boundaries using a ray of
light that spreads for over ten
kilometers, involving the space and
a wide public pushed to question
themselves.*

*I traveled for five thousand
kilometers to the north, starting
from the Vajont Dam in Italy
and performing along Europe to
its extreme edges, those of the
Schengen Area, up to the border
with the Russian nation. The
mobile station consisted of a van,
which contained the beacon and a
generator and allowed me to free
the light in the most appropriate
places and moments. The powerful
impalpable light overcame physical
boundaries, distances, differences,
representing a symbol that leads to
reflection.*

The End of the Border (of the mind)

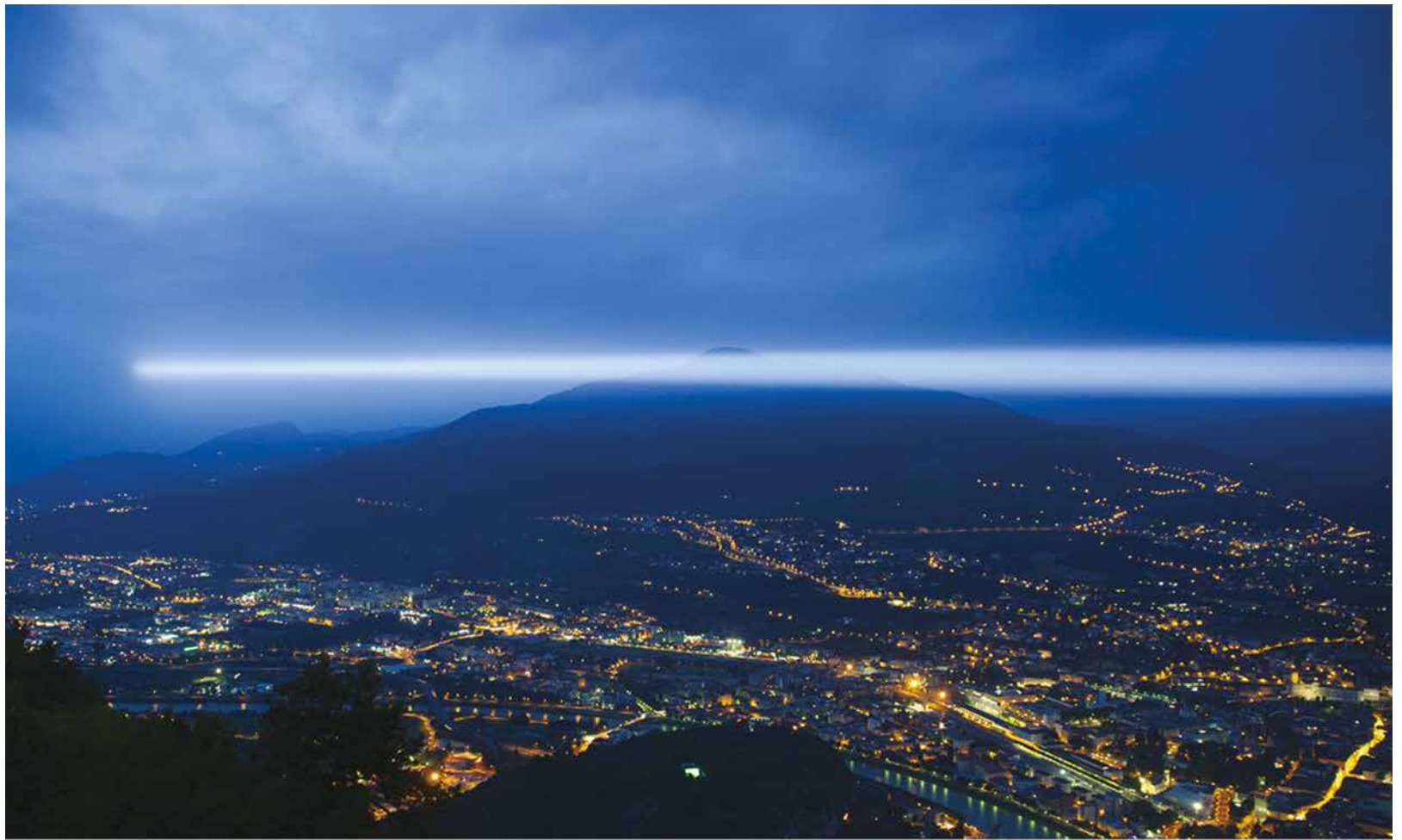












In a solitary expedition in 2011 beyond the Arctic Circle, the artist ignited the gas of aerosol cans simulating the influence of man in the melting of eternal ice, launching distress signals from desolate lands. The work entered the German Environment Ministry's collection on the occasion of the UN conference on climate changes COP 23.

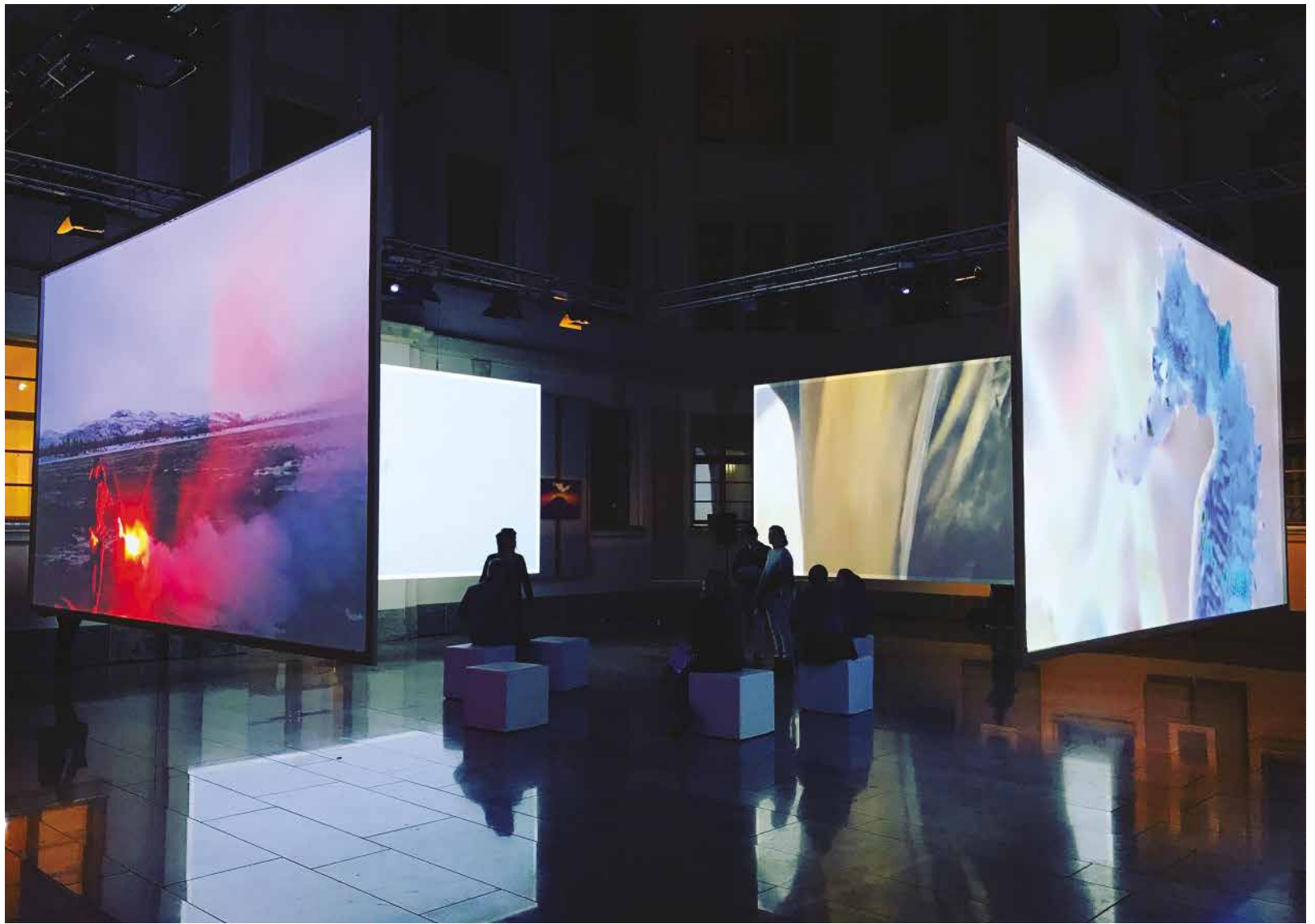
Being artist in residence in the north of Norway, well beyond the Polar Circle, I pushed beyond the sparse human presence of those places, inside the frozen fjords, armed with a video camera and tripod, in front of which I triggered a very direct relationship with nature, made mystical by the total solitude. I firmly wanted to be alone, also avoiding letting others know where I would go. The environment was enveloped in a twilight light that interrupts the darkness and a temperature of -25 degrees. Here the boundary was between my body and nature. I generated flames by burning the gas of a hairspray can, imitating the ostentation of dominance of the metropolitan gangs and metaphorically simulating the harmful emissions of contemporary society.

Evoked Provoke
(the border)









I

The People are Underage is a dispute btw art & power, performance realized with a chief inspector of the Italian state police at Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich as part of Manifesta 11 in 2016.

II

The word *Elektron* in the video of 2017 refers in Greek to the amber, such a magical and symbolic material, out of time and space, the basis of the term that today identifies energy.

other works 2016 | 2018

III

New Experiments on Vacua are a series of performances realized in 2016 in the Ruhr Valley, famous for its intense industrial and mining exploitation, to reflect on our actions toward nature.

IV

Abat Jour is a performance of 2016 between light and dark in an alarming and dreamlike dimension, once again playing with natural elements like fire and symbols like aerosol cans.

V

The Walls Book is the project realized at the 2nd OFF Biennale Cairo in 2018: images of barriers hung on the walls of the city recall they are built for the supremacy of one over the other.









