



*How to give materiality
to our wireless
networks data in the
public space?*

DATE

2023

MEDIUM

EXEM electromagnetic wave sensor, Raspberry Pi, solenoid valves, high-pressure pump, nozzles, water collector

DIMENSIONS

Variable

AUTHORS & DEVELOPMENT

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ARTISTIC RESEARCH

<https://lab212.org/research/1:featured/19/Water-and-technology>

TECHNICAL RESEARCH

<https://lab212.org/research/1:featured/20/High-pressure-water-modulation>

GENESIS

In the age of hyper-connection, the technologies of ubiquity generate, as an echo to a feeling of power (anticipation, optimisation), a certain form of dispossession (fear of emptiness, Fear Of Missing Out). The physical reality of the digital world also raises the question of the energetic and hydric resources needed for the manufacture and operation of these infrastructures, inherent in our daily routines (streaming videos, social networks, etc.). Today, the health crisis has further accentuated these remote practices (teleworking, videoconferencing, etc.).

SYNOPSIS

Ombres Blanches intentionally blurs the boundaries between reality and fiction through an exploration of the invisible physical phenomenon of radio frequency waves. The invisible signals emitted by mobile phones, printers and all sorts of smart devices leave an imprint when they connect and exchange data on wireless networks. The data flows "transmitted in a space appear as visual traces from an invisible dimension that gradually form and dissolve" (1). Ombres Blanches reveals the invisible spectrum of electromagnetic waves that surround us. The installation embodies in real time the interactions with the surrounding networks, in a climatic phenomenon. Ombres Blanches projects a singular view of the landscape, through a collective, ephemeral and multi-sensory ritual.

(1) Richard Vijgen, WiFi Tapestry, 2017

TECHNICAL PRINCIPLE

Ombres Blanches materializes radiofrequency waves (2G/3G/4G/5G mobile telephony, FM radio, TV, etc.) in public spaces. An EXEM sensor detects the value of the ambient electromagnetic field (250kHz - 6GHz) and sends it in real time to a Raspberry Pi computer. Driven by Nerves (embedded application platform for the Elixir language), the Raspberry Pi samples the values received (in V/m) in order to control a high-pressure pump in real time. The pump generates a fog whose density changes with the intensity of the surrounding electromagnetic waves detected. The data collected are accessible online, via a graphical interface designed for a wide audience.

SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION

EXEM Laboratories Frequency measurement solutions for telecommunications systems (mobile telephony, WiFi) and broadcasting systems (DTT, FM). Lab212 Collective and EXEM Laboratory collaborate together on Ombres Blanches, through an industrial contribution (courtesy loan of an EXEM sensor), and a transfer of knowledge (technical principles of real-time detection of radiofrequency electromagnetic waves).

SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANT

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FOOTAGE

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INSTITUTIONAL & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

CNC DICREAM, DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes SCAN

03.10.2023→03.11.2023

EXHIBITION *Ether*

Le Grand Bazar, Toulouse, FRA

09.07.2024

AWARD *LINA Fellow*

European Architecture Platform

03.10.2024→04.10.2024

TALK *LINA Conference*

Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

25.05.2025→27.05.2025

EXHIBITION *Ombres Blanches*

Fundació Mies van der Rohe, Barcelona, ESP

24.10.2024→27.10.2024

EXHIBITION *KIKK Festival*

Harscamp, Cloister, Namur, BEL



