# Time and the Space Between

An experiment in trance-ference<sup>1</sup>

An interactive video installation from

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Version 2.0

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<sup>1</sup> The term *trance-ference* is a made-up word used by the American psychiatrist Stephen Wolinsky in his book *The Everyday Trance*. It is a derivative of the psychoanalytic term transference, which means transference or projection, and the term *trance*, which in hypnotherapy describes an expanded state of attention, but in direct translation from English can also mean ecstasy.

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## Description

#### Introduction

"The things which represent our senses and our mind, are only appearances..." Immanuel Kant

The world is created in the head. It is fed by the sense perceptions and sense illusions. It is shaped by individual experience (past) and glass-ball vision (future).

It consists of imaginations and fears, of fears and longings, of dreams, overflowing love and cold hatred.

The world is an individual projection, whose beauty and ugliness unfolds in the mind and can take on the most diverse facets depending on the direction of view and perspective, depending on the mood of the day.

I can open or close my heart to this world, I can exclude or accept my perceptions, I can quarrel with the world or embrace it whatever I do: this is the only possible world in which I live.

How I perceive the world around me and whether I realize above all that my perception is a completely indivi dual one and not transferable to others (every human being is a universe of his own) - as well as the realization that others' perception of the

#### Radical constructivism

One of the basic assumptions of radical constructivism is that personal perception cannot produce the image of a reality that exists independently of the individual, but that reality for each individual is always only a construction of his own sense stimuli and his memory capacity. Therefore, objectivity in the sense of a correspondence between a true ge (constructed) image and reality is impossible; every perception is fully subjective all the time. This is the radicali tity (uncompromisingness) of radi cal constructivism.

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radikaler Ko nstruktivismus

world is different from mine, that is again a completely different matter.

#### The Cartesian Demon

Imagine that we are in the year 3000 A.D. A research team is about to move on to another phase of its already famous research into the deceptiveness of the human brain using electrical and chemical stimuli. After years of intensive research on human brains, it now appears that perfect deception is becoming a reality: A human brain has been kept fresh from birth, detached from the body, in a nutrient solution. During the last decades, this brain could be faked a complete world so perfectly that today the brain is absolutely convinced that it is a living human being of the twentieth century.

The optic nerves alone were supplied with a lifelike image via thousands of electrodes. Likewise, hearing, feeling, smell and taste are simulated by means of electrodes. At the same time, the brain certainly has free will. This is because countless sensors register every change in the tension of the nerves, and when the brain believes it is turning its head, a specially created computer program simulates a perfect head turn by mimicking the tension of the neck muscles and changing the field of vision in accordance with the fictitious turn. Similarly, all body movements are perfectly faked so that the brain actually believes it is a living person.

The retort brain is convinced that it moves freely, according to its own will, through a real world.

In the final phase of the project, which is just underway, a brief and generally understandable description of the experiment is presented to the brain.

The brain absorbs the contents with interest, but never thinks for a moment that it itself is the retort brain in the nutrient solution.

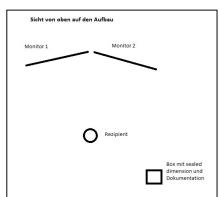
The video installation "*Time and the Space between*" thematizes the artificiality of projection and the creation of the world in the mind. The concept of *projection* is transferred directly from the psychological to the cinematic. It does not need a deeper understanding of art to be able to follow the metaphor. The irritation results directly from the sensory illusion inherent in the work.

On the first level of the work there is a subtle play with space and time. The aim is to irritate the spatial and temporal orientation of the recipient by means of the spatially and temporally displaced projection of a recording and to lead him in his individual experience from the role of the neutral observer into the role of someone directly affected. In the most rudimentary layer of ego-experience, space and time orientation are the fundamental prerequisite for classifying sense impressions into a causal and self-referential perception (individual truth).

The second level is the *sealed* or *hidden dimension*. It is a video recording of what actually happens, the socalled reality. However, this is located on a USB stick and a CD, which are enclosed in casting resin and are thus no longer accessible to both the artists and recipients after recording.

The third level is the work documentation: an edited film that shows the work on the work and interviews with the artists. It is stored as a video in the cloud and can be accessed via a bar code on the work. In its final version, the documentation has the format of a 90-minute report on the work process. It shows the work of the artists, performers and technicians, the experience of the recipients and the discussions surrounding the work during its creation.

## Structure (prototype)



Two monitors, each with an image diagonal of about 2 meters, stand upright (angled at about 160°) next to each other.

A camera is mounted between the monitors.

At a distance of about 2-3 meters, the *sealed dimension* is enclosed in a square Plexiglas box about 1 meter high. On the box there is a sticker with the barcode that refers to the website with the documentation.

The recipient looks at the monitors and experiences two people synchronously moving their body cameras between a horizon and directly directed at the viewer. In the confrontation of direct contact,

the panning stops for a few seconds.

During this pause, an image from a camera mounted between the monitors is superimposed on the display for a short time. The recipient sees himself looking at the monitors.

Before the recipient steps in front of the monitors, they are dark. The playback is started by a motion detector, which the recipient triggers shortly before the monitors (then the sequence runs for at least 5 minutes). If the recipient steps back within the sequence, the monitor goes out and the game starts again from the beginning.

At the entrance there is a sign: "Attention you are being filmed".

We will experiment with the possibility of recording the stream of the hidden camera and/or replaying it on another monitor outside the set up setting. The reactions of the recipient, from entering the space we have created and his reactions to the presentation of the performance seem to us extremely valuable material from the perspective of art and media theory.

## Record of the work

Two people face each other at a distance of a few meters. Both have a body camera.

Both make a 120° to 180° pan with their recording devices. In direct contact (when filming each other), both pause for a few seconds. Then the pan continues and everything repeats from the beginning.

A drone flies above the scene and records the artists' movements from a bird's eye view with its camera - this results in the later *sealed dimension*, the larger and more *detached* view of the whole.

In addition, the scene is recorded by several cameras positioned outside. These cameras, along with recordings from the creative process, discussions and mutual interviews, provide the raw material for the documentation of the work.

## Projection

To produce a reasonably realistic reproduction of the recording, the recordings would have to run on two monitors exactly opposite each other and the recipient would have to be between the two. He would therefore either see only the monitor in front of him or, if he turned around, the monitor behind him.

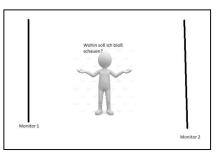
Both at the same time is not possible. The recipient would be directly involved, but would have to decide where to look and when.

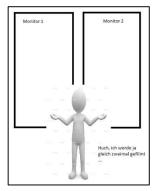
This is where projection and a reinforcing sensory illusion come into play:

since the monitors are not aligned against each other, but side by side, the viewer becomes part of the work. He can no longer escape the moment when both cameras are directed at him.

Instead of focusing on a work, the recipient himself becomes the direct focus of the artists existing only in projection.

The perception of what is presented and its processing take place detached from the actual work in the mind of the recipient: It consists *of imaginings and fears, of fears and longings, of dreams, overflowing love and cold hatred,* and all the shades of gray in between that observant voyeurism allows.





## Levels

The planes used in the work break down into external (perspective-technical planes), from which the projection is derived, and internal (psycho-dynamic planes), which result from the artists' expression and vulnerability.

### Sealed Dimension

#### The knife cannot cut itself and the eye cannot see itself.

You will never know what is real - not even who you are - you can only feel that. You will never really know how you are perceived from the outside - how others see you. And yet you will always appear to yourself only in the mirror of others.

A distorting mirror whose reflection is clouded by the joys and wounds of your biography and those of others.

Would you even be able to stand it: to recognize the utter banality of the dimension of the whole and to see the stains and tears in the fabric that binds everything together?

We saw the images of this *sealed dimension* shortly after the drone landed and the recording was transferred to a USB stick and CD - before the material was poured in and sealed.

We tell you: It was simple and boring. Two people are standing somewhere on a meadow, turning in a semicircle and filming each other. We can't tell if they are male or female. We don't see any expression in their faces, because from above they are

#### Morpheus:

"You're here because you know something. What you know you can't explain, but you feel it. You've felt it your entire life, that there's something wrong with the world. You don't know what it is, but it's there, like a splinter in your mind, driving you mad. Remember, all I'm offering is the truth, nothing more. Follow me."

faceless. The whole game goes on with some interruptions for about 30 minutes. Nothing, but really nothing happens. In the meantime, a dog pees on the pole with the white and red barrier tape. And while nothing happens, the drone wobbles due to gusts of wind or because it has lost its GPS signal for a few milliseconds. Believe us: the realistic is so banal.

#### Projection

You look: how THEY look at you, how THEY point the cameras at you.

You go to an exhibition and want to look at something and be touched or feel edification. You look at the objects (because what is a monitor but an inanimate technical object).

The subject looks at the object. Just as the insect collector, after killing a particularly beautiful beetle with chloroform, pierces it with a needle and adds it to his collection.

The monitors in front of you are about 2 meters high - as tall as a human being. And by means of a clever combination of recording and playback, two realistic-looking people appear in front of you, moving and repeatedly pointing their cameras at you.

You become the proud center or you feel observed - depending on what your mind constructs from what you perceive.

Maybe one of the people you see smiles, maybe another looks annoyed.

But what your reality-blanking brain instantly suppresses is the possibility that it is a sensory illusion and that you are not meant at all - that you are a completely uninvolved object while the subjects are facing each other.

You have nothing to do with the whole thing: Sure, both are annoyed after the 30th repetition at the recording, and yet they look benevolently on each other, because after all it's about their work.

Why should it be about you? You are not there.

But now we change the perspective: We include you. Now you are allowed to take a look at our vulnerability and are not just a voyeur.

Come and look while the construction of us that you design in your mind watches you. Come and look - get in touch with us and yourself through the mirror.

#### Voyeurism

You want things to get under your skin, you really feel something and are touched, that you get goose bumps - not because it scares you, but because it goes deep. You are looking for contact, because only in this contact you can experience yourself.

Art makes vulnerable, because it is a *turning outward of* an introspection hidden in everyday life - and it always goes beyond the work, because the object (picture, installation, music, text, representation) would not exist without the artist and the creative process.

Live your voyeurism to the fullest - every artist wants attentive recipients. Your thoughts and associations, the world in your head with all its interpretations and judgments, we can not take away from you.

And look: we observe you - we film your interested *going into contact* and what we and the irritations trigger in you.

The world is created in your head.

#### Documentation

An installation is not something that is simply built. It is preceded by an intensive process of discussion: Do we shoot in color or b/w, with sound or without sound?

How do we understand our contact?

Finally, WE come into contact with each other during the recording process.

Do we feel vulnerable and exposed or are there self-promotional and exhibitionistic elements?

How fast is the speed of our pan and how long is the pause in the confrontation?

Do the recordings run synchronously (do they have a common starting point) or asynchronously (minimal time offset) and do they meet again at a common point?

How is the technical implementation done?

How do we finance, present and market the work?

## Topics

## Synchronization

Somehow things have to work in sync, because creating your illusion works better via multiplication (two cameras pointing at you). If there was only one camera focusing on you, your brain would talk itself out of it and expose the whole show as a performance.

To ensure synchronicity, there are two different methods of creating a choreography during recording and playback.

During recording, the beat is set via a percussion instrument to be played by hand. During playback, the repetition of the loop begins at a starting point set by us, which uses an electronic signal to make all projections run at the same time and, if necessary, ensures synchronicity via a time code.

Listen carefully: You will notice the percussion in the recording as a soft atmosphere in the background.

## Rhythm, timing, Choreography - the analog and the digital

In music theory, a distinction is made between rhythm and meter.

Beat is precisely measurable, it is determined by exact units of time: Notes of a clearly defined length - a bar unit in musical notation in relation to BPM (beats per minute). Beat is precise, clear and digital, just like the speed of an assembly line and the standardized hand movements on a production line. It is irrelevant whether the sequence is performed by machines (in music e.g. a drum computer) or by humans (played exactly according to notes).

We experience clocked music or sounds as soulless.

Rhythm also follows rules, but it integrates the imponderables of human action in a dynamic environment. In contrast to beat, rhythm contains archaic elements. Music theory has the term groove or swing for this, and in percussion there are also so-called ghost notes. These terms describe irregular minimal deviations or interruptions from the digital beat, executed using various techniques.

Music or sounds take on a soul and come to life.

A choreography, the synchronized movement of people, appears alive through a given rhythm with all its small irregularities. It remains analog.

In contrast, playing back this choreography requires digital control. The synchronization of the projection must take place in exact time with the frames of the material to be projected.

The clash of rhythm (recording) and beat (playback), of the digital and the analog, brings the installation to life and can create in the recipient a sense of a merging of subject and object.

## Projection and reflection

In psychology, a projection is a value judgment formed from personal experience toward an external object. The inner processes take place on two levels: The first level is the assignment of my judgment (prejudice). The second level is what this prejudice generates in me. E.g. dislike, affection, falling in love, shame, etc.

Often both inner processes reinforce each other in a loop and create a "frozen conflict".

Whether we fall in love or develop xenophobia, in everyday life solidified projections lead to the feeling that one's own ideas are right and without alternative. This can lead to tunnel vision, which narrows our view of so-called reality.

One possible way out of this conflict is to shift into reflection: which means to acknowledge that the reality I experience is nothing but a construction of my mind.

This presupposes that I no longer perceive (externalize) my projection as something produced by an external object, but recognize it as something created by me - because I can only take responsibility for what I produce myself.

The prerequisite for this is to recognize the projection as a mirror of my thoughts.

In our installation we realize this by inserting the recipient into the image on the monitors. We make him a temporary part of the work. How far the recipient accepts and actually reflects this, we are not able to say - we can only offer him a mirror.

Since the confrontation with oneself through a flawless mirror (and what else is a perfectly neutral camera) can become unpleasant over a longer period of time, we let the fade-in fade-out after a few seconds. What remains is the projection, and with the beginning of the rotation, the eternal flow of space and time.

### Movement and standstill

Whether a movement is caused by a change in position or focus of a camera, or whether an object moves in front of a camera, both create dynamics (movement). Movement in film and video is like the passage of time - there is a before and after. In contrast to this is "still", which describes a static situation. The alternation between movement and still creates suspense on a visual level.

The rotation of the actors during the recording follows these rules: as soon as two actors film each other, time stops for a moment and a still is created. In fact, in the direct and present eye contact between people, the sense of time often disappears and the moment of encounter is perceived as timeless.

What does not disappear, however, is the timing. If a contact is too long, it is perceived as staring; if it is too short, it is perceived as avoidance. This timing varies, depending on the culture. For example, Anglo-American people perceive Swiss timing as staring and have coined the expression "Swiss Stare" for it.

In our installation, the duration of the still must go beyond the time frame of a normal gaze. This is only possible without staring if, after direct eye contact with the recipient, we integrate him into our work via an insertion of himself.

The feeling of being stared at and watched by the figures on the monitor disappears and can give way to the perception of watching oneself. The recipient is released from the role of voyeur.

In the best case, projection (the transfer of one's own ideas to another) then becomes reflection (the conscious perception of one's own role). But both projection and reflection are not fixed states in a continually changing world. The reflection will therefore fade away again - a short retrospection to the initial projection remains and the earth continues to turn.

We create this dynamic of constant change by rotating the participants.

They turn into the image, then focus on the recipient and remain in this position for a certain period of time. Before the recipient gets the feeling of being stared at, his face, recorded by the hidden camera, is faded in and an irritation arises. But even this fades after a certain time - a "still" (silence) remains.

Then a new movement takes place about turning out of the picture.

The whole timing and whether we work with acceleration/deceleration we have to determine experimentally. Later, it will be adapted to the particular culture of an exhibition.

For a shot with eight people in a circle (4 monitor pairs in the presentation), the rotation will be 360°, i.e. once around its own axis. Every 180° (after a semicircle), a different performer is then focused.

When creating the prototype, a complete rotation around its own axis does not make sense. Here we will experiment with a forward-backward pan and angles between 90° and 180°.

### Reception - subject and object

Two objects film each other and have completely subjective perceptions: the entire spectrum of the sensual, which they instantly interpret as feelings and associations such as embarrassment, joy, heat, coolness, annoyance, love, shame, and so on.

From their interpretation, the expression arises in direct contact, which in turn inevitably leads to new interpretations. The cat bites its own tail and cannot escape.

Already here the boundaries between object and subject become blurred - who is object and who is subject (who focuses on whom) and how and when does the change take place?

Or is everything a never-ending flow?

For the recipient, both are objects at first. The moment the cameras are directed at the viewer, he becomes the object and the supposed objects become subjects in his inner world, which take him into focus.

Perhaps the worlds will also merge and everything will become one.

This merging is not experiencing, rather it is implicit experiencing, that is a perception directly experienced without interpretation of the evaluating mind.

At this moment you enter the *space between*. It is the intermediate realm between object and subject about which a Zen koan says: "Look at the flag in the wind and then tell me: does the flag flutter or does the spirit flutter".

Everything becomes one.

Reality has lost its railing and you fall into a boundless space without securities.

And look: We created this illusion by a small shift in perspective (angulation of the monitors relative to each other) and an offset in time (recording and playback time).

Would you recognize the whole, see the sealed dimension, you would probably be bored.

Come: look, listen, feel, interpret, associate, judge, condemn, love, cry, laugh.

Dissolve.

## Formats

## Prototype

The prototype consists of two people filming each other and two angled monitors on which the playback takes place. We will experiment with the horizon when shooting, with editing and technique. Perhaps within this process we are already making a preliminary exhibition of works, but ultimately this is the personal process of an artist's approach to their work.

#### **Five containers**

This is the first larger format. After its completion, it is not fixed to 5 containers, but can be scaled arbitrarily between two and five containers. The containers can later be arranged on top of each other or as a star as in the presentation described below.

In this setting, artists are probably no longer filming themselves, but filming performers (other artists, actors, dancers, etc.).

The artists do not want to take themselves out with it, rather it needs starting from a larger number of performers a direction and choreography, which is led from the outside.

In contrast to expression in the prototype, arranging becomes the focus of artistic creation.

#### Recording

During the recording, 8 people stand in a circle and film each other by rotating once around their own axis. Since there is an even number of people, every first person rotates clockwise and every second person rotates counterclockwise around their own axis.

This means that two direct contacts take place during each rotation. During the direct contact (camera films camera of the opponent) there is a pause in the movement.

Eight persons result in 8 monitors in the later projection - i.e. 4 monitor pairs each.

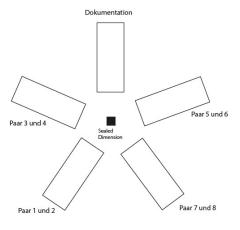
The performers should be of different genders, physiognomy and age.

#### Presentation

Five containers are arranged in a circle. In the center of the containers is the plexiglass cube with the *sealed dimension*. In four containers the 4 pairs of monitors are running, in the fifth container the documentation is running on a screen via a beamer.

The containers are arranged like a five-pointed star<sup>2</sup> and connected by textile architecture (sun/rain sails).

Since ancient times, man has sought shelter in caves. The container is an artificial cave: something that has to be entered and may cause claustrophobia or feelings of comfort. The outside world is thereby shielded (which is very convenient for us, because it prevents stray light).



At the end of the container, after about 12 meters, are the monitors.

Loudspeakers mounted on the ceiling of the container play the *atmosphere of* the recording and individual whispering sentences.

Perhaps at the moment the cameras are pointed at the recipient, the performers say quiet phrases like, "Come - Look at me," or "Here."

#### Aspects of the presentation

Scalability, suitable for museum outdoor areas and themed exhibitions, easy transport of the technology in a container (the rest can be rented on site).

The first exhibition of this kind could take place in an area of Tempelhofer Feld reserved for art events. Access would be open to everyone and would mostly only bring curated video installations into the public space. Moreover, if the recording were to take place at Tempelhofer Feld, the *corpus delicti* would return to its *place of origin*.

## **Crossing Borders**

Crossing Borders is the live version of the interactive video installation Time and the Space Between.

It combines a live performance with a video installation and dissolves the boundary between recording, live transmission and static projection.

It can bring together the live performance venue and a remote presentation venue over almost any distance and across state borders without limiting the live experience of the recipient.

The circle of eight performers with body cameras can be located anywhere in the world. The participants stand in a circle and the movement takes place, as in the other settings, to the rhythm of a percussion instrument played by hand. As soon as the participants film each other, the movement is stopped in order to establish direct contact with the recipient.

Unlike the classic version of the installation, the images from the cameras are transmitted live via a video stream to the monitors in the containers.

At the moment of standstill and at the restart of the movement, we send an inaudible level tone with the stream. If a recipient is directly in front of the monitors, this synchronization signal triggers the insertion with a time delay. If there is no recipient in front of the monitors, only the stream is played back.

The live setting of Crossing Borders, because of the high demands on the performers as well as the musician, is not practical for more than 2 to 3 hours at a time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The pentagram: Pythagoras was particularly interested in the mathematical aspect of the golden section. Since you can draw it in one go and come back to the beginning at the end, it was also considered a sign of the cycle of life.

An internet connection of the recording location is helpful for the transmission of the live stream, but not necessary. The cameras and the control room equipment can run on batteries for several hours. The transmission of the live stream, can be done with a professional broadcasting unit via satellite.

In this setting, the connection of special locations e.g. skyscraper roof, mountains, jungle, etc. with a museum presentation is especially conceivable.

Cross-border performances, e.g. between conflict regions, also lend themselves to this.

## About us

### Deniz Hasenöhrl



For many years I have been working on the different perceptions of people's sense of identity at . I try to identify patterns and behaviors that lead to exclusion, isolation and separation on a psychological, between human as well as societal level. How strongly and in what ways is an individual shaped and molded by social and cultural norms? What role does our perception of space and time play in being able to experience and develop authentically within these norms? With my abstract paintings I visualize inner worlds that exist in each of us, but can not be understood or controlled with the mind. I create in my works spaces in which time is not understood as a line and

identity can be experienced solely through the essence of being.

In the spirit of André Breton, who in his "Manifeste du surréalisme (1924)" called for an associative, uncontrolled art, independent of rational structuring processes, my paintings grow spontaneously and associatively into moving and moving compositions.

My works are represented in many private collections at home and abroad.

My installations and performances are concept-oriented.

In 2017 and 2018, the Kulturreferat München invited me to show my installations FENCES, which deals with fences, walls and borders within us, on an interpersonal and on a societal level, as well as my installation "UNTITLED", a grave symbolic of all victims of world wars and genocides, at events curated by them.

In 2018, the city of Mödling invited me to show my installation "UNTITLED" as part of the week-long exhibition "Zum Schweigen fehlen uns die Worte" ("We lack words for silence") commemorating the victims of the Reichsprogomnacht.

I have been living and working in Berlin for 2 years.

https://denizhasenoehrl.com/

#### Rainer Grunert



Art has pursued me all my life but has not determined this life. It attracted me and I ran away from its depth . I never produced art despite excellent teachers and people I was allowed to observe at their work - however, I also never had to live from art. After deducting all the salaries for technology and people involved, I was always able to complete my projects without loss, but also without profit.

Add to that my approach: always perfectionist, elaborate and obsessed with detail. In my lifetime, therefore, I will probably realize only two or

three works.

In the end it doesn't matter, because at the core everything revolves around the same thing: Contact, longing, love and death with all the ramifications in detail.

My film *Spuren* (<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOV6J\_Exxp8</u>) was the first work in 1988 and, completely surprisingly for me, was awarded a prize and invited to international festivals. That was too much - in front of myself I didn't deserve it - it was after all ONLY the first film, a short film - nothing but a small insignificant finger exercise, so to speak.

It took many years until 2020 for me to turn myself over to a work again.

In the meantime, I had studied to be a manager in large projects, a psychoanalyst and practiced arts and crafts by writing three non-fiction books and giving lectures.

There were two aspects: one was that in the meantime I actually had nothing to say that would have been worthy of my framework of art. The other aspect was the fear of art and of being swallowed up in the creative process.

In contact with Deniz and through profound changes in my life, something unimaginable to me just a few years ago has happened: I am focusing on two new works. One is the interactive video installation *Time and the Space Between*, the other is the feature film Pale Blue Dot.

People and artists I was able to observe at work and learn from:

Artist	What was it about	The work
Vollrad Kutscher	Performance and Installation	The White Dream
Gerhard Zwerenz	Literature (film adaptation)	The earth is as uninhabitable as the moon
Michael Gielen	Opera (Music)	Parsifal / The Ring
Ruth Berghaus	Opera (Director)	The Ring
Robert Wilson	Stage design and lighting design	The Black Rider (Der Freischütz)

https://www.rainergrunert.de/