

OLAFUR ELIASSON, NOTION MOTION (2005)

Description of the work, a case study of the Inside Installations project

http://www.inside-installations.org/artworks/artwork.php?r_id=327

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The installation consists of three consecutive situations using water and light (HMI projectors) to visualize the movement of the gallery visitors. Linked by a long, elevated wooden walkway, the situations experiment with vibrations as a phenomenon that defines and reconfigures space.

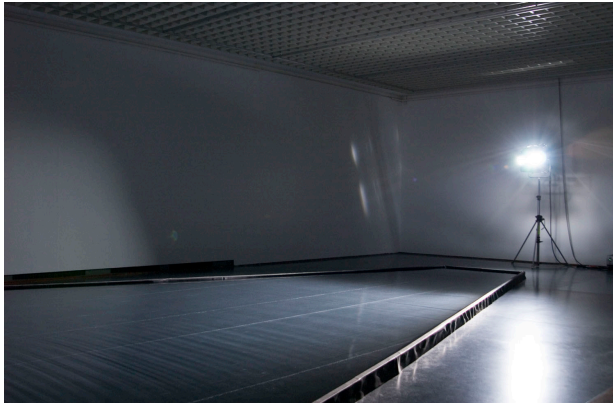
In room one an entirely elevated wooden floor transforms the movement of people walking about the space into ripples in a water basin located on the opposite side of a black projection screen. The water is reflected onto the screen, its ripples varying according to the movement of the people. In the second room movement along the ramp activates water in a smaller basin; its waves are projected through a narrow, horizontal slit in a temporary wall onto a larger wall in a vibrating line. In the third room a sponge continuously falls into a large water basin and is slowly elevated again, the splash and water dripping from the sponge causing waves on the surface that are projected onto a white wall.

In his large-scale installation Eliasson explores the consequences of visitor movement within a museum space, thus drawing attention to the fact that no space is neutral or stable. Their mere presence in the rooms turns visitors into participants: they are immersed in the installation structure while influencing this very structure through their physical exploration of the space.

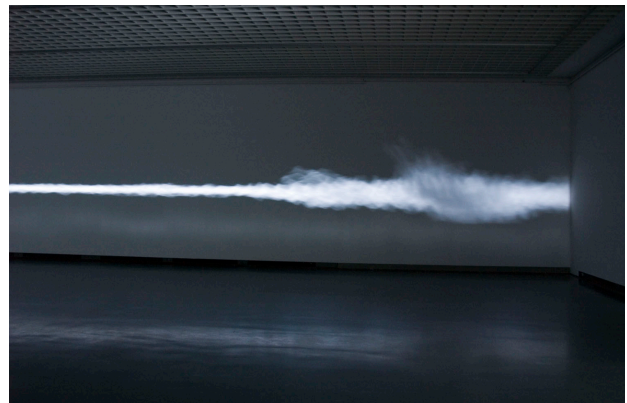
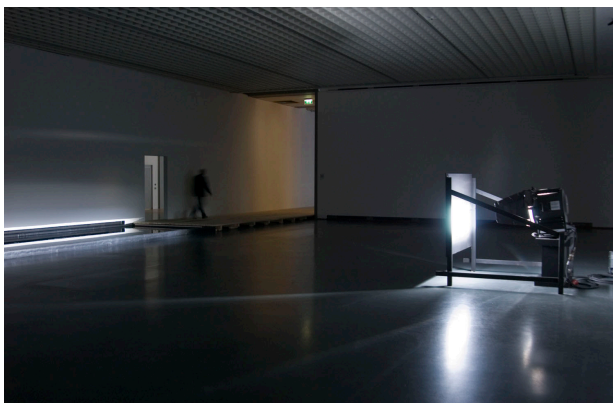
(text archive Olafur Eliasson, Caroline Eggel)

The work Notion Motion (2005) by Olafur Eliasson focuses on the perception of the visitor. It consists of water, light and movement. Notion Motion was specially made for the three large upper-floor galleries of the so called Bodonwing of the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen. Two entrances give access to the installation which covers a space of 32,40 x 58 meters in total. The space is divided in two by a large wall with two passages. In each of the three galleries a strong projector shines light on a waterbasin, causing reflections on the opposite wall.

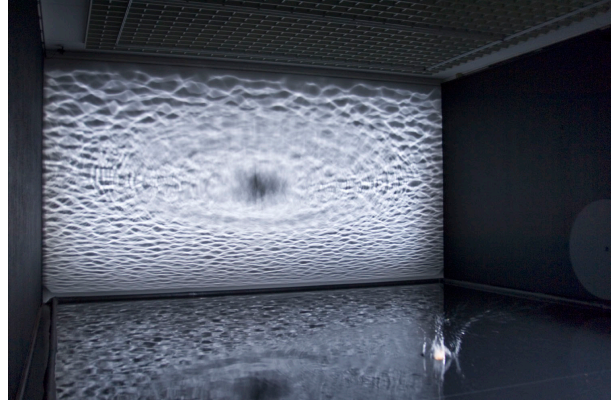
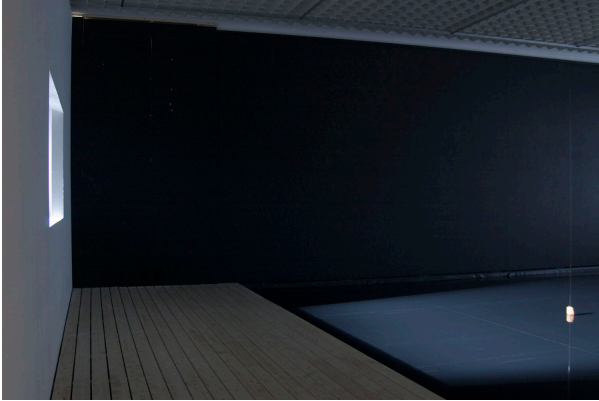
At the entrance to the first room, the visitor steps on an elevated wooden floor. It ends just before a huge black screen. On the other side the light of a strong projector reflects from the water of the trapezoidal basin on the entire screen. The visitor can influence the image by stepping on the 'wave-activators', moveable wooden boards, placed in the floor, which are connected to wave-paddles in the basin.



Perpendicular to the elevated floor, a wooden walkway leads to the second room. At the right the projector is visible. It is directed at the dividing wall. In this wall a horizontal slot has been made above a rectangular waterbasin. Through the slot the reflection of the water shows as a wide horizon on the opposite wall and the shimmering floor of the gallery. Just before the entrances to this part of the second room, on both sides of the slot, wave-activators are placed in the walkway. In the part of the room with the projection, the projector is also visible, close to the wall and the trapezoidal waterbasin of the first room. A tripod and projector are visible as well in the center of the third room. The strong beam of light shines through a rectangular opening of the opposite wall .



Back to the walkway the visitor enters the third room. In this room, a sponge on a thread falls in the waterbasin. It is pulled up by a mechanism with a turning wheel and after some time it falls again. This continuous movement causes different patterns to appear on the adjacent wall.



Notion Motion became part of the collection of Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen through donation of the H + F patronage under the condition to show it every five years.