



The Henge

Proposal by David Bickerstaff and Lukasz Szalankiewicz
video and sound installation.

During the last months of the second world war, German scientists worked endless days in an attempt to produce Kriz-en-scheiden, which was thought to be the war winning technology that would produce a stunning, knockout blow. Deep in the Wenceslas Mines near Ludwikowice in Poland, Nazi SS scientists were reportedly worked on an anti-gravity machine called the 'Bell', a glowing, rotating contraption that looked like a flying saucer and was used in conjunction with an above ground structure known as the 'Henge'.

The technology for the mysterious Bell machine was based on Einstein's theory of anti-gravity and it was described as a device made from a hard, heavy metal that was filled with a substance similar to mercury. It required enormous amounts of electrical power for testing and people who worked on the project were said to have suffered from sleep problems and severe vertigo.

The 'Henge' still stands today and is an enigmatic structure that comprises of extremely thick, reinforced pillars, designed to withstand extreme forces. It isn't known how the 'Henge' functioned, but theorists think that it was designed as the test rig for the top secret Bell machine because there were huge power cables that ran from Wenceslas Mines to the heart of the 'Henge'.

Artists David Bickerstaff and Lukasz Szalankiewicz propose to travel to the site of the 'Henge' and carefully document its structure, surface and surrounding landscape using multiple video feeds and a decahedral microphone suitable for directional analysis of reverberant sound fields. These recordings will then be configured into a video and 3D sound installation.

The aim of the project is to build a virtual reconstruction of the 'Henge' using the recorded material in a dynamic and immersive way. By digitally examining its architecture, we aim to unlock the structure's theoretical past, the myth of the Nazi Bell and the regime of experimentation embeded in the fabric of the building. A regime of alternative technologies, anti-gravity and teleportation.

Using special mapping software, Bickerstaff and Szalankiewicz will arrange the collected media into a unique symphony of audio visual fields that will shift both vertically and horizontally in real-time. The sequence begins with an ambient of the 'Henge' as it exists today where we get a sense of place, scale and circularity. The composition gradually builds and expands as the sounds of 'experimentation' trigger images of the past, curious drawings, strange technologies and the virtual rise of the mysterious Bell machine.

The Artists

David Bickerstaff

David is a London based artist and filmmaker who founded AtomicTV in 1997 as an umbrella organisation for developing digital art projects and collaborations. His CD-ROMs and video works such as 'Channel 14', 'Muhammad Speaks', 'Forró', 'Braunschweig Tourist' and 'Half Life: a Journey to Chernobyl' have been shown both in Britain and internationally. He was a member of the 2004 BAFTA judging panel for Interactive Art and is regularly commissioned to produce video installations and interactives for museums. Latest projects include the Royal Observatory, London, the Holocaust Memorial Center Detroit, Kew Palace and Cadbury World. David won an IVCA Gold award in 2000 for his film 'Inclusion' commissioned by the Arts Council of England, and has had recent projects selected for onedotzero_10, and the documentary fortnight at the Museum of Modern Art.

www.atomicTV.com

Lukasz Szalankiewicz (alias ZENIAL)

Lukasz is a Krakow based artist, historian, sound designer and contemporary electronic music curator. He is a member of the Polish Society for Electroacoustic Music (PSeME) and has participated in many international festivals (e.g. in Austria, Russia, Bulgaria, Germany, Holland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, France, China). Lukasz has performed in the Audio Art Festival, Unsound Festival, Contemporary Art Centre Bunkier Sztuki (Krakow), Kordegarda Gallery (Warsaw), Contemporary Art Centre (Laboratorium, Warsaw), Contemporary Art Laznia (Gdansk), Contemporary Art Gallery Arsenal (Bialystok), Contemporary Art Gallery (Wroclaw) and many other places. He has developed Palsecam which is an ongoing project where the main focus is in finding the most effective ways to transgress and unite various stylistic approaches to achieve radical and sometimes unexpected results. His practice extends to research, audiovisual performance, and interactive installations.

www.zenial.audiotong.net