

STEFAN BANDALAC

CONVERSATION PIECE



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2016

US Civil Defence Geiger counter, Polish Army issue Geiger counter, radioactive Uranium ore, electronics, speakers

The power that radioactivity exerts over the human body and mind, as an invisible and almighty force is unequal to any other medium. Radioactivity has served as an invisible wall dividing the world, cultures and societies, claiming and altering lives.

In 2015 the doomsday clock - a metaphorical unit of measurement for the imminence of the apocalypse which was initiated in 1947 - has been set to three minutes before midnight; the second absolute highest value, reached only once before: in 1949 when Russia entered the nuclear arms race.

"Conversation piece" puts two Geiger counters built in the Cold War - one from the East and one from the West - in a direct dialogue mediated by a piece of radioactive Uranium ore.

The sound of the decaying electrons is interpreted in different tones by the two instruments which gives a distinct voice to the clicks that have come to culturally be synonymous with demise.

The work wishes to be a reflection on both recent and past events in world history where radioactivity has played a part but acts also as an appropriation of it as an artistic medium.













IN THE SEARCH OF..

2016

Video, DV, 24 mins

The dunes of the Hague are a fascinating place. The beauty of nature comes together with remnants of the Atlantic Wall - the never completed 3000 km structure meant to deter the counter-offensive of the Allies during the Second World War.

As a part of the nuclear arms sharing treaties The Netherlands hosts 10-20 nuclear weapons in Volkel but urban legends also tell of a secret nuclear submarine base hidden in the dunes.

It is in these very dunes that I set out with my Geiger counters looking for where my research on radioactivity will take me.



CREDITS:

Production Assistant: Ana Guedes

VIDEO OF INSTALLATION:

[HTTPS://MIMEO.COM/168616235](https://mimeo.com/168616235)

STEFAN BANDALAC

Stefan Bandalac (1987) is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Den Haag (NL). He studied Photography and Time-Based Media at the National University of Arts Bucharest where he holds both a Bachelor and Master degree in Fine Arts. He is currently following the Master of the Interfaculty of ArtScience in The Royal Academy of the Arts (KABK) and Royal Conservatory (KONCON) The Hague.

stefan.bandalac@gmail.com

+31618929048