

**ALBERTO DE CAMPO**

**Installation : VARIA ZOOSYSTEMATICA PROFUNDORUM**



**Abstract:**

From a depth of ca. 700m down, the sea is completely dark, the only light sources being bioluminescent animals; it is plausible to assume that much communication in this habitat is acoustic. Inspired by the work of Louis Bec and Vilem Flusser, we (the class for Generative Art at UdK Berlin) created models of this communicative behavior: A number of actants ("creatures") transmit symbols ("letters") to each other, assemble them into longer chains ("words"), and sometimes express these words by emitting sound, light, or motion patterns. Some creatures generate rhythmic pulse sequences, some almost melodic phrases. Others let hues of colors flash over their skins, while others again float up and down in space in response to the conversation between them.

**Technical notes:**

The installation was created specifically for the *Grosser Wasserspeicher* in Berlin, thus good locations for showing it should be spacious and reverberant, very dark, labyrinthic, and best entered from above. The creatures currently number ca. 15; as a work in progress, the number will continue to grow. For practical reasons, one can reduce to show only a subset of the creatures. Also needed: two small good quality loudspeakers, a subwoofer, and a small computer, e.g. a recent MiniMac.

**Topic: Discussion of Group Installation**

**Authors:**

**Alberto de Campo**  
University of the Arts  
Berlin, Institute for Time-  
Based Media  
Germany  
[www.udk-berlin.de](http://www.udk-berlin.de)

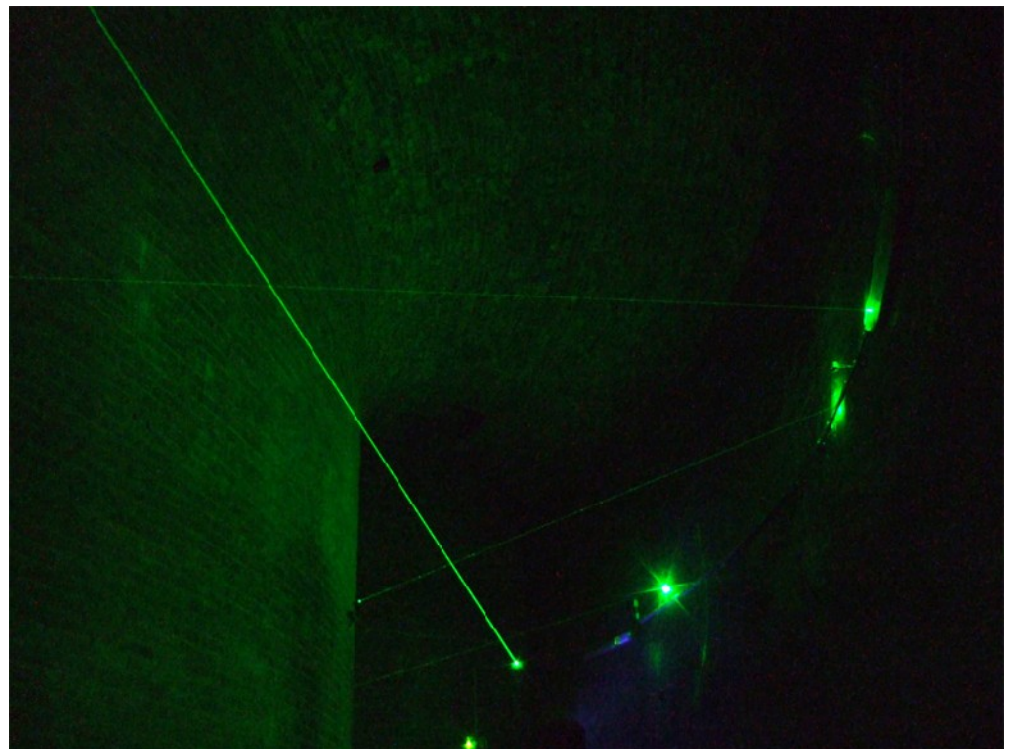
**Hannes Hoelzl**  
independent artist,  
Cologne, Germany  
[www.earweego.net](http://www.earweego.net)

**Renate Wieser**  
Paderborn University  
Media Studies  
[www.wertlos.org](http://www.wertlos.org)

**and the class for  
Generative Art at UdK  
Berlin.**

**References:**

[1] Vilem Flusser, Louis  
Bec, "Vampyroteuthis  
*Infernalis*", European  
Photography, Göttingen,  
1993 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)  
<http://entropie.digital.udk-berlin.de/wiki/DeepSea>



*Image of "Monatom" by Akitoshi Honda, one of the creatures in Varia Zoosystematica, taken in the Grosser Wasserspeicher. A documentation movie of the full installation is currently being produced, and will be available soon on the website.*

**Contact:**  
**decampo@udk-berlin.de**

**Keywords:**

Installation, generative, communication models, deep sea, zoosystematics, Vilem Flusser, collaborative design.