

photoSynth

symposion of self-powered media art
Pécs, Hungary, 13-16th june 2018



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symposion for self-powered electronic arts
Pécs, Hungary, 13-16th june 2018.

Planned schedule:

13th june. 10-12AM: *The Anonymous Anthropocene workshop #1.* (John-Patrick Ayson, State University of New York - Buffalo) • 1-3PM: *Minimal power - maximum noise!* workshop - Vincze Ferenc, Kelemen Márton (PTE-MK) • 4-6PM: Discussion of the events, presentations

14th june 10-12AM: Talks: Bori Bálint (Berlin), Scott Smallwood (University of Alberta), Kertész Krisztián (BP), Kovács Balázs (PTE-MK) • 1-3PM: *The Anonymous Anthropocene workshop #2.* (John-Patrick Ayson) • 4-6PM: Workshop by Ralf Schreiber

15th june. 10-12AM: Talks: Ralf Schreiber, John-Patrick Ayson, Magnus Bjerck & Namia Leigh (Berlin) • 2-4PM: *Eco-pet meeting workshop - Bánházi Abigél (PTE)* • 4-5PM: *March of self-powered devices between Nádor gallery - Szabadkikötő* • 5PM: *Field Record Day (Szabadkikötő)*

16th june 1-7PM: photoSynth exhibition, workshops and picnic in the Balokány grove

Venues:

- PTE Faculty of Arts - Zsolnay building E33/ room -110.
- Makkler / Drukker (Király u. 48.)
- Place before Nádor Gallery
- Szabadkikötő
- Balokány Grove

Registration:

The contribution is free and open for the public, the participation on the workshops needs registration sent till 8th june to the photosynth@hangfarm.hu email-address.

Organizers:

- PTE-MK Electronic Music BA programme
- Moiré Kulturális Egyesület
- Hangfarm / Ellend

Further description, current schedule and call for artworks can be found on the website!

<http://photosynth.hangfarm.hu/>
<https://www.facebook.com/events/153926608657183/>

supporters: ÚNKP • Erősödő Civil Közösségek • Nemzeti Együttműködési Alap



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Project description

In a world of miniaturized technology and macroscopic ecological problems, the question is widely open for cooperating between how to use and how to get electricity. Probably there are natural (?) ways to create electronic or digital art without relying on external power sources! Our symposium looks for these solutions.

PhotoSynth symposium aims to collect and present self-powered (solar, motion, wind, heating etc.) electronic artworks and projects. We're looking for the most independent ways in electronic art in the field of sound, media, installation art, network projects, video.

Events

wednesday 13th june

- *10-12am Makker: The Anonymous Anthropocene workshop #1.* (John-Patrick Ayson, State University of New York - Buffalo; helyszín: Makker)
- *1-3pm PTE-MK Zsolnay E33. yard: Minimal power - maximum noise! workshop* - Vincze Ferenc, Kelemen Márton (PTE-MK)
- *4-6pm PTE-MK Zsolnay buiding E33. room -110: Discussion of the plans*

thursday 14th june

- *10-12am PTE-MK Zsolnay buiding E33. room -110: Talks:* Bori Bálint (Berlin), Scott Smallwood (University of Alberta), Kovács Balázs (PTE-MK)
- *1-3pm Makker: The Anonymous Anthropocene workshop #2.* (John-Patrick Ayson)
- *4-6pm Makker: Ralf Schreiber (Cologne) Electronic creatures workshop*

friday 15th june

- *10-12am PTE-MK Zsolnay buiding E33. room -110: Talks:* Ralf Schreiber, John-Patrick Ayson, Magnus Bjerk és Namia Leigh (Berlin), Márton Péter (Budapest)
- *2-4pm place before Nádor gallery: Eco-pet meeting workshop* - Bánházi Abigél (PTE)
- *4-5pm: Walk with the electronic creatures between Nádor gallery and Szabadkikötő*
- *from 5pm- Szabadkikötő: Field Record Day* - field recording, soundscape, ambient and electronic music installation

saturday 16th june

- 1-7pm Balokány Liget: photoSynth exhibitions and workshop - presenting the works of the sympo

Workshops

1. The Anonymous Anthropocene

(John-Patrick Ayson, State University of New York - Buffalo)

After downloading various recommended (or self-preferred) photo, image, sound, music, video & filmmaking iOS & Android apps, participants will then produce thematically-based photos, images, visuals, sounds, music, pieces of video & film scenes with those apps in their phones in & around Pécs during the 1st three days (June 13, 14 & 15) of the Symposium; they will then be instructed to simultaneously upload those works onto a Tumblr site that fellow Symposium attendees & participants can view/hear/experience all throughout the day, in addition to emailing/forwarding me those same files forthose first three days — so that I can edit & compile all the works into one piece, which will be viewed/projected/experienced as one whole work, in itsentirety, for the last day of the Symposium on June 16..

Where? Makker (Király u. 48.) + selected places around • When? 13th june 10-12 am; 14th june 1-3 pm

2. Minimal power - maximum noise! (Vincze Ferenc, Kelemen Márton)

Did you know you can build a square wave oscillator from only three components? Here you can try it yourself! In this workshop we will show you a few basic designs of oscillators and other analogue circuits that can even sound like an actual synthesizer! Want to know the best part? These tiny machines require so little power, you can even drive them with a small solar panel!

Where? PTE Faculty of Arts, Zsolnay building E33. backyard • When? 13th june 1-3 pm •

3. Electronic Creatures - (Ralf Schreiber)

An experimental and playful hands-on workshop. The most simple way to create and build “life like” machines is by the use of analogue oscillator circuits. Oscillations can be feed-backed and thus simple interactions will happen and simple neuronal networks behaviour can be simulated. In this workshop we will build tiny robotic creatures, that attract attention by smallest movements or soft sonic output. The machines are based on extreme low energetic circuits designs

and get powered by the electric energy from solar-panels. For the design and look we will recycle and reuse packing materials that we find in the waste-box.

Where? Makker (Király u. 48.) • When? 14th june 4-6 pm (Makker); 16th june 4-6 pm (Balokány-liget)

4. Eco-pet meeting (Bánházi Abigél)

If you don't have an eco-pet even you can build it! Create your own solar cells pet where only your imagination can limit you!
We use only recycled or recyclable materials.

Where? Place before Nádor Galéria • When? 15th june 2-4pm

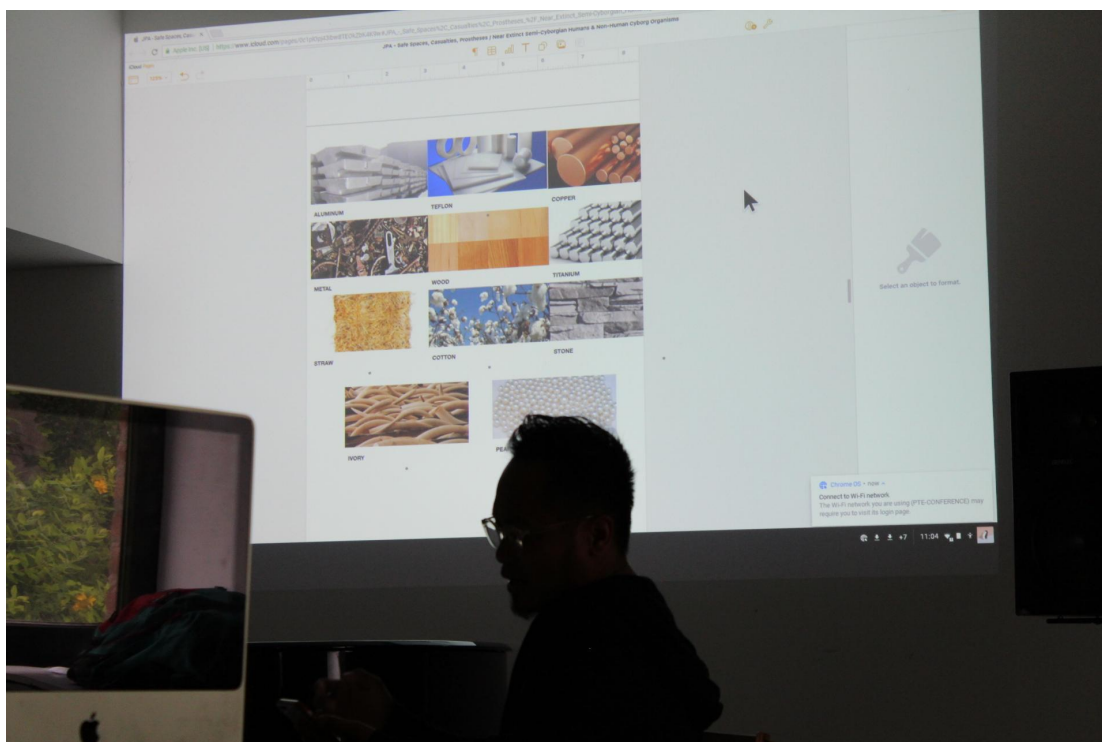
Participants

John-Patrick Ayson

johnpatr@buffalo.edu / johnpatrickayson.com PhD candidate, Department of Media Study

State University of New York - Buffalo

<https://www.johnpatrickayson.com/>



Safe Spaces, Casualties, Prostheses

Serving as a lecture/presentation version of my essay of the same name which is set to be published in the upcoming issue of *Digicult's Issue 77 / The Arts Ecosystem* *Safe Spaces, Casualties, Prostheses* will take into account the last scene in *Safe* by American filmmaker Todd Haynes — particularly the closing monologue by the protagonist, Carol, while inside the isolated, uni-windowed, igloo-like structure — a situation that could be perceived as a direct biproduct of this current geological epoch, the Anthropocene, where new, environmentally induced & “... historically situated, related worldlings... make a mockery both of the binary division of nature and society “. If Carol’s condition is, indeed, chemically induced & thus “ relationally made ” could it also be “ relationally unmade ” as well ? (Haraway, “Tentacular Thinking: Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Chthulucene, e-flux #75)

If the origins of Carol’s illnesses are empirically verifiable, how are non-human organisms similarly effected by the banes of such dire scenarios? Which solutions, if any, can “ relationally unmake ” them?

After delving into the ironies of Carol White's health & the safety nets which have equally provided for & degraded her condition, this paper will then contextualize such condition in wider, terminal, population-depleting terms on non-human animals, via Chris Jordan's ongoing, serialized project Midway: Message from the Gyre which documents the Anthropocentric, large scale impact of human waste & consumption on the decreasing population of albatross that inhabit Midway Atoll in the Northern Pacific Ocean — & the lethal amounts of micro & macro plastics ingested by the islands' albatross population.

This paper will then conclude by examining artist Pinar Yoldas' sculptures "Organs of the Platisphere" (from her larger series Ecosystem of Excess) & how these sculptures' speculative functions may possibly provide prosthetic resistances toward such inevitable conditions within futuristic milieus — where the natural organs of human & non-human organisms such as Carol & the albatross in Midway Atoll are simply incapable of coping with & thereby relationally unmaking the inevitable toxicities of today & tomorrow — while providing new sets of toxicities for post-organisms to embody, absorb & enact.



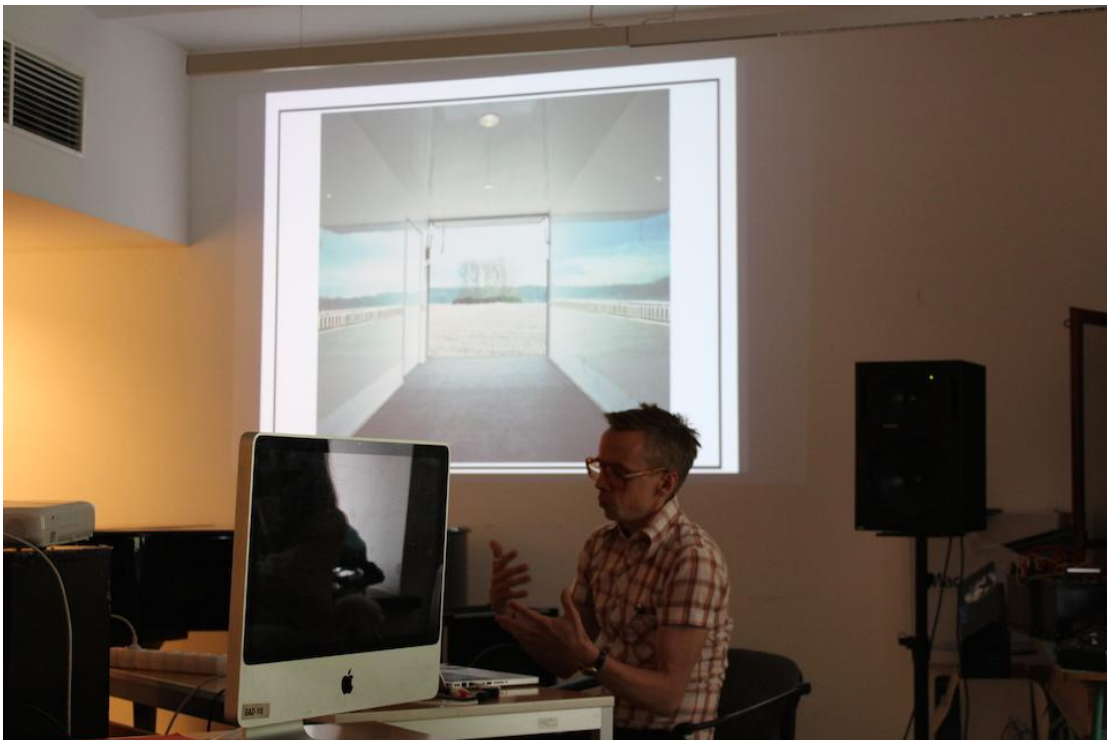
Abigél Bánházi



sun-powered bugs

Magnus Bjerk
<http://magnusbjerk.com/>

I'm interested in how national identity is (both intentionally and unintentionally) projected through architecture. Deep/shallow approaches to ecological thinking. Nature (represented through the farm or the cabin) as an extradimensional place. The meaningful, yet practically useless act of mountaineering / rock climbing.





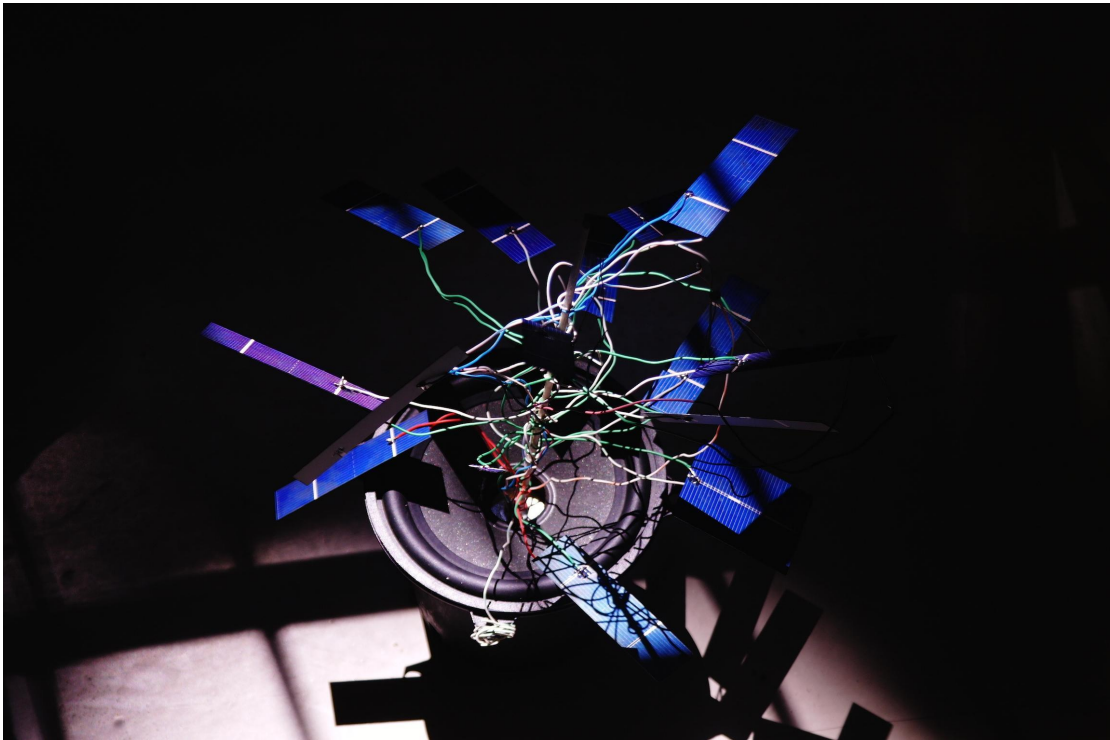
I'm currently preparing a project in my dad's small log-cabin in the mountains in Norway (that coincidentally is off the grid) where I am going to build a simple structure from wood. This wooden structure will function as a sculpture that I will attach to the log cabin and photograph. I will disassemble the sculpture immediately after I photograph it and then build two wooden stools / low work benches from the sculpture material, that can be used for future practical purposes.

Bálint Bori

<http://www.balintbori.com/>



Márton Kelemen & Ferenc Vincze



Flower



Workshop

Krisztián Kertész

Krisztián Kertész (Nagyszalonta [Romania], 1977) is a physicist. Since 2002, he has been fellow at the HAS Institute of Technical Physics and Materials. Beyond his research work, he is interested in audiovisual technologies, human-machine interaction and microcontrollers.



Title of the work presented:
Noise-sun-flower

Description:

This interactive installation combines the radial petals, the strong plant dependence of sunlight (heliotropism of young flower) and the sound produced by the pollinating bees. The visitors will have the possibility to influence the evolution of the sound at multiple points, in the circular position of the petals. The sound variation complexity and relative large density of the sound will be achieved by the sum of a large number of analog oscillators. The low consumption of the electronics makes possible of solar-powered operation.

Balázs Kovács

<http://kbalazs.periszkopradio.hu/>



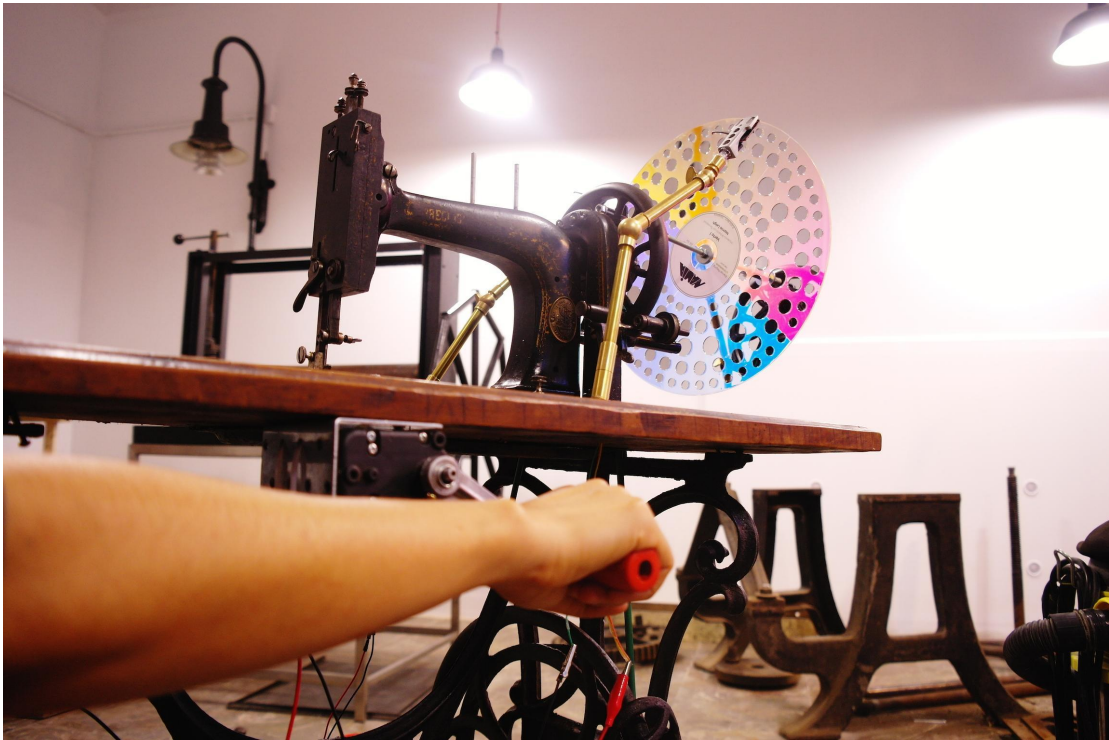
keywords:
nature & technology
critique on 'acoustic ecology'
organic is not harmonic
independent power source
eco-buffer of power (capacitor)
non-aesthetics



Namia Leigh

<https://vimeo.com/user7618522>

Namia is particularly interested in how direct human activity brings us back a forgotten sense of self-power and how repetitive labour can challenge automation.

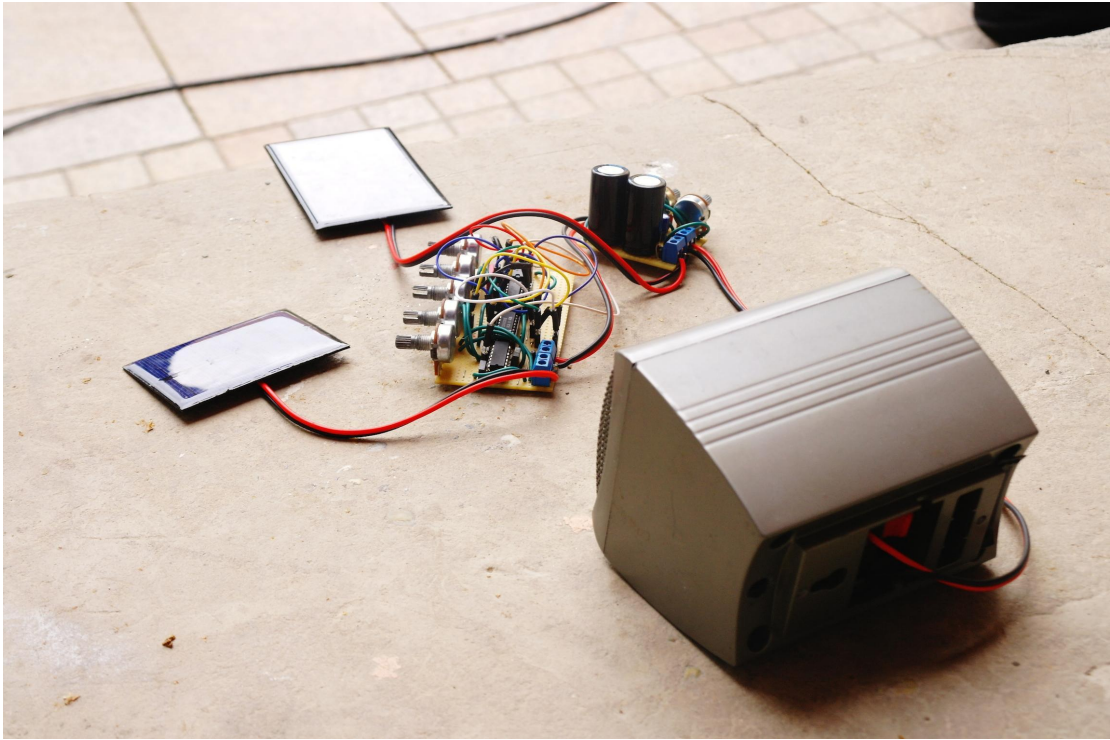


Namia is working on a master project dealing with a theme of 'Media-Ecology and Labour as an artistic performance', She will build a human-powered light-project using old mechanic machines, for instance a pedal/treadle sewing machine or farming tools.

Péter Márton



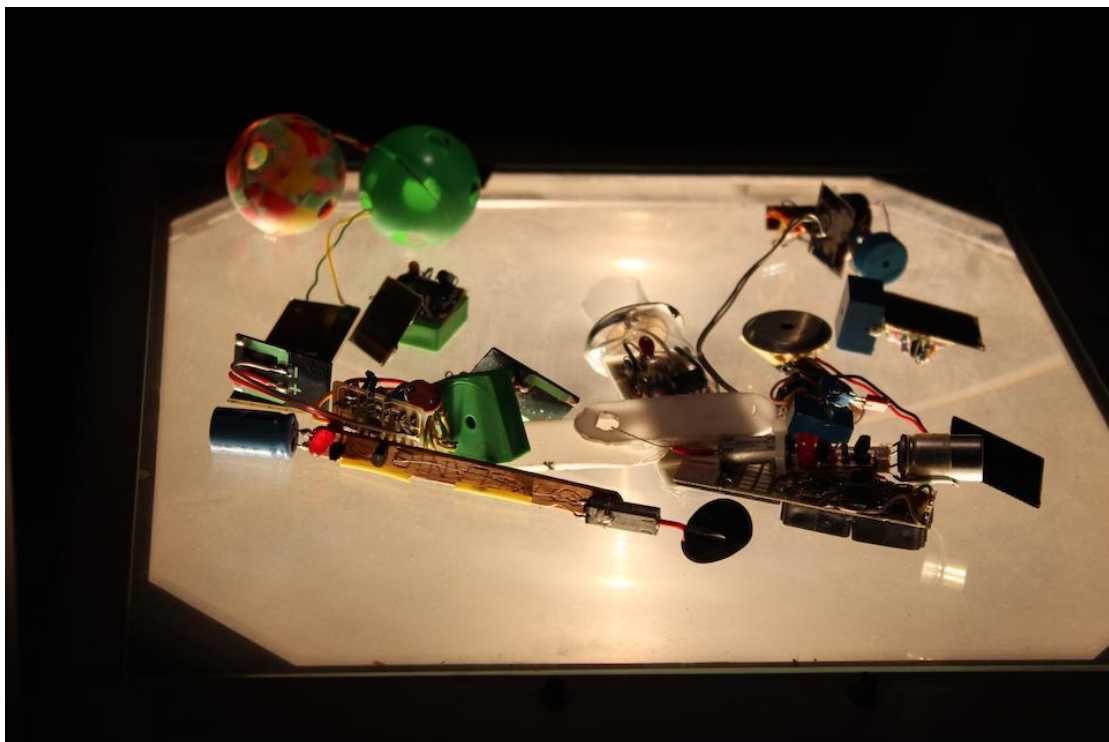
solar powered synths and amplifiers



Hand-made synth and amplifier powered by solar panels. The synth encompasses logic chips (inverters, dividers, logic gates). It is a modular synth that can be patched, and which can create various patterns and sounds. The synth offers many possibilities and runs without batteries. The aim was to create a small synth with lots of possibilities thanks to patching and the amplifier provides enough volume to be used for music-making outdoors.

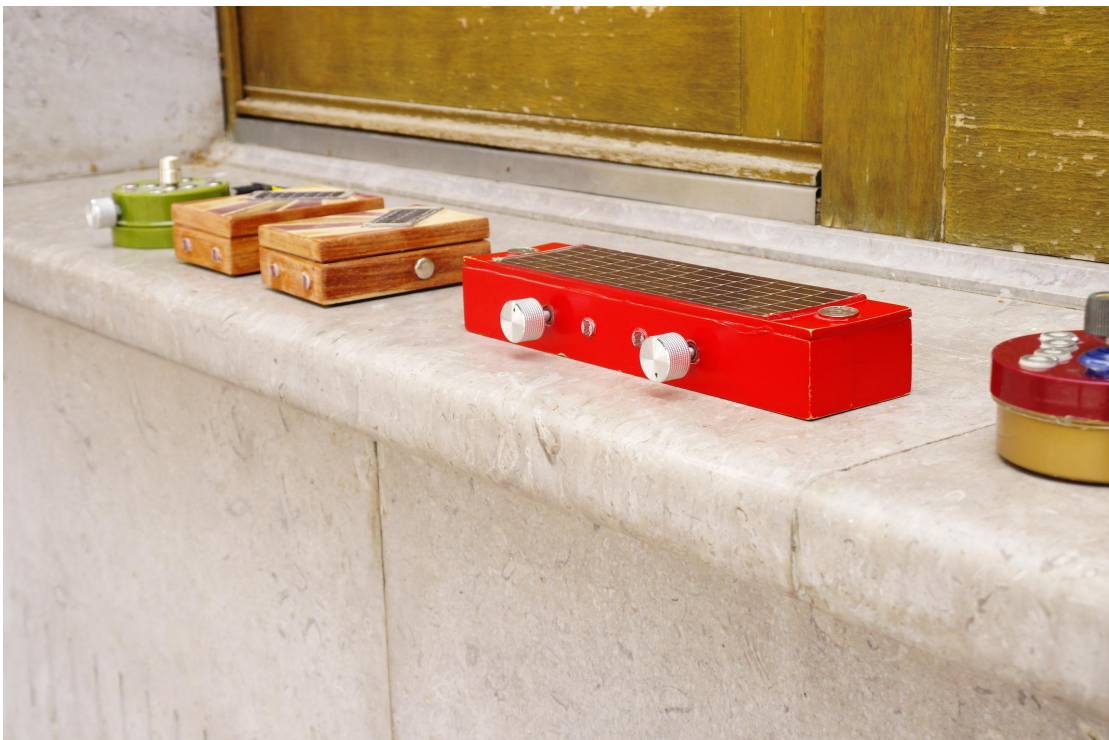
Ralf Schreiber

<http://ralfschreiber.com/share/photosynth/workshop>



Small sonic objects built around solar eater

Scott Smallwood
<http://www.scott-smallwood.com/>





Solar-powered instruments

Conclusions

PhotoSynth hosted artists from different countries with the same approach: looking for the affordable solution to contemporary ecology in media arts. We agree that it's not possible to avoid electricity but there are ways to be free from external electronic networks, and as well it's full of possibilities to use low-powered sources. We have great predecessors (for. ex. Joe Jones), and now we can adopt their results to the current needs. Our responsibility is not no face back into the pre-modernism, but to look forward in order to use sustainable technology.



Project summary

PhotoSynth has been organized 13-16th June 2018, hosted by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Pécs, Hungary. The venue for concerts and exhibitions is planned around the city.

The project is realized with the support of the University of Pécs, Institutional support for excellence 2017. The symposium is organized by Balázs Kovács (PhD), adjunct professor of electronic music at the Electronic Music and Media Arts BA

programme), during a scholarship supported by the ÚNKP-17 - New National Excellence Program of the Ministry of Human Capacities.

Technical support: Electronic Music and Media Arts Programme

Webhost and probably exhibition place: Hangfarm

Many thanks for help in organization: Judit Kovács-Parrag, Abigél Bánházi, Bálint Bak, Máté Labus, Zoltán Pap, Áron Lőrinczi

Website: <http://photosynth.hangfarm.hu/>