



First maquette

PROPOSAL ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE 2010–11

The work we aim to realise is a responsive and dynamic installation about the main five ocean gyres and we are particularly interested in the connection of these large systems of rotating ocean currents to plastic pollution, also known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the North Atlantic Garbage Patch etc. The granulated plastic floats and spirals in the oceans and sea animals take it for plancton. There is six times more plastic than plancton in e.g. the North Pacific gyre.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch and the North Atlantic Garbage Patch and their impact on wildlife have been discussed in a scientific context for several decades now. With our own artistic research and manufacturing work we envisage the creation of a simulation setup depicting the real phenomenon with sample stones sourced from the shore, five clear seawater tanks and floating material sourced from plastic debris. The aim is to develop a sculptural artwork which – according to the tide in the main ocean gyre areas – enables exemplary stones to hover in seawater tanks by attaching these stones to the appropriate amount of buoyant plastic.

We will link an electronic tide table via microcontrollers to an hydraulic pump system which connects to all tanks and which controls the individual water levels. The tides are part of the “natural” system and therefore not directly changeable by the visitor, however the visitor will trigger the amount of plastic granules contaminating the water system just by attending the space which inherits the installation.

The installation is a working dynamic system. There is action/responsibility, effect and consequences. It will not (only) illustrate the plastic gyres in the oceans. That’s why in our installation the buoyant plastic granules can carry heavy stones. That’s their real impact: they turn things upside down – the natural tidal equilibrium is out of order.



~ in the fields
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