

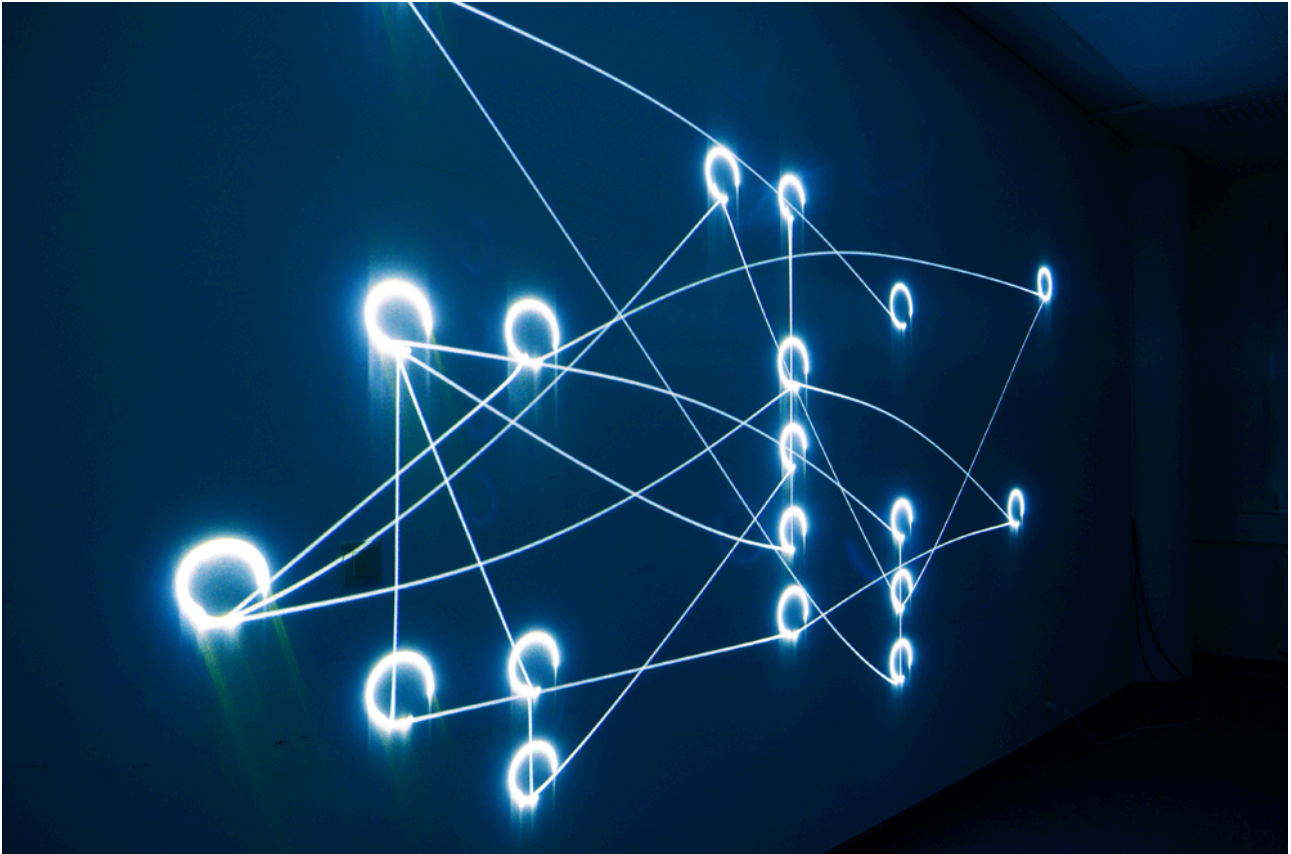
# Robert Henke

## Fragile Territories

Audiovisual Installation [2011]

*Nothing is stable. Things change because they are observed, they change because everything is constantly moving at least on a microscopic scale, the static world is an illusion. States fall apart and so do houses, mountains, relationships. New structures do emerge, the universe a constant morphing entity full of motion. Why is watching fireworks so satisfying? The moment of the most magnificent beauty is the turning point where it all collapses already. Without our memories, without the persistence of vision and the reverb of the sounds we heard it all would be meaningless.*

**Fragile Territories** uses a state of the art laser system to draw a single moving dot of light on the wall, a mysteriously shimmering beam, interpreted by us humans as projections of moving shapes; lines, edges and curves of pulsating light. Sometimes the patterns are barely visible, sometimes they explode into extreme brightness. In some sequences the quality of the light is steady, during other times it fluctuates and breaks apart into scintillating particles.

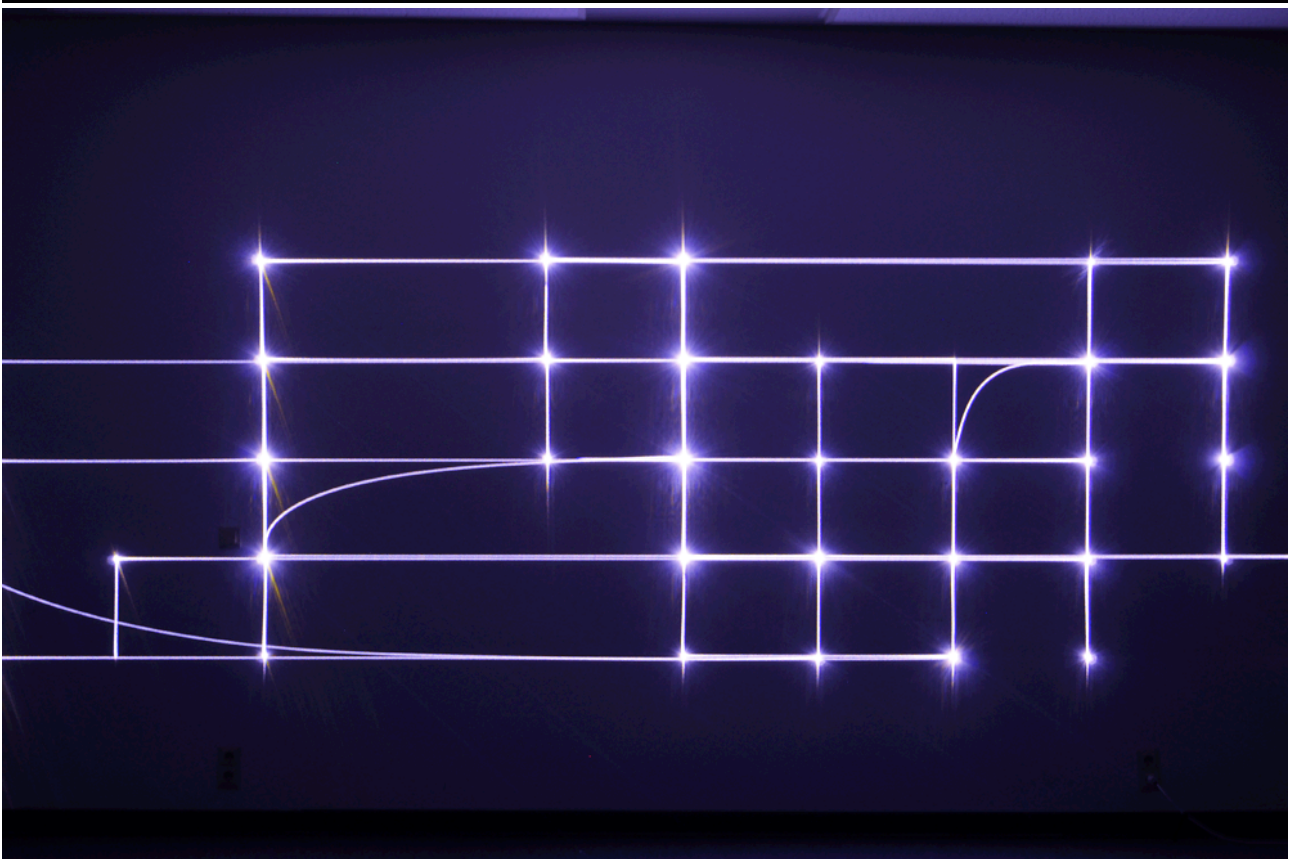
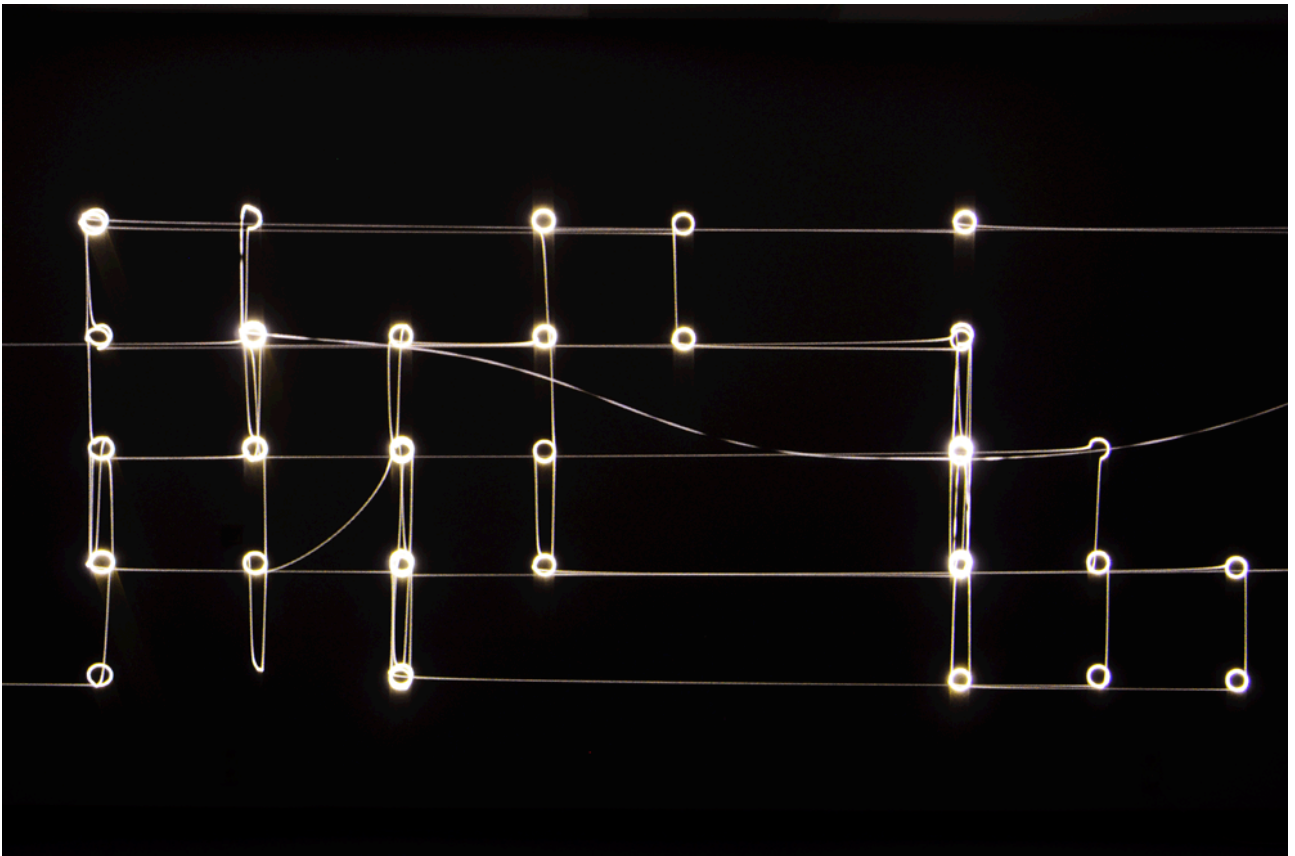


The process responsible for the creation of the shapes operates on the idea of uncertainty and change: A computer program is evaluating statistical data, grabbing momentary states and feeds them back into its own system; what is displayed and made audible cannot be entirely foreseen and will never repeat itself. The sound generation and the path of light are both driven from the same program, and are two representations of the same processes.

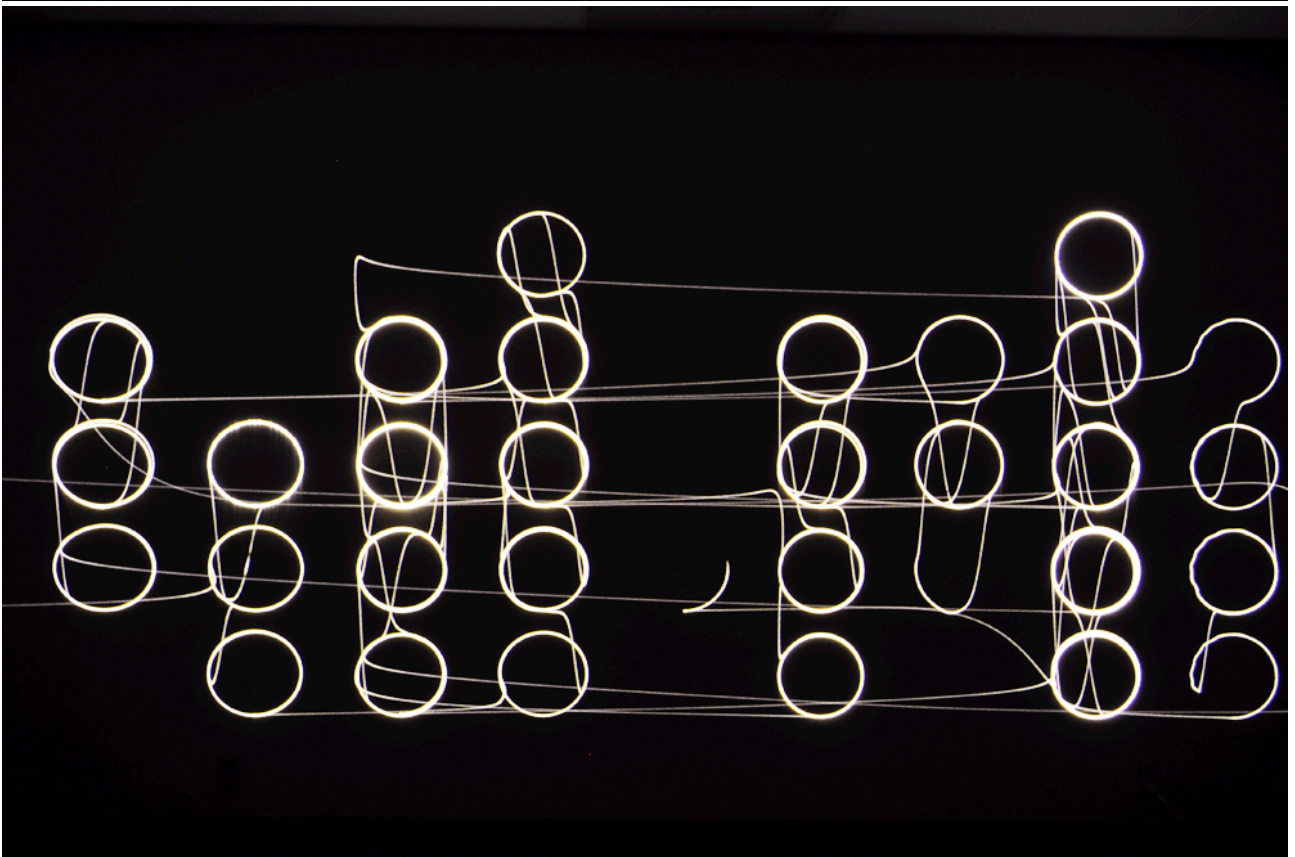
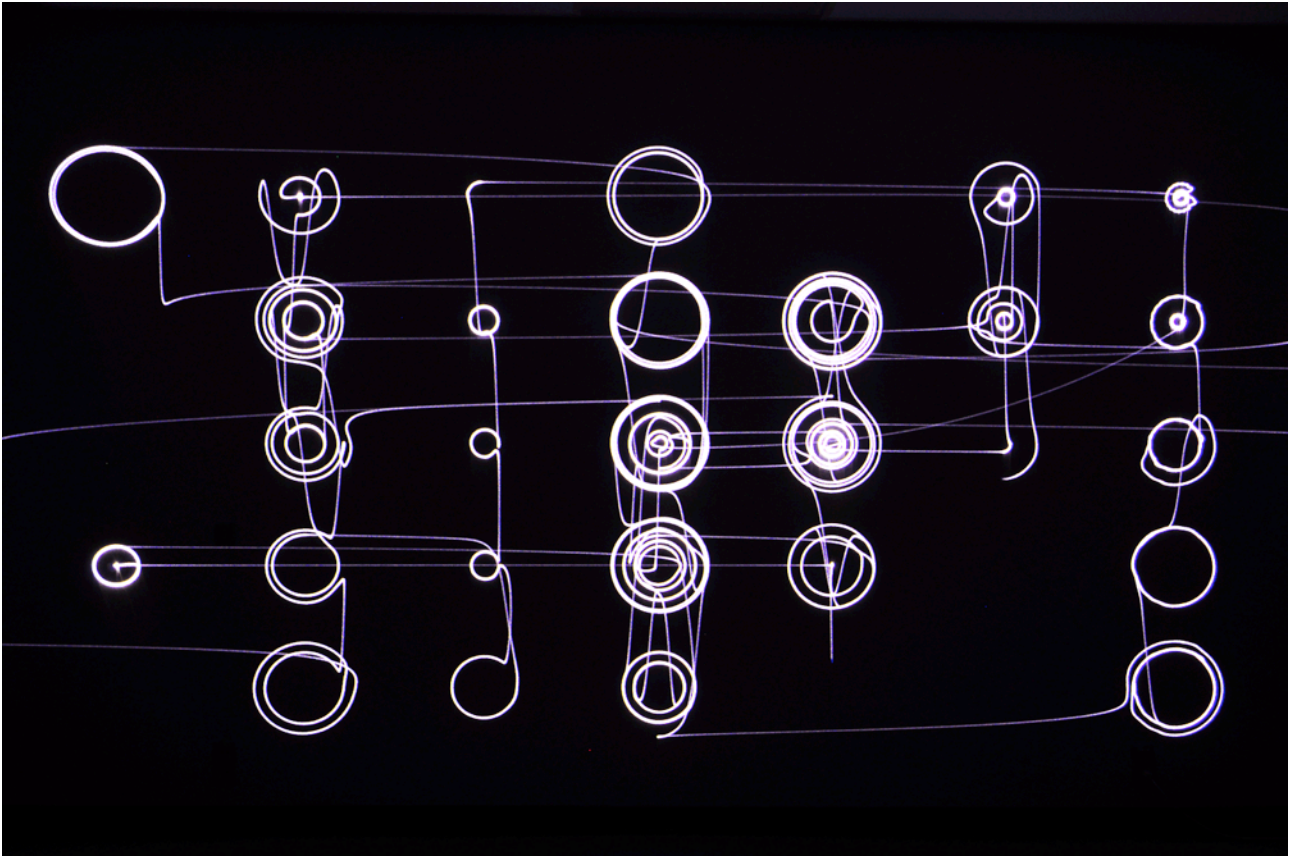
Light, sound and space are treated as single entity, and motifs and gestures manifest a constant dialog between the visual and auditive domain. The composition is constructed both around repetitive elements on varying time scales as well as on slow transitions between parameters and states using weighted random functions, thus adding to the notion of instability and potential failure.

The act of the composition is the construction and tuning of a large set of instructions in order to find a satisfying balance between repetition, chaos, randomness and determination. The tension between those elements can be experienced on an intuitive level without any knowledge of the underlying process. For the visitor the installation simply behaves like a big, highly complex machine that operates at times predictably and at times highly surprisingly.

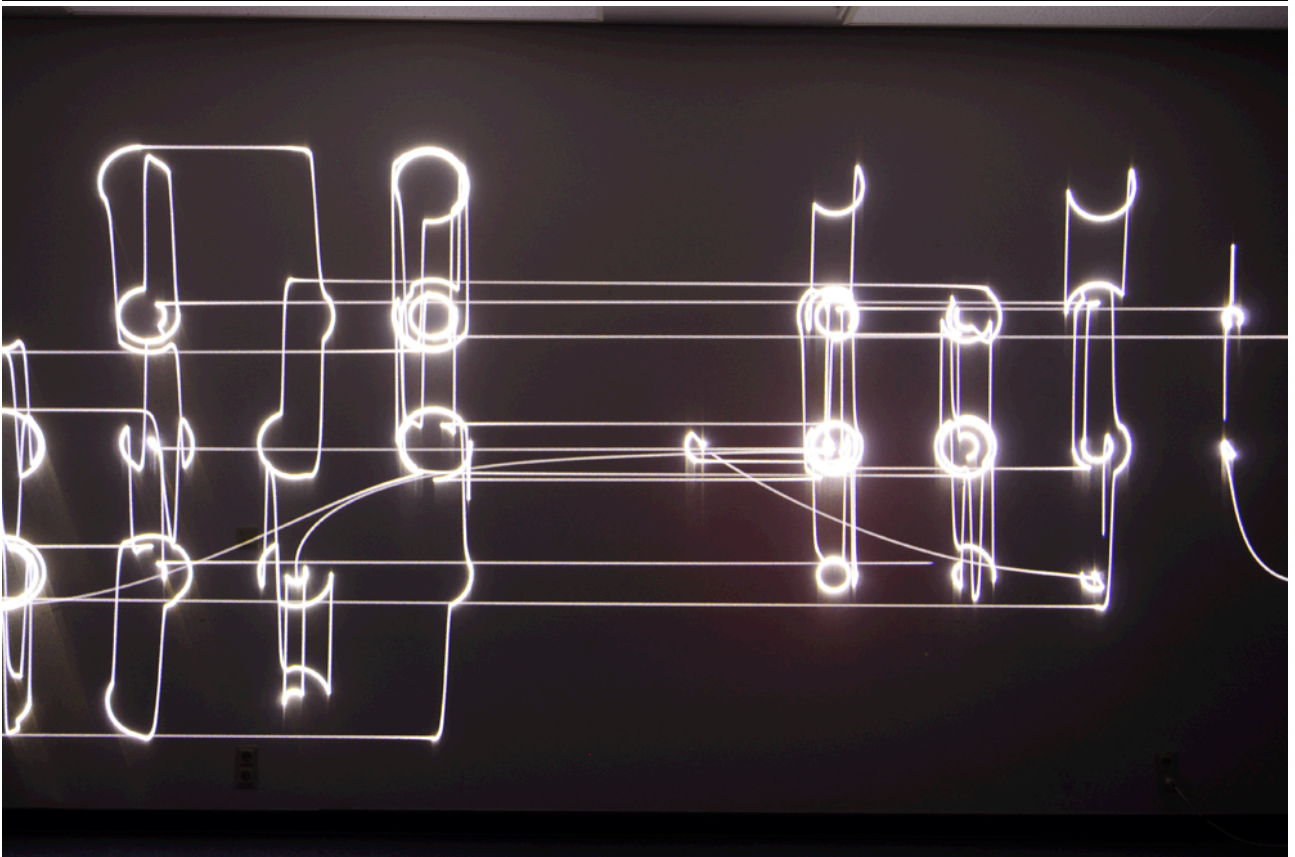
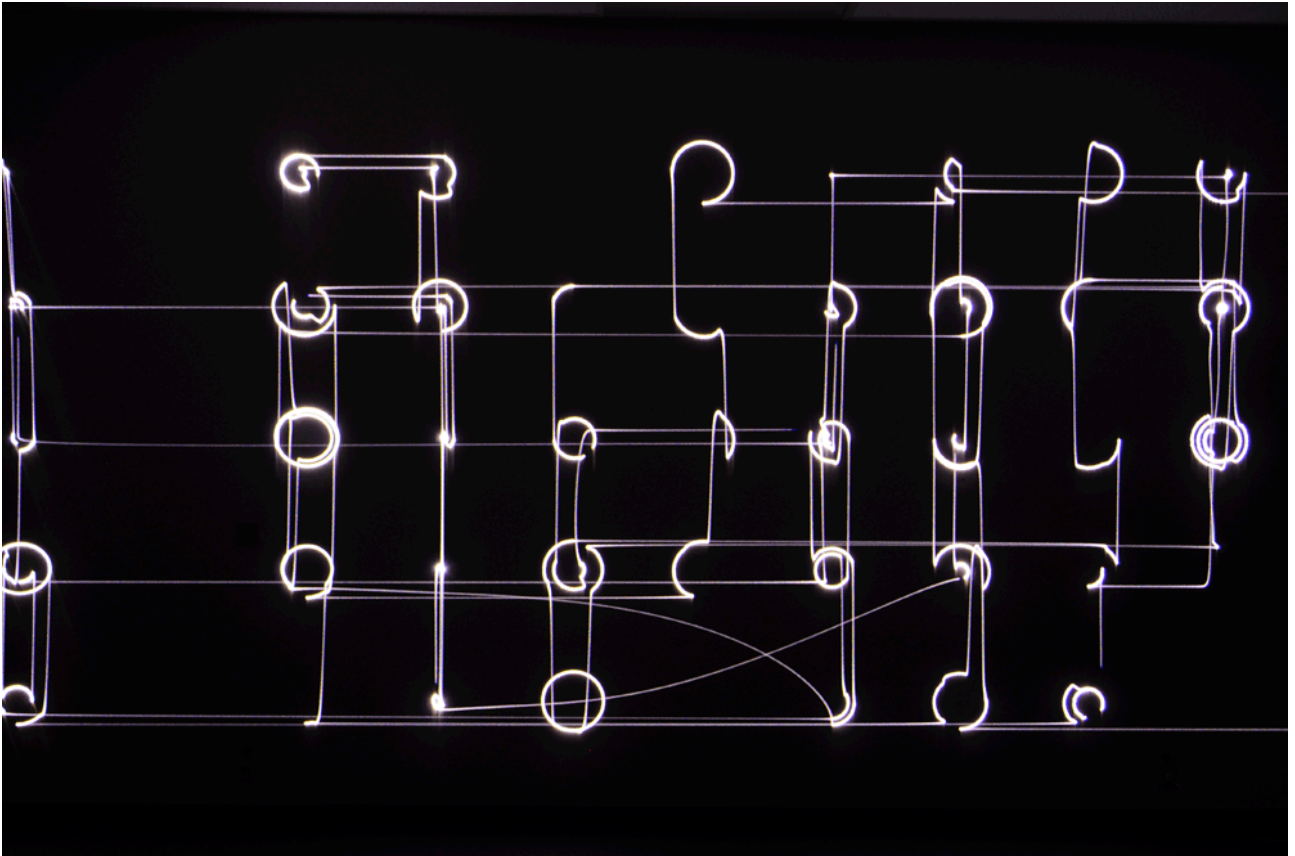
The presence of an audience also influences the process itself; their movements create an additional stream of data which is fed into the system and on a subtle level manipulates the generation of the shapes and sounds.



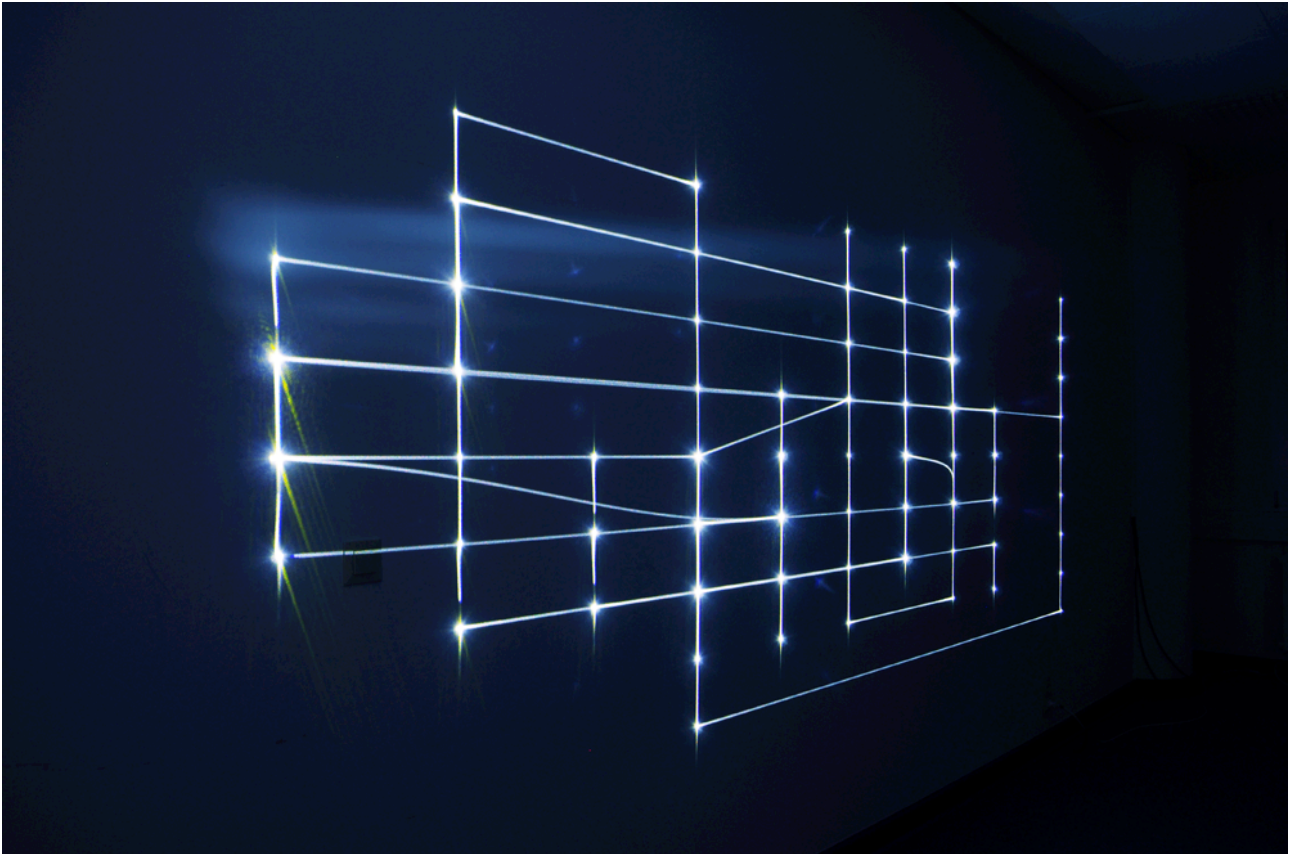
Robert Henke **Fragile Territories** - a laser based audiovisual installation



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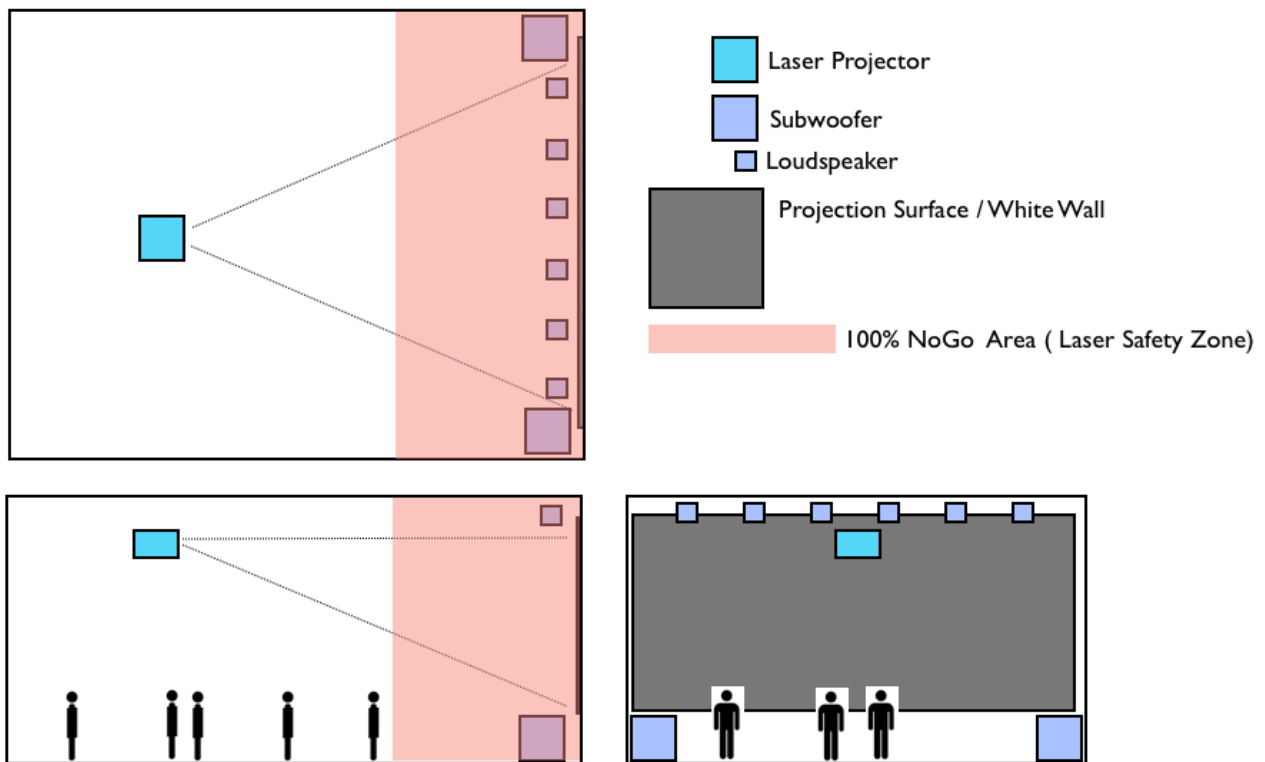


## Robert Henke \* 1969

Robert Henke is a German computer music composer, installation artist and professor of sound design at the Berlin University of the Arts. He is a co-developer of the Ableton Live music software and founding member of the electronic music project Monolake. He lives in Berlin.

His works and concerts have been shown at the Centre Pompidou, Paris, the Turbine Hall of Tate Modern in London, MUDAM in Luxembourg, the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, at PS-1 in New York... In 2010 he had a solo exhibition at the Färgfabriken gallery in Stockholm with his multiple screen video installation '*Transition Machine*'. In 1997 he won a honorary mention at the Prix Ars Electronica for his CD release '*Layering Buddha*'. His music has been licensed for numerous films, dance performances and TV series, including most recently CSI-Miami. Robert Henke also writes about sound art and performance of computer generated music and gives lectures and talks.

[www.roberthenke.com](http://www.roberthenke.com)



## Technical Details

The installation is based on a special high intensity laser projector system and needs a large, completely dark room with at least one white wall as a projection surface. Sound needs to come from a multiple channel sound system including two sub woofers.

A detailed tech rider is available upon request.

## Contact

For further inquiries please get in touch with Robert Henke's assistant:

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