



Tischgeflüster / Whispering Table

TheGreenEyl 2009/10

We were commissioned by the Jewish Museum Berlin to create a piece for an exhibition on food and religion. Similarities and peculiarities of different food ceremonies were to be explored in a playful and entertaining way. Several unique festivities celebrated by people of distinct cultures were to be assembled in an archetypical scene of congregation.

Visitors approaching a round table filled with empty dishes discover that these are actually telling personal stories about food and rituals. These stories are written by a story writer. The contents change according to the dishes' positions and their distance to the others. Exploring stories and changing table constellations, the visitor becomes protagonist to a participatory spectacle.

Beyond Tischgeflüster. In the aftercrop of a five-month installation at the Jewish Museum Berlin, we re-evaluated the possibilities of our system. With a variety of sensors and microelectronics, each module offers the ability to calculate, behave and narrate according to our wishes.

The significant capability however is the human being, carrying the device.

For Ars Electronica we will carry out an experiment for a large number of people to participate. With more than one person involved, the system becomes a mediator. Taking strategies of swarm behavior and generative systems, a narration can be deployed through the proximity of people. As the soundscape unfolds, people are moving through space unconsciously drawing formations.

As you enter, you immediately become part of the spectacle.