

by HEHE, 2005



CO2 monitoring environment by Vaisala OY and first the prototype of Smoking Lamp, based on a hacked smoke detector.

HEHE 2005

For scientists and chemists, air borne pollution is generally measured in Parts Per Million (ppm). Health and safety experts translate these numeric measurements across a range that usually spans from “normal saturation in office buildings” to “instantly lethal”. The proposed objects decipher categorical numbers and terms, such as “end-tidal breath” into collective experiences.

Developed during a residency at Nordic Institute of Contemporary Art / Pixel Ache festival, the new installation that looks at interior air pollution in shared spaces. Whilst cigarette smoking remains a highly social activity, it is decreasingly tolerated throughout Europe and the US and is the second largest cause of death worldwide.

Smoker's lamp responds to cigarette smoke, changing colour and emitting a low oscillation. The lamp has an ambiguous status: As an object placed in a no-smoking zone in the context of cultural events, it at once invites people to smoke to activate the lamp and serves as an alert that the rule has been broken. For non-smokers, we are also experimenting with CO2 sensors within conference type environments, whereby a room full of guests over a short time increases the levels of CO2 to surprisingly high levels. What does it mean when we pollute by simply existing?