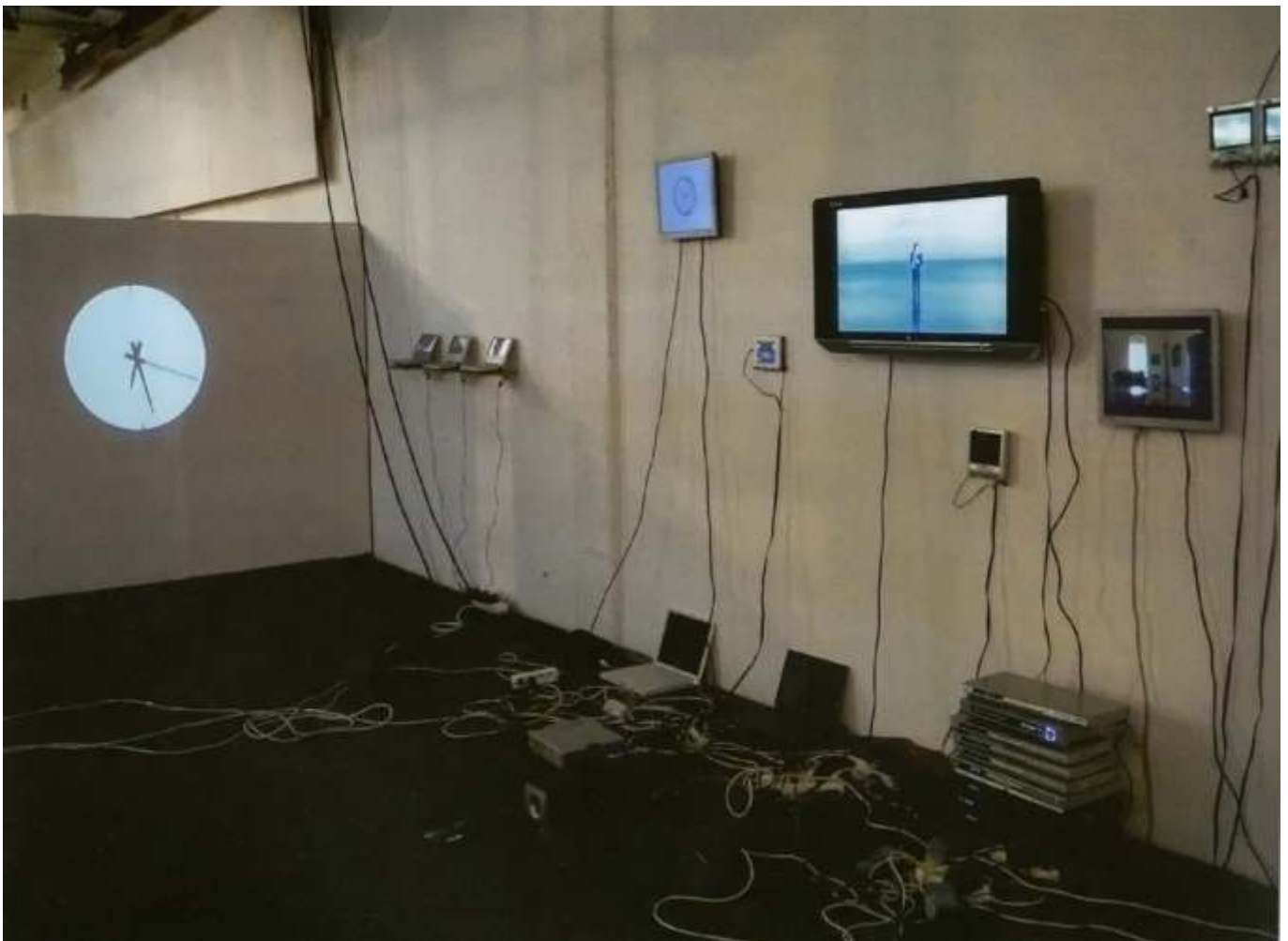


4!

group's profile

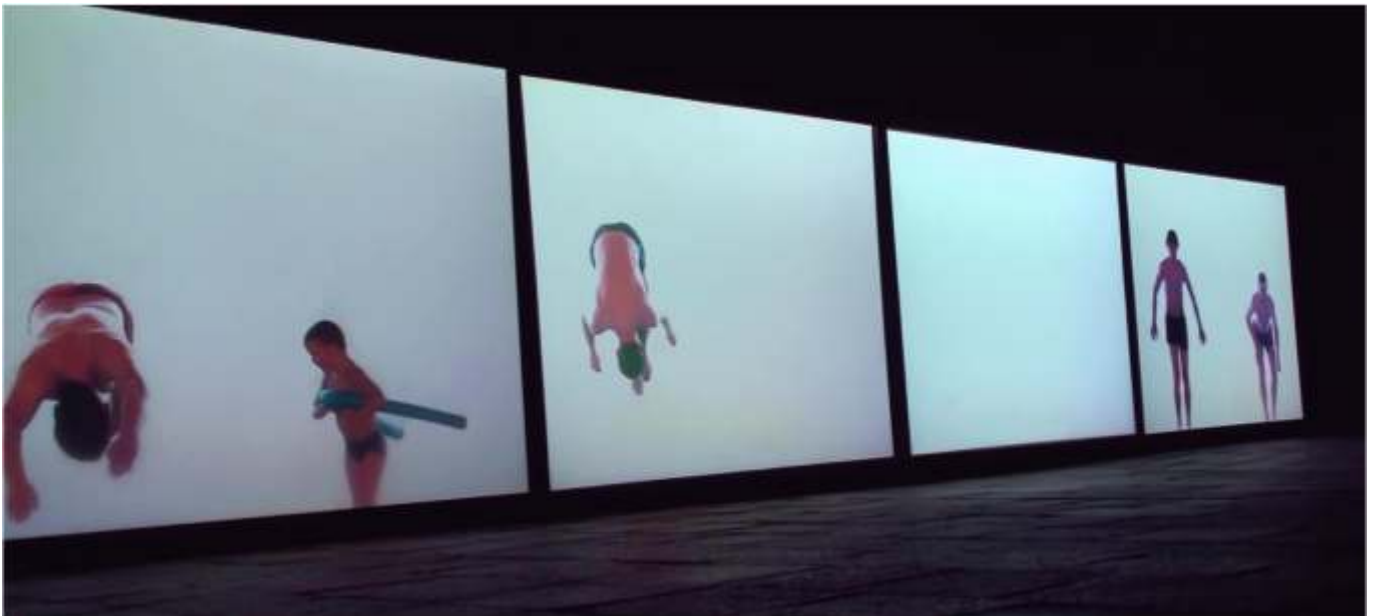
The group, consisting of Michal Grochowiak, Marcin Gwiazdowski, Jakub Jasiukiewicz (and Pawel Dziemian until the end of 2007) was founded in 2004 in Poznan, Poland. Its practice is mainly focused around the area of video art. It is accompanied by attempts of redefining notions which are deeply rooted in society's consciousness. Recurring subjects are, for example, the fear of the unknown and the problem of a compromise between nature and culture. In 4!'s installations, images balance on the border of the aesthetics of the film and classical painting. Individual video elements are arranged into open-ended, nonlinear, surreal narrations. Above all, they aim to evoke curiosity, and provide only that much information and aesthetical pleasure, that is necessary to break the ignorance.



Timeless 2.0 installation view, Dritte Berliner Kunstsalon, Arena Berlin, 2006

DIVERS

Every society has a population of people who want to eject themselves from their base in order to see it from above or simply leave it behind. There are even populations whose existence depends on constant migration. We would like to expose these people to prove that the freedom of movement is their undeniable right. They deserve it naturally. They are our enthusiastic friends, who were brave enough to jump into the border river. It is hard to say if they just wanted to break to the other side or maybe rather dissolve into the World Ocean.



TIMELESS 2.0

The 4! Group (The Four Factorial Group: Michal Grochowiak, Marcin Gwiazdowski and Jakub Jasiukiewicz) has been working on the philosophical multimedia cycle Timeless for the last couple of years. So far, it has had two editions. Timeless 2 (2007) consists of seven flat screens hanging on a wall.

The films present a man in a suit standing by the sea, a man and a woman sitting back to back and looking at a vast landscape, a man sleeping on the sofa in an empty steel room filled with sunlight, a ticking clock and two shots of green fields and blue clouded sky. All movies are of a painterly character; and are presented on the walls in a way which resembles the way one exhibits paintings. Slow visual narration, impression of remaining in one place, is stressed by the motionless image. The installation finds itself at the junction of painting and video art.

Parts of the Timeless 2 project, which are given Latin names, are inspired by Romantic painting, especially by the motif of a man depicted against the background of a mysterious landscape. The boundlessness sublime of sea, sky and empty places evoke the paintings of Caspar David Friedrich. In fact, there are more cultural associations. Crystal aesthetics and the types of figures resemble advertising techniques which were examined in Timeless 1. However, what matters is the interaction between work and poetry. After all, this is a multi-media work. The visual side of the work is accompanied by a female voice reading in English a prayer, a poem dedicated to the idea of timeless. The text resembles English Romantic poetry, although it was written by the members of the group. It appears that the installation is a reflection on the nature of time, the physical experience of its passing and on the enigmatic sense of unrestricted time. Timeless seems to be some new religion that offers liberation from the constant pressure of the passing of time and the experience of contemplative timelessness of being. It is pure being, here and now, which manifests itself in the contemplative sequence of images.

Paweł Leszkowicz, excerpt from the Empire of Senses catalogue



Timeless 2.0 installation view, Stodownia Gallery, Old Brewery in Poznań, 2007

The second edition of the Timeless project is advertised by the slogan: "second per heartbeat". This new idea is based on relation between the metabolism and the perception of time. This relation seems to be obvious as a continuous blood pulse. Uncertainty appears when we are loosing our confidence about what causes the frequency of our heartbeat. Is it determined by mysterious work of the brain or is it ruled by omnipresent stress? Blood pulse is the rate of heartbeats but it is also a thickness of our thoughts, **the speed of our personal time.**

www.timeless2.fourfactorial.net



„Quisque”, 2006, video 7:00 min. (loop), channel 1 of 7



„Usquequaque”, 2006, video 7:00 min. (loop), channel 2 of 7

HAZARD

Hazard Cycle is being realised by 4! group since 2007. Four images have been produced until now: "Tent", "Ball", "Axe" and "Suitcase". Altogether, they build a multi-channel, interconnected video installation. Their soundtracks fill the space, overlap and compete with each other. "Axe" for four minutes and fifty seconds drowns out the rest of pieces which fall silent for five minutes and ten seconds. "Ball" fills the opposite space, simply distorted music emphasizes the atmosphere of the image. "Tent" consists of two panoramic projections juxtaposed to recount a sad story of two girls who made their getaway to the wood. "Suitcase" is a video initiating the second part of the cycle which will concentrate on "still lifes in action". As opposed to the first cycle which took shape of portraits, the second one will focus on objects involuntarily coming into life in a space filled with noise.



„Suitcase“, 2008, video 13 min. (loop)

This project is about the risk which is inherent part of our chaotic world. It is about the risk as a specific potential, possibility of failure. Hope for success, which inseparably goes together with a threat of fiasco. Kind of ambivalent and grotesque, which in some sense accompanies every, even the most prosaic activity. Sequence of causes and effects of our doings and things happening around is impenetrable. Certainly not in real time. It is extremely complicated mathematics. We are surrounded by beautiful chaos. We also have beautiful chaos inside us. Sometimes we realise that even during simple routine activity, even during inactivity we can become a victim of a disaster. Small, big, whatever. The world and the time are jam-packed with disasters.



„Tent”, 2007, video 2:45 min. (loop), channel 1 of 2



„Tent”, 2007, video 2:45 min. (loop), channel 2 of 2

Hazard project aims to depict the wrong places at the wrong time. Situations shown on the Hazard videos are trying to grasp specific elementary mood, which can be found in Greek tragedies, fairy tales by the Grimm brothers as well as Lars von Trier's screenplays. It is a search for a common denominator of these stories, which is also present in our daily experience. In school, we were taught that it is all about the fate or slings and arrows of outrageous god or gods. However, maybe it is rather the risk which we breathe in, unpredictability of beautiful chaos which we live in, and which we carry inside us. Today gold, tomorrow dust. Eeny, meeny, miny, mo.



„Ball”, 2007, video 4:30 min. (loop)



„Axe”, 2007, video 10:00 min (loop)

TIMELESS

The Timeless project presents a series of questions about the character and sense of the time as a medium. It presents a vast range of connotations: from bourgeois linearization in late medieval ages where for the first time city clocks imposed on city inhabitants the same time to complete the homogenization of time in the area of global networks where time became a point of reference. At the same time, an attempt to reunite time with night and day cycle and subsequently with human organism symbolises naive desire to return to the nature, to times without clocks. Due to advanced technologies, artists are able to escape the modern idea of homogenous and globalized time in favor of a local time. In timeless 2.0 version 4! group skips from new sensuality to new spirituality (on a visual level they skip from an advertising spot to a picturesque tableau in a video version), exploring mythical and mythopoetic aspects of the project and showing that timelessness is not an empty category.

Krzysztof Pijarski, excerpt from the Empire of Senses catalogue



installation view in Słodownia Gallery, Old Brewery in Poznań, 2006

Timeless Project was built as a product and had a commercial campaign advertising it. The product is a clock which measures the time according to the exact position of the sun on the horizon. This simple idea of a "sunny timepiece" is advertised as a utopian conception which can heal our rushing civilization and harmonize it with the rhythm of universe. TV ads, promotional movie and Timeless Clock (as software for mobile devices) are available at Timeless Project website: www.timeless.fourfactorial.net. Timeless is a part of Kulczyk Foundation collection.

CZTERY SILNIA: OM

By using different media such as video, photography, objects, sound or graphic visual message, Four Factorial's artists join in the discussion about human relation with nature, technology, society and power. Compatibility of nature and technology and its influence on human senses is a regular motive. Imitating natural processes machines are an indicator of this interest (Ohm projects). As the title suggests the project belongs to both scientific and spiritual spheres. In physics, the ohm is a unit of electrical resistance. In Hinduism, it is the most important mantra was adapted by Western pop culture. That process is one of the proofs of spirituality crisis.

Krzysztof Pijarski, excerpt from the Empire of Senses catalogue



Milk leaking from sockets, surround speakers with speech synthesizer, inkjet printer, moving video installations.

ON Gallery in Poznań, 2005

4!

Michał Grochowiak, Marcin Gwiazdowski, Jakub Jasiukiewicz

<http://www.fourfactorial.net>

Exhibitions :

- 2008 *Great Poland*, Arsenal Gallery, Poznań, Poland
- Pole Widzenia Multimedia Festival*, Centre of Contemporary Art in Toruń, Poland
- Manual*, Centre of Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw
- Wanted*, Rag Factory, London
- Manual*, Uqbar Project Space, Berlin
- 2007 *Mortal Kombat*, ON Gallery, Poznań, Poland
- Videomedėja*, The Museum of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia
- Empire of Senses*, Old Brewery, Poznań, Poland
- Kino*, Klima Bocheńska's Gallery, Warsaw
- Art is knocking*, ON Gallery, Poznań, Poland
- Manual*, Kronika Gallery, Bytom, Poland
- Plasma - art in public space*, Poznań, Poland
- Hysteria/Neurosis*, Art Claims Impulse Gallery, Berlin
- 2006 *Diesel New Art Exhibition*, Betonsalon, Wien, Austria
- Dritte Berliner Kunstsalon*, Berlin
- Vidiots*, Słodownia Gallery, Old Brewery, Poznań, Poland
- Timeless Project*, ON Gallery, Poznań, Poland
- Timeless Project*, Dartington Gallery, Dartington, England
- 2005 *Period*, Szyperska Gallery, Poznań, Poland
- OM*, ON Gallery, Poznań, Poland
- 4!*, Miejsce Sztuki Oficyna, Szczecin, Poland

Prizes :

- 2007 Creative Valley - Multimedia (Second Place)
- 2006 Diesel New Art Award (Distinction)
- Top Talent Award (Quality Seal Sign)

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