

SUB, 2020

Set in complete darkness, SUB is an immersive, meditative environment by Kurt Hentschläger.

The installation induces a simple, dramatic perceptual shift: Embarking into pitch black, with the work's gestalt both initially unsettling and then increasingly hypnotic, visitors are invited to drifting off into an ambiguous state of sensory deprivation and - overload, slowly adapting to an unfamiliar terrain.

The predominant absence of light in SUB is contrasted, in intervals, by bright bursts of animated abstract forms and patterns. Returning back into darkness, ghostly retinal after-images linger, slowly fading until the next eruption of light.

Before entering the installation, the audience is asked to leave behind their phones and any other communication-, photographic-, or light emitting devices. This is to maintain darkness in the installation space. Also, day to day life and perceptual- and interaction habits are thus left at the door.

In this space of repose, posting to social media, taking selfies, or texting are put on hold. Experiencing SUB makes time and space for a meditative break, a moment of minimized visual sensing without the noise and distraction emitted by a hyper-mediated world.

While light in SUB appears for fractions of seconds only, sound is present throughout and is both synchronized to the light events as well as continuously evolving and subtly re-arranging in the venue.

SUB has no beginning or end, visitors may enter at any time and stay as long as they so desire. Depending on one's position in space, visual and sonic impressions will vary substantially.

Due to the phenomenological nature of the work, video documentation is not available. Available photos depict $\frac{1}{3}$ sec moments of light, before retinal after images, which can't be documented.