

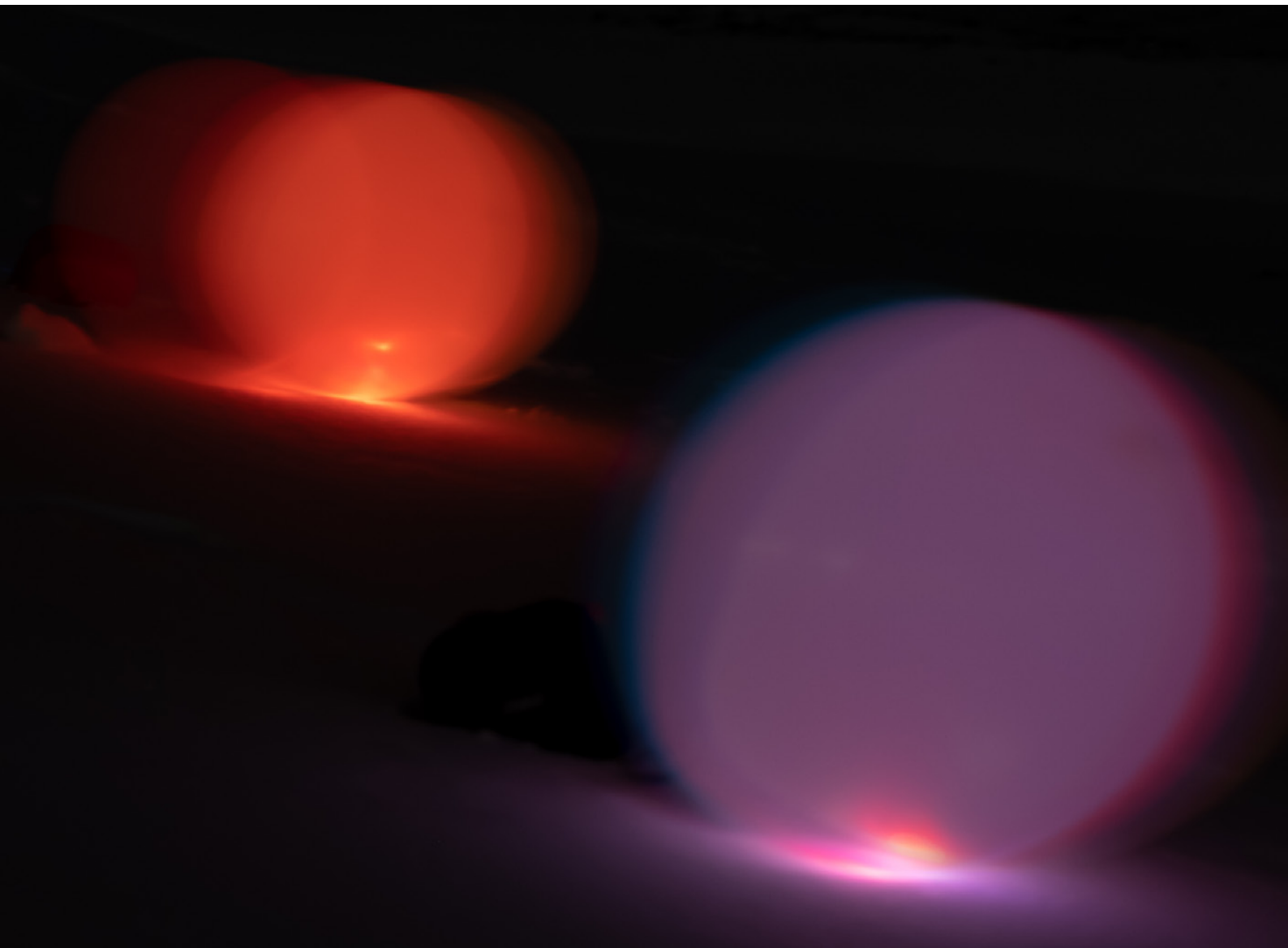
*«At this hour, when the rigours of winter have passed,
the serenity and temper of the good old days come to the fore,
they melt and are heard»*

François Rabelais

FROZEN DREAMS

Luminous Voices in the Night

audio visual installation
Giuseppe Gavazza - Eugenio Pini





In a dark and silent space, different voices,
in different languages, are broadcasted
from portable speakers anchored
to colorful and luminous balloons.

They tell their dreams, dream memories
that reawaken upon listening.

FROZEN DREAMS

Luminous Voices in the Night

Rabelais's Frozen Words

The idea of Frozen Dreams comes from *Les Paroles Gelées* (The Frozen Words), a part of François Rabelais's *Quart Livre* of *Gargantua et Pantagruel*, a five-book bestseller published between 1532 and 1564 that narrates the fantastical adventures of the giants Gargantua and Pantagruel as they travelled the world in search of the oracle of the Dive Bouteille. In the fourth book (1552) we find the episode of the frozen words in which it is narrated that, while navigating in the Arctic polar circle:

«Ici est le confin de la mer glaciale, sus laquelle fut au commencement de l'hiver dernier passé grosse et felonne bataille, entre les Arismapiens, et le Nephelibates. Lors gelèrent en l'air les paroles et cris des hommes et femmes, les chaplis des masses, les hurtys des hamoys, des bardes, les hennissements des chevaux, et tout effroi de combat. A cette heure la rigueur de l'hiver passée, advenente la sérénité et tempérie du bon temps, elles fondent et sont ouïes...»

«This is the edge of the frozen sea, and at the beginning of last winter there was a great and bloody battle here between the Arimaspians and the Nephelibates. The shouts of the men, the cries of the women, the slashing of the battle-axes, the clashing of the armour and harnesses, the neighing of the horses and all the other frightful noises of battle became frozen on the air. At this hour, when the rigours of winter have passed, the serenity and temper of the good old days come to the fore, they melt and are heard.»

«Les quelles ensemblement fondues ouysmes, hin, hin, hin, hin, his, ticque torche, lorgne, brededin, brededac, frf, frf, frf, bou, bou, bou, bou, bou, bou, bou, bou, tracc, trac, tr, tr, tr, trr, trrrr, on, on, on, on, ououououon [...]»

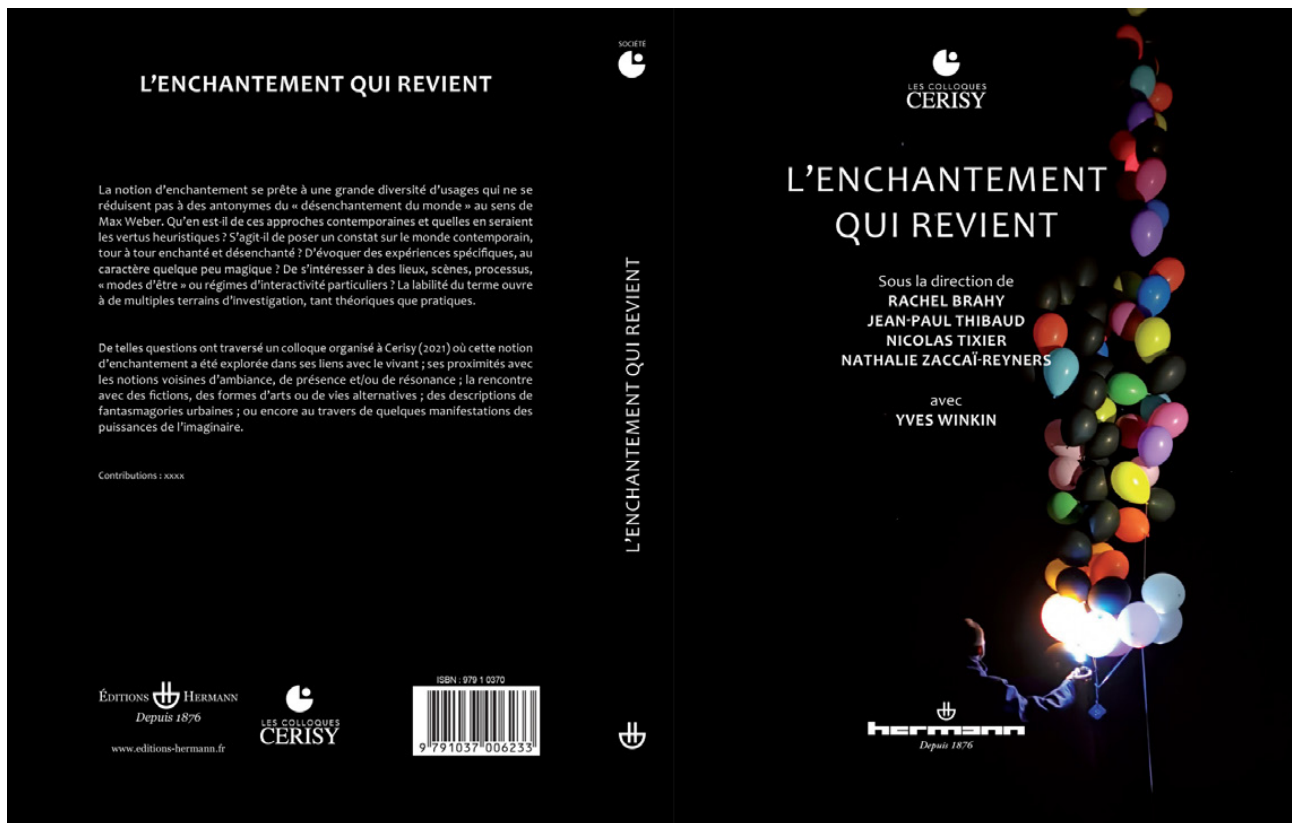
«When they had all melted together, we heard, “Hin, hin, hin, hin, his, tick, tock, crack, brededin, brededac, frf, frf, frf, bou, bou, bou, bou, bou, bou, bou, bou, tracc, tracc, tr, trr, trrr, trrrr, trrrr, on, on, on, on, ououououon, Gog, Magog,” and goodness knows what other barbarous sounds.»



FROZEN DREAMS

Luminous Voices in the Night

The frozen words as a sonic installation



In the summer of 2021, in the frame of the symposium, *L'enchantement qui revient* (The Enchantment that Returns) held in the ancient castle of Cerisy in Normandy I realized the installation, Dream Clouds. I launched an appeal and collected about 80 dreams told in different languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Korean, Italian, Spanish, Tunisian.

The voices narrating these dreams, diffused through a dozen small loudspeakers hanging from clusters of luminous balloons, were scattered around the castle's park creating an enchanting spread of voices into the night.

FROZEN DREAMS

Luminous Voices in the Night

Bringing back the frozen words in the Arctic sea



The residency programme of the **Spitsbergen Kunstnersenter** offered the opportunity to work on this project in two phases, corresponding with the winter solstice of 2023 and the summer solstice of 2024. The connection with Rabelais's frozen words triggered an immediate suggestion of dyads: night/day, winter/summer, black/white, dream/waking, the winter night and the summer day, the white of ice and the black of coal mines in Longyearbyen.

With Eugenio Pini, photographer and videographer with whom I share the residency, wondering how to execute this ephemeral art installation in such a fragile and challenging environment we thought that the frozen dreams should also take shape in the documentation of the effort of being realised.

On Friday 5 January 2024, we presented *Frozen Dreams: Luminous Voices in the Night*, in the Art Gallery at Spitsbergen Kunstnersenter.

During the two weeks winter residence, we gathered information and recorded sounds, photos and videos to continue the project of a documentary on this experience. *Frozen Dreams* is a work in progress that continues, as we returned to our homes, in preparation for our next summer solstice Arctic residency: and hopefully beyond. At this time collected dreams are 130 and the call is always open.





FROZEN DREAMS
Luminous Voices in the Night

The thaw



After the long night of the winter solstice, the second chapter of the Arctic adventure took place in the summer solstice.

I dedicated this time of never-ending light to recording the sounds of the thaw, to supplement and enrich the archive of our ongoing project.

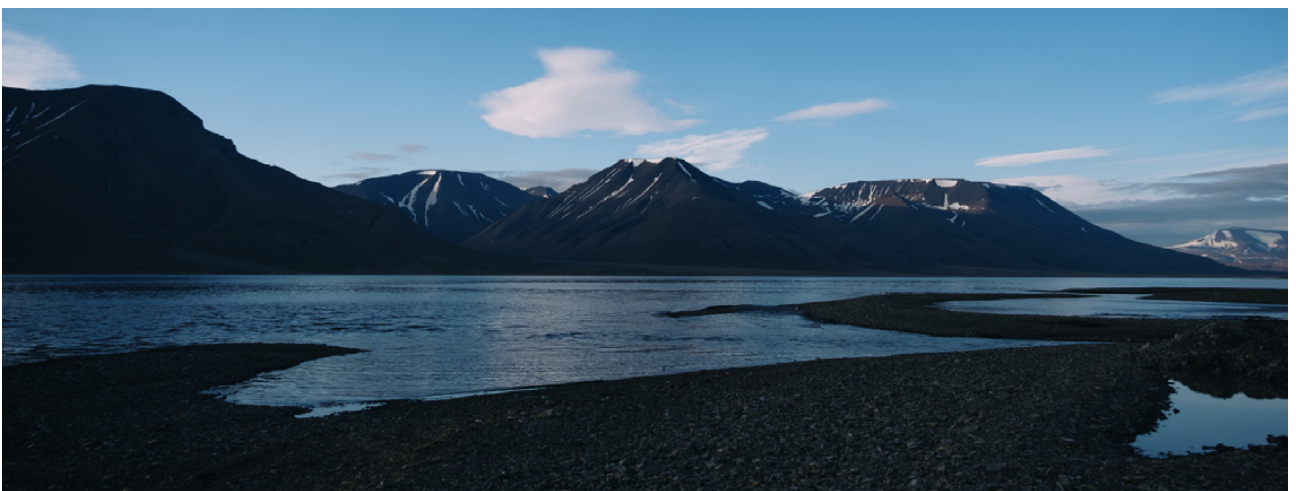
Summer is here, and the icy landscape melts into sonorous rivulets of water dripping from the mountains and glaciers in a multitude of trickling, fragile streams, burrowing twisted canyons in the ice; flowing between coal-black, iron-red and multi coloured boulders immersed in the innumerable shades of green and brown of the musks dotted with the bright colours of minute flowers; roaring in the constant flush of the muddy Longyearlva, which rises from the ice of the Longyearbreen to flow into the Adventfjorden and Adventdalen at Longyerbyen.

At this hour, when the rigours of winter have passed, the serenity and temper of the good old days come to the fore. Dreams melt and are heard merged with the voices of thawing nature rising from the ground.



FROZEN DREAMS

Luminous Voices in the Night



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Luminous Voices in the Night

Technical specification



Gallery Opening Frozen Dreams

LUMINOUS VOICES
IN THE NIGHT

Installation by
Giuseppe Gavazza
Eugenio Pini
A.I.R.

Friday January 5th 2024
18:00 to 20:00

Spitsbergen Artists Center
Longyearbyen - Svalbard

Frozen Dreams is an installation that takes shape from the context in which it is presented, in a dark and silent space that can be closed or open whose size is determined by the acoustic feedback.

These elements determine the number of loudspeakers, their position in space and the placement of the luminous balloons. Video projections may integrate the installation.

In order to work out the details, a dialogue, an exchange of useful information and possibly an on-site visit will be essential.

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