

ENG

Football Club:

Set within the hybridization framework of the heterogeneous inputs of our culture and the resulting (or causal) omnivorous nature of the audience, this light-and-sound installation combines two totems of the collective entertainment world: football (again) and the club culture.

A black contextless cube becomes an allegory of the artistic container. In a tribute to void (even to antimatter), the space is described via the two only elements present in the installation, i.e.: light and sound.

The light set of my related project *Studio Stadium* is reproduced in this installation and conforms, in combination with the audio track, «a dance-cum-football club».

Musician and artist Alberto Bernal has created an electronic music piece for *Football Club*, generated from sound recorded in and around a football stadium.

To be carried along by the passion for sports, feeling the rhythm of music and being swept along with it is not at all incompatible with the idea of doing all this within an exhibition space. Under these circumstances and bordering an almost shamanic ritual (the electronic dance scene expels such connotations via the guru Dj's, and football has normatively been considered the opium of the people), *Football Club* introduces, synthesized in a unique piece, two of the most accepted contemporary collective rituals.

Through the sensorial hedonism invoked here by dancing and evading consciousness in order to enter a new conscious state, *Football Club* seeks to, in an immersive way, activate in the audience a critical thought about the reigning cultural model, based on entertainment and showbiz.

The epic which takes place (and emanates from) the pitch is translated into the dance floor. Thus, the public becomes the leading actor of this relational field and, within the diluted framework of both mass celebrations, it also becomes responsible for the convergence of an individual positioning regarding the cultural dynamics.

When entering the cube we find a light-and-sound device consisting of 4 spotlights filtered at 6000°K (white light) and 4 speakers placed in its quadrants.

The music for this installation, an 11' 43" quadraphonic piece looped during 90 minutes (the length of a football match) is played via the 4 speakers and synced with the spotlights via software. An interactive fluctuating effect is generated between light and sound.

The audio piece is created by superposing several layers and generates «white noise» sequences. This sort of low-intensity sound fosters relaxation and concentration.

The conceptual superposition of an electronic dance club and the football connotations that can lead to focusing our cognitive abilities have a special interest for me, for it allows me to precisely tackle, from the ludic and hedonistic prism, subjects of a more intellectual nature.

The colour temperature of the light sources is guided by the same principle as sound; both signals—audio and light—are 'white', since they are made of all frequencies at the same power.

New Age therapies attribute alleged curative properties to white light, for example, in cases of drug abuse. Parascience bursts into this project flirting with the idea of causing a 'natural high' in the active recipient of this piece and leading to speculate about the possibility of an experience in which culture heals us.

Football Club is therefore an installation where audio and light, in a surrounding form, help the spectator to enter in the optimal state to question himself the value of culture and, coming to terms with one of the meanings given by the definition of 'culture', widen 'the set of beliefs and knowledge that allow someone to develop its critical thinking'.