

2027-2028

laurent delom






vertical_blue
The freedom freezing make

dark waters is a multidisciplinary research project that wonders about the presence of the sacred in our screen-based culture.

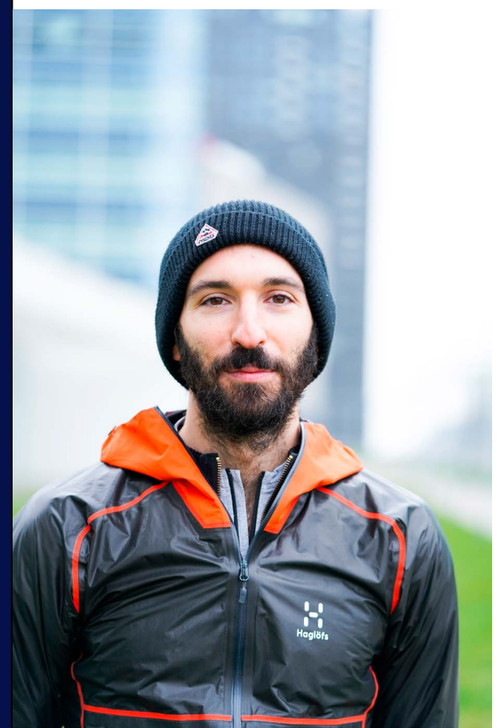
Initiated by an act of collecting social media contents where spiritual resonance was found, it reworks them into various forms of religious expression belonging to the catholic canon: screens get transformed into prayer books, self-help literature into psalmody, doom scrolling into an infinite procession.

In particular it focuses on how freediving, the act of going underwater on breathhold, gets represented in social media as an act of deep introspection verging with mystique. By activating this imaginarium, it allows the audience to dive into a visual metaphor of the conscience.

dark waters can be presented in various formats : as an evening performance (black box or on location), as a 'tiny-desk' version for unconventional settings (libraries, museums etc.) and as a guided exhibition.

Laurent Delom (b. 1989, France) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Antwerp, where he has lived and worked since 2013. That year, he graduated from the Royal Conservatoire with a bachelor's degree in contemporary dance, following a degree in telecommunications engineering obtained in France in 2011. In 2026 he graduated from LUCA School of Arts with a Master in Media & Information Design.

His artistic practice is deeply collaborative and interdisciplinary, bringing together choreography, literature and digital design. These fields inform both his practice-based and academic artistic research. He investigates the impact of new technologies on the human psyche.



NOTE OF INTENT

« The project started from a weird experience I sometimes have on social media where certain contents resonate with me from a place of spiritual thirst. A pop-song, a reel, a quote... Are they mini experiences of the sacred? In reaction, I took a screenshot every time this happened.

The project interfered with another weird experience I have with dark water: I am scared to death of going in water at night. It is beyond any control. The fear is irrational, metaphysical, biblical... So, I decided to start a journey as a freediver, too curious to explore deep dark waters physically and face my fear eye-to-eye.

It was uncanny to notice how often social media fantasizes freediving as a form of contemporary mystique. I am not sure yet if that's legit or just a hook...

What I am left with is the fact that on screen I sometimes experience authentic spiritual feelings and spiritual alienation at the same time. And I refuse to choose one over the other. »

evening performance

TRAILER

FEE
€ 3200
+ transport + travels + VAT + AR

extra representation
€ 2000
+ VAT + AR

DATES
07/05/2027 beyond the black box festival
antwerp (belgium)

PUBLIC 200 max.

TECHNIQUE
surface min. 9m x 9m
height min. 6m
set-up 4h
crew 5 people
internet on location

INDOOR black box or unconventionnal
OUTDOOR grass field + nighttime

'tiny desk' format

FEE
€ 1400
+ transport + travels + VAT + AR

DATES
xx/12/2026 LUCA library
brussels (belgium)

PUBLIC 60 max.

TECHNIQUE
surface min. 2m x 2m
set-up 3h
crew 2 people
internet on location

INDOOR unconventionnal spaces

expo + presentation

OVERVIEW

FEE
€ 1400 (set-up + 1 presentation)
+ transport + travels + VAT + AR

extra presentation
€ 200

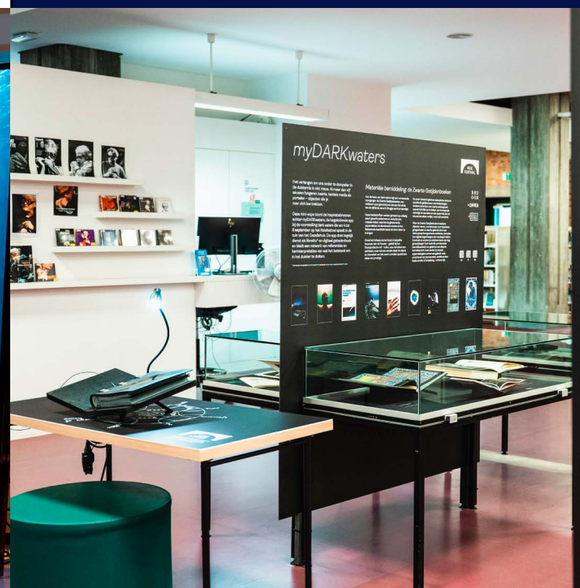
DATES

TECHNIQUE
surface in concertation with host
set-up in function of the surface
crew 2 people
furniture provided by host

INDOOR public spaces, libraries, museums







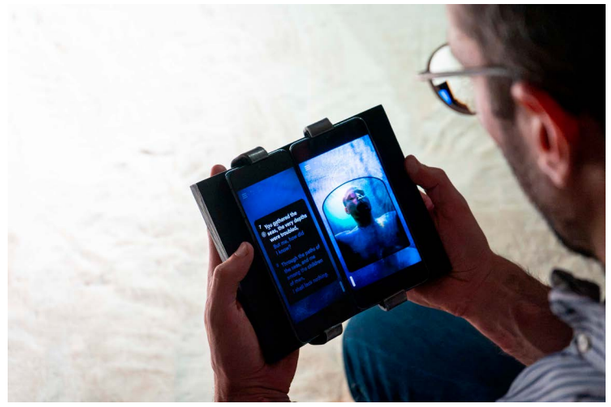


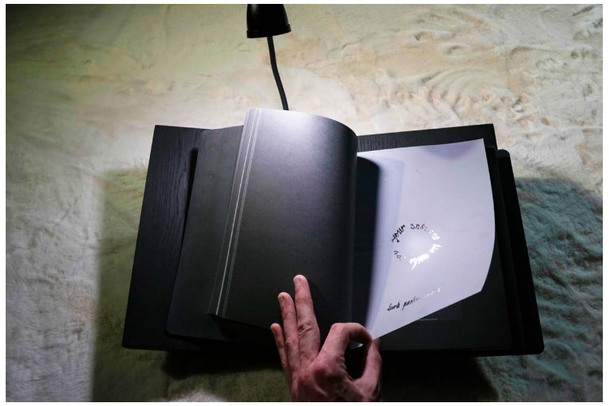
expo + presentation

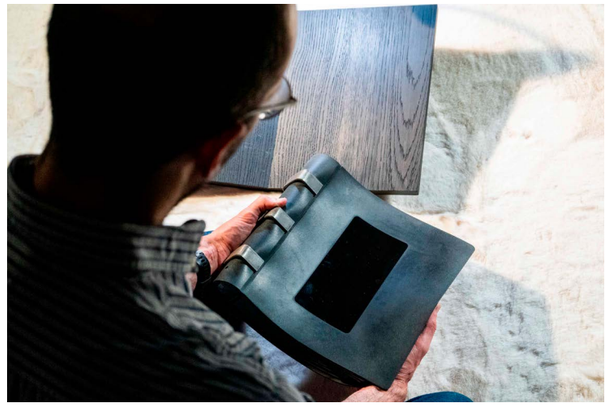














BOOK

APP

The expo presents the results of the design research around screens and sacrality. First: *myDARKwaters*, the App that transforms 2 smartphones into a digital prayer book inspired by Flemish gothic Books of Hours. Second: the book *myDARKhours*, the material translation of the digital App. Besides, the expo shows various intermediate steps in the creative process.

The expo contextualizes the materials created by Laurent by juxtaposing them with his inspiration sources. You will find exceptional medieval manuscripts composed of metallic inks on black vellum. The 'Black Books of Hours' were an exceptional ensemble of prayer books produced in 15th century Bruges.

Another inspiration source were opera librettos, especially for their capacity to prepare spectators for an immersive theatrical experience. The expo presents a selection of the most spectacular librettos from Opera La Monnaie - De Munt in the 1980's, which Laurent examined during his Master of Visual Arts at LUCA School of Arts.

<u>During the presentation,</u> Laurent walks the audience through his creative process and activates the App. The expo gives an excellent insight into the research and guides the audience towards a better appreciation of the performance.

CREDITS
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PRODUCTION
wp zimmer

COPRODUCTION
brugge plus (reiefestival), kaap, espace delombre (FR)

WITH SUPPORT FROM
desingel, monty, merksem dok, zuidpool, c-takt, bilt the workshop, public library bruges

*fonds artistic development city of antwerp
*flemish government

MORE INFO

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so hold me
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