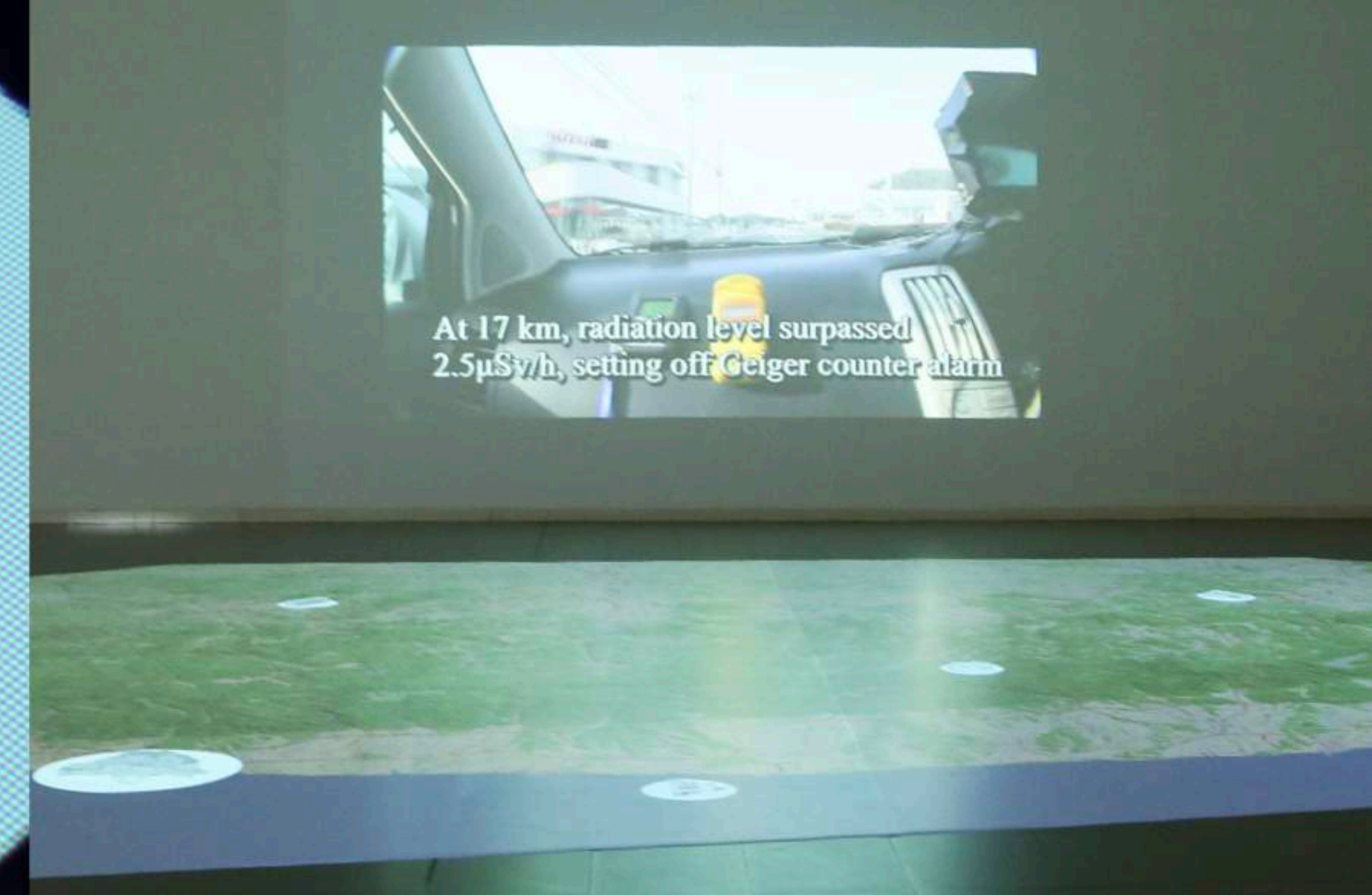
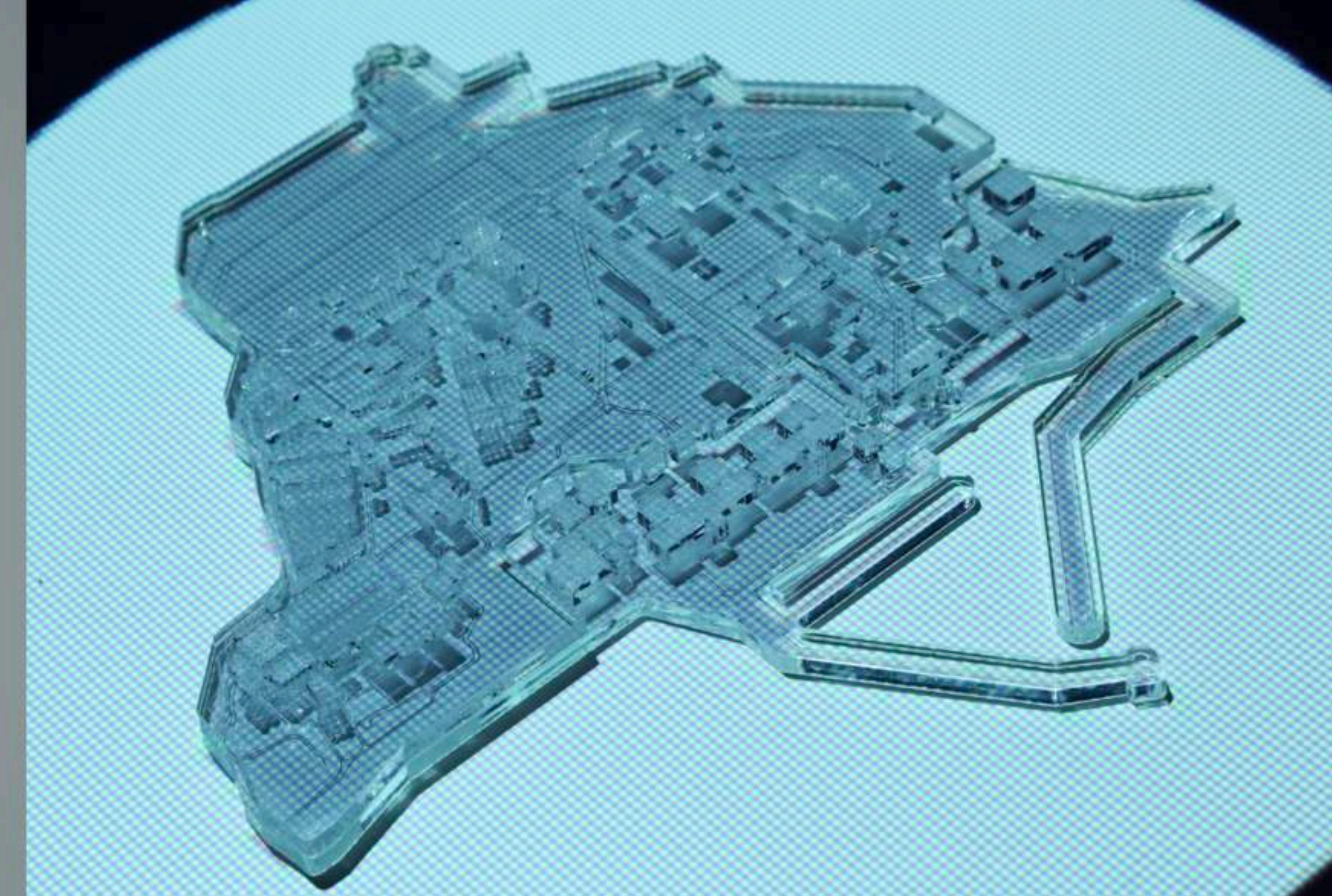




THE ZONE

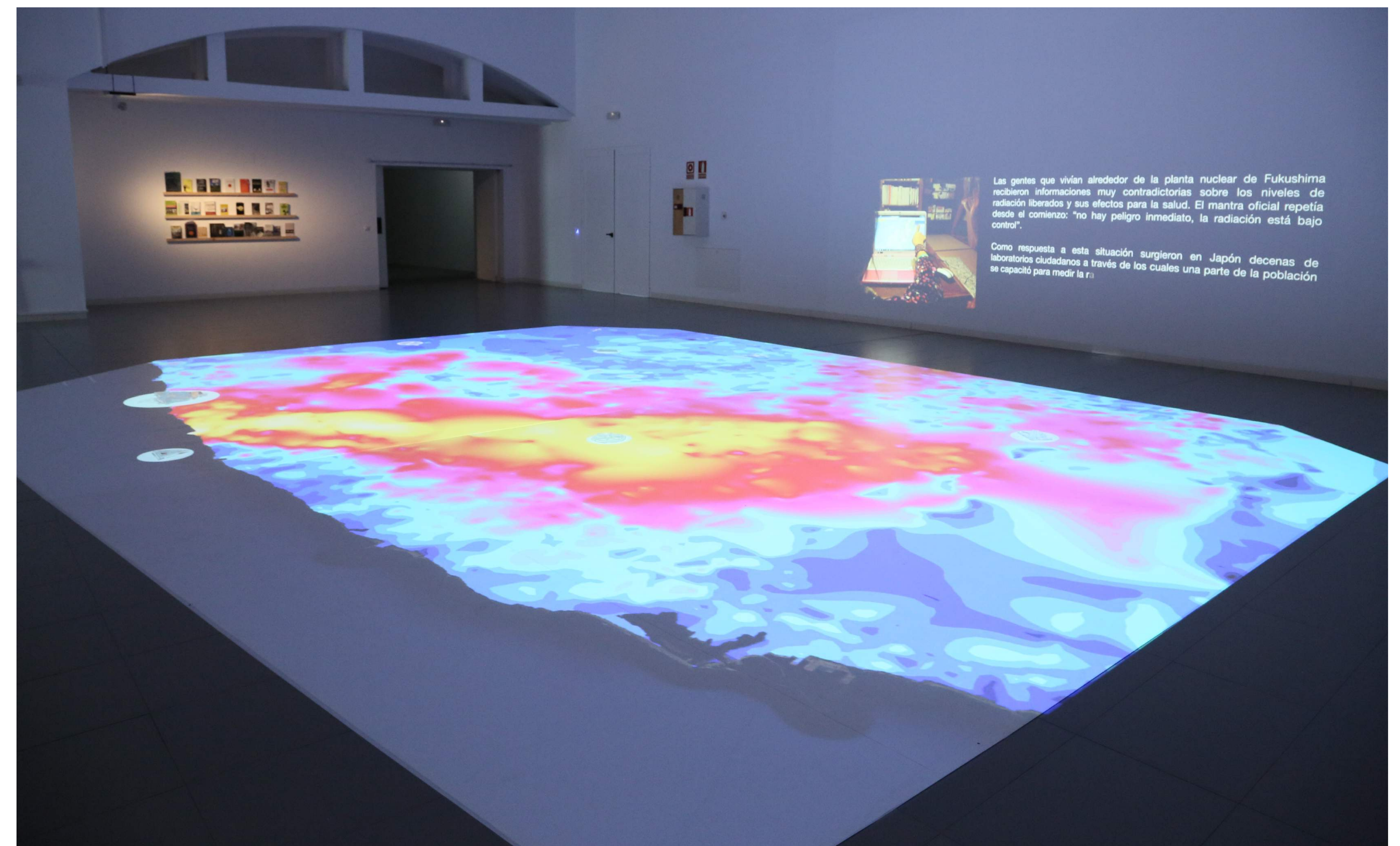
A Project by Pablo DeSoto & Román Torre





Introduction

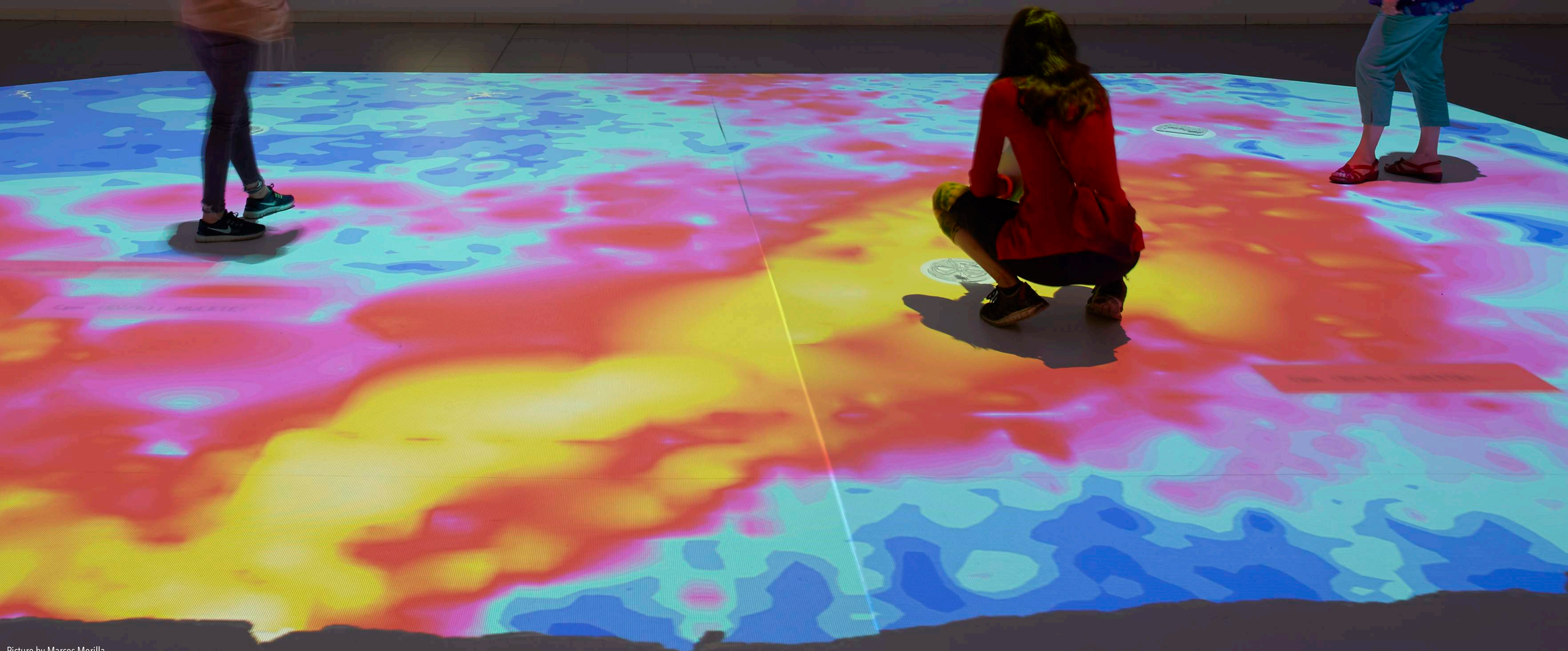
The Zone is an ongoing art and research project about the contemporary landscapes of our damaged planet. It takes its name from a real physical space, the exclusion zone established as a consequence of the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan. The Zone is also a metaphor that constructs the mythology of the present, warning us against dreams of technological progress turned into nightmares.





Las gentes que vivían alrededor de la planta nuclear de Fukushima recibieron informaciones muy contradictorias sobre los niveles de radiación liberados y sus efectos para la salud. El mantra oficial repetía desde el comienzo: “no hay peligro inmediato, la radiación está bajo control”.

Como respuesta a esta situación surgieron en Japón decenas de laboratorios ciudadanos a través de los cuales una parte de la población se capacitó para medir la radiación por ella misma.



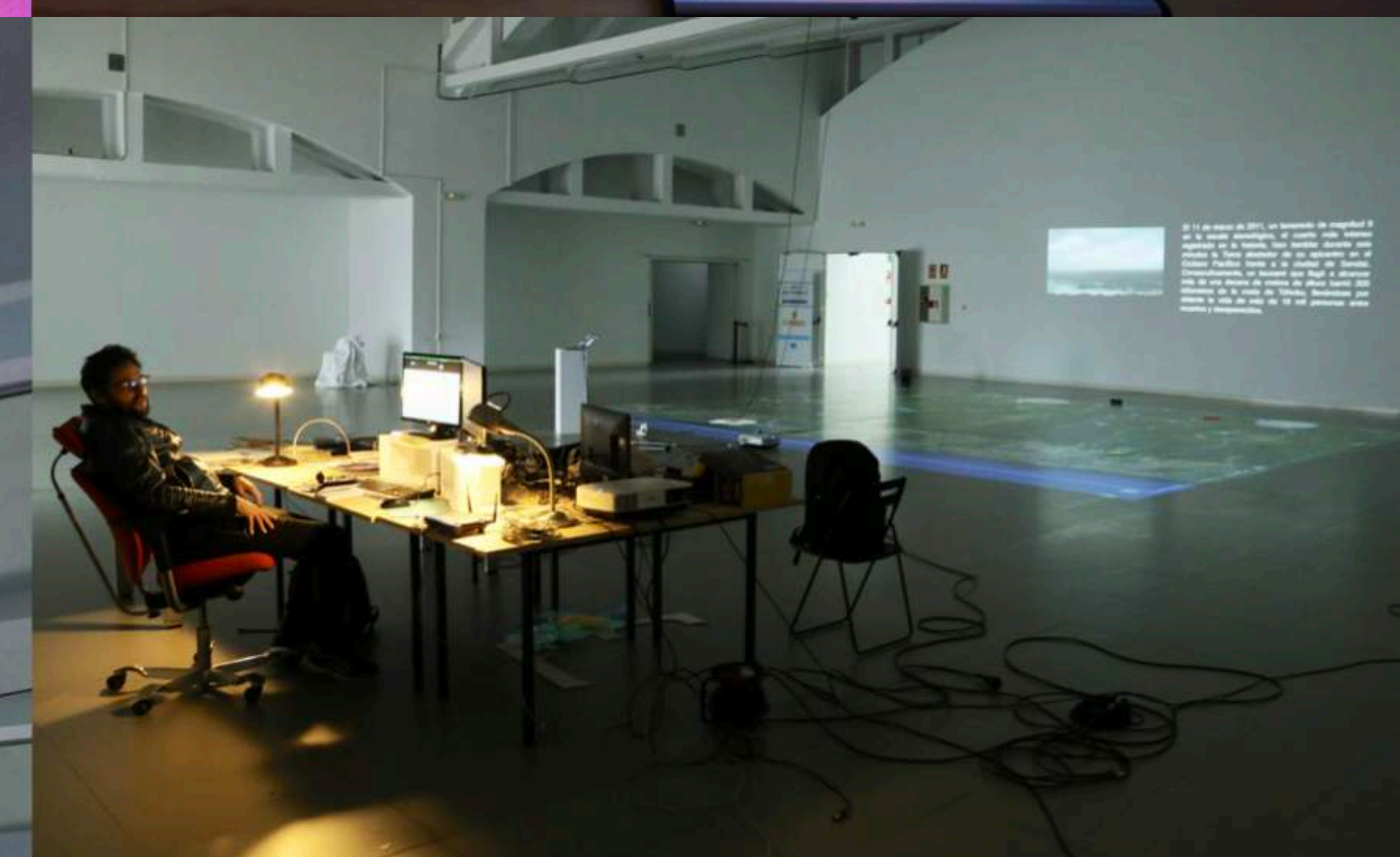
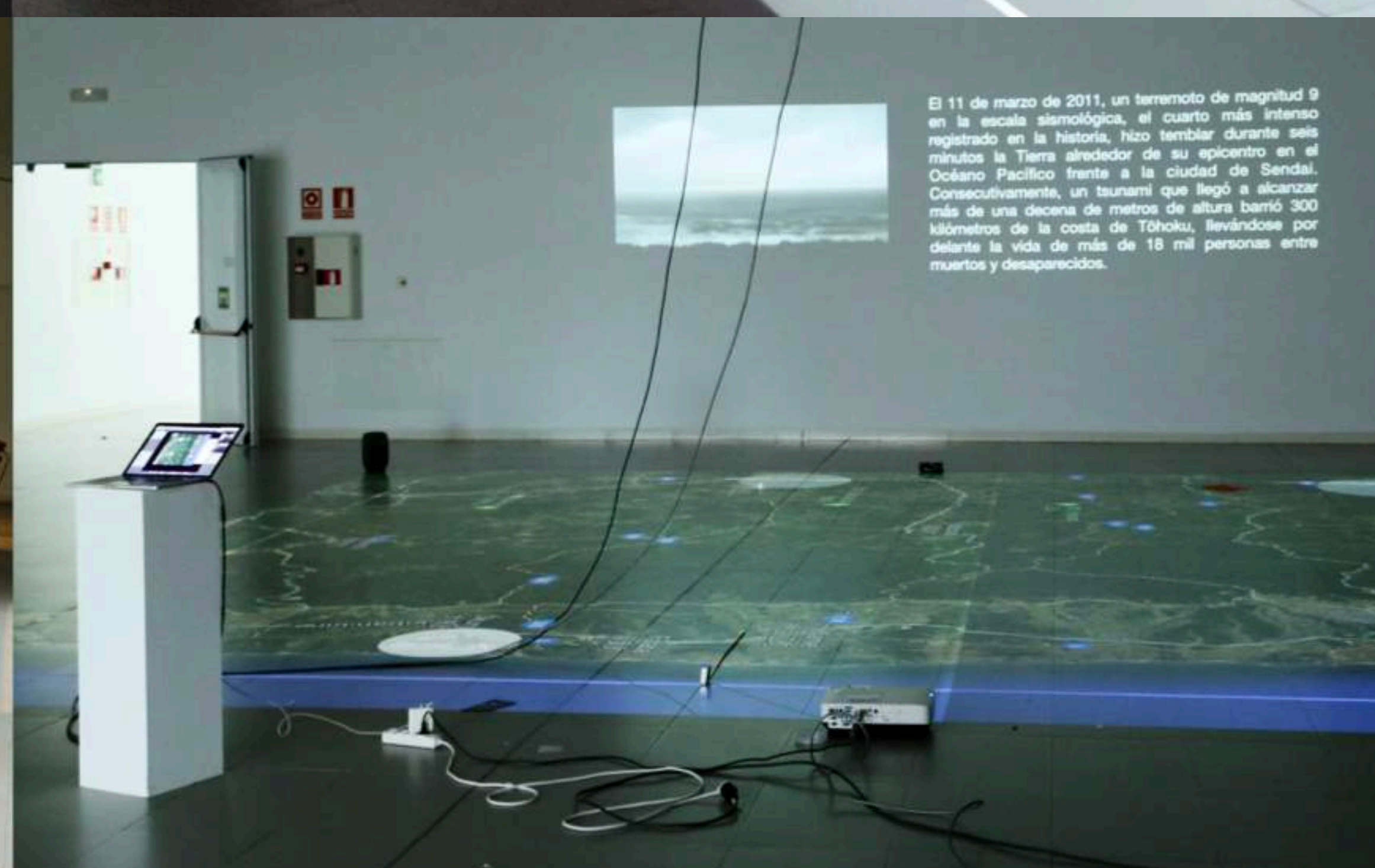
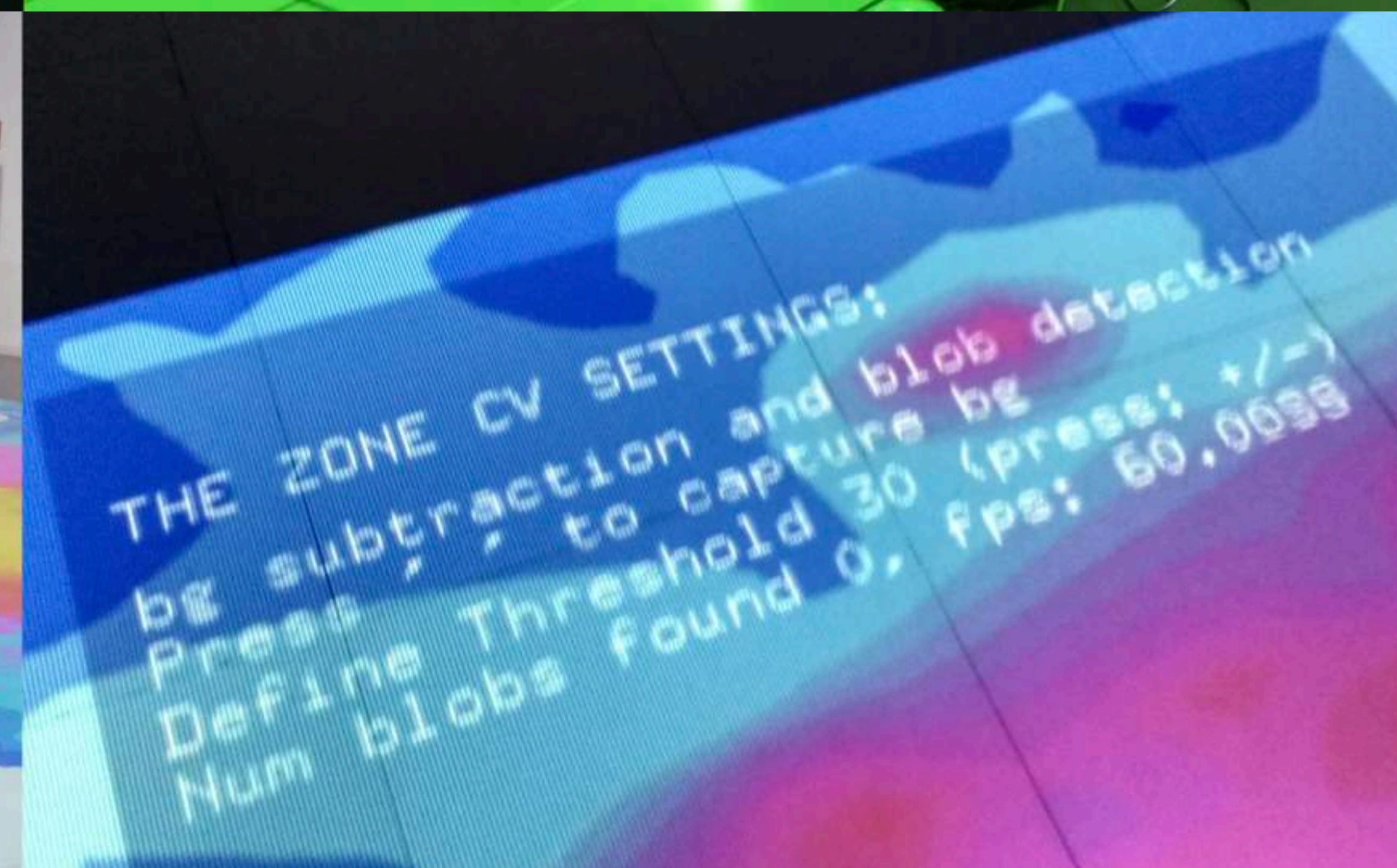
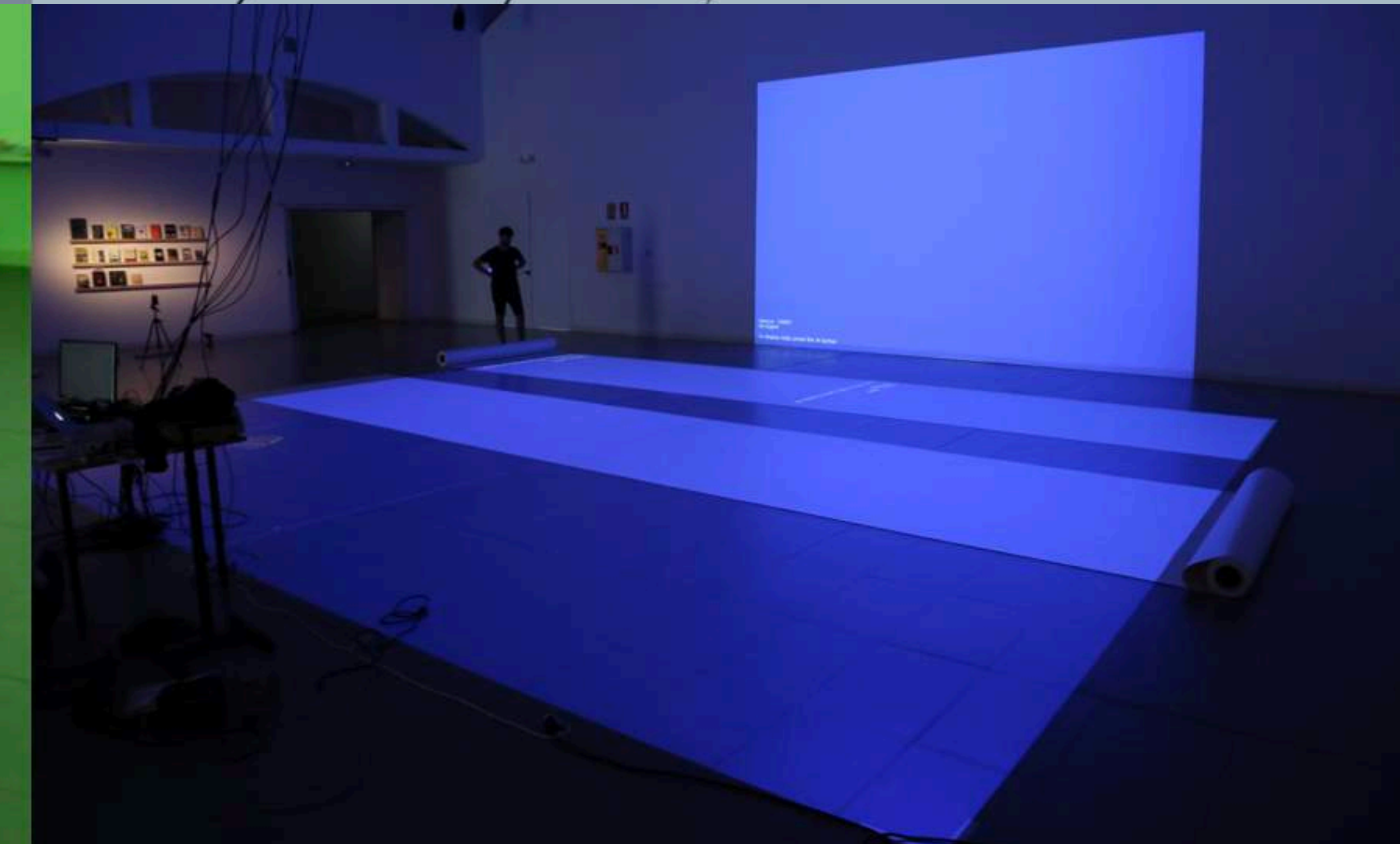
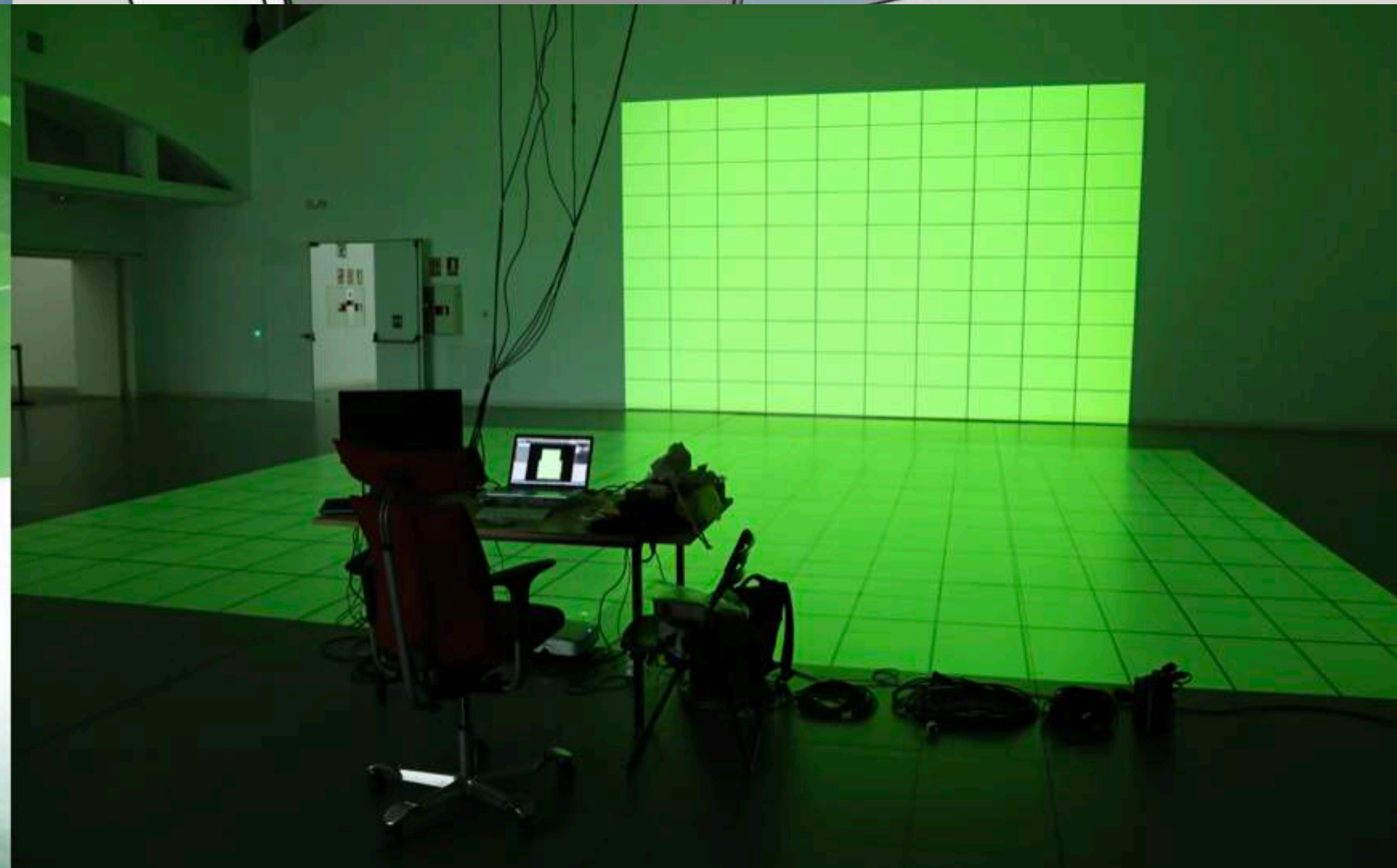
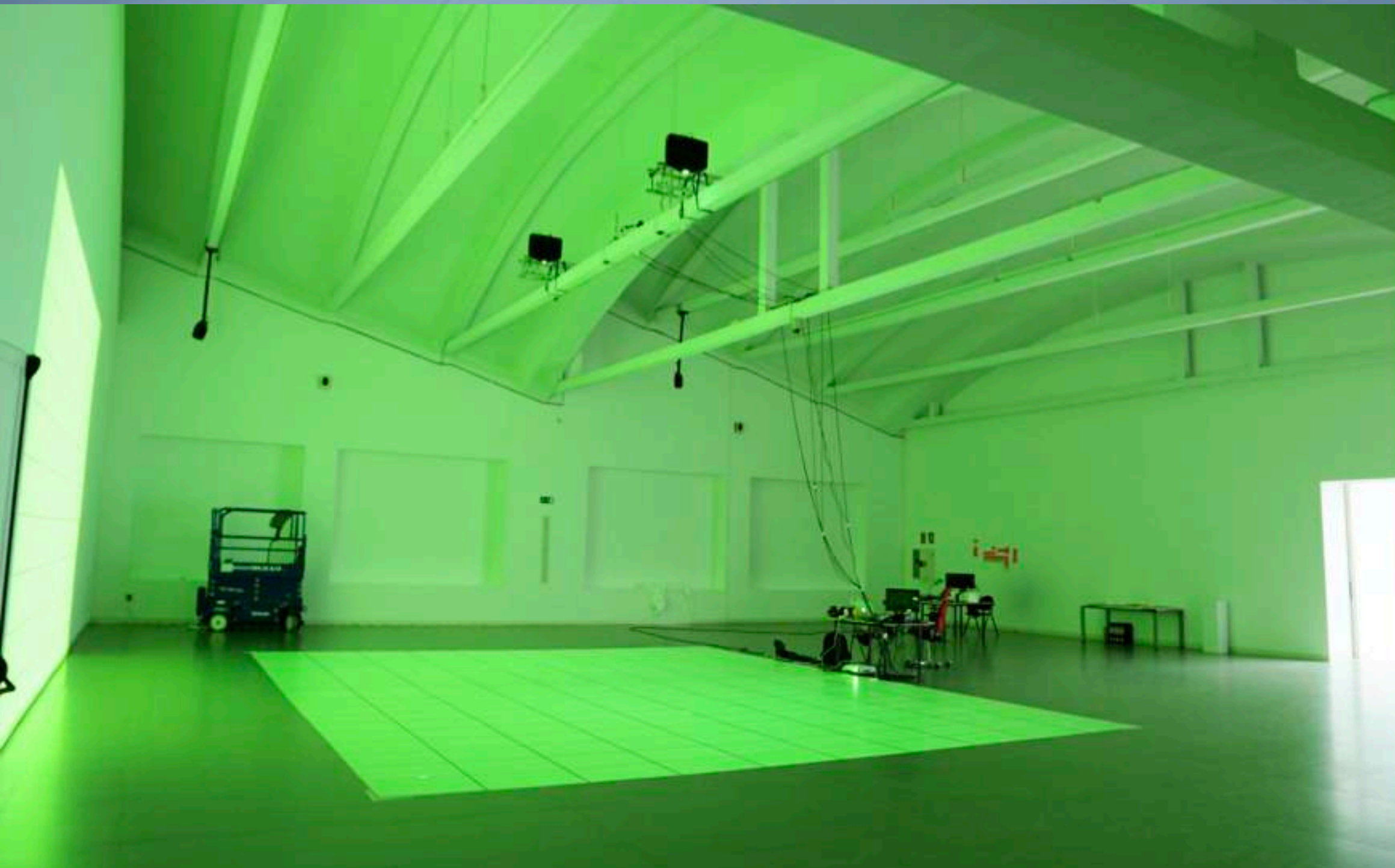
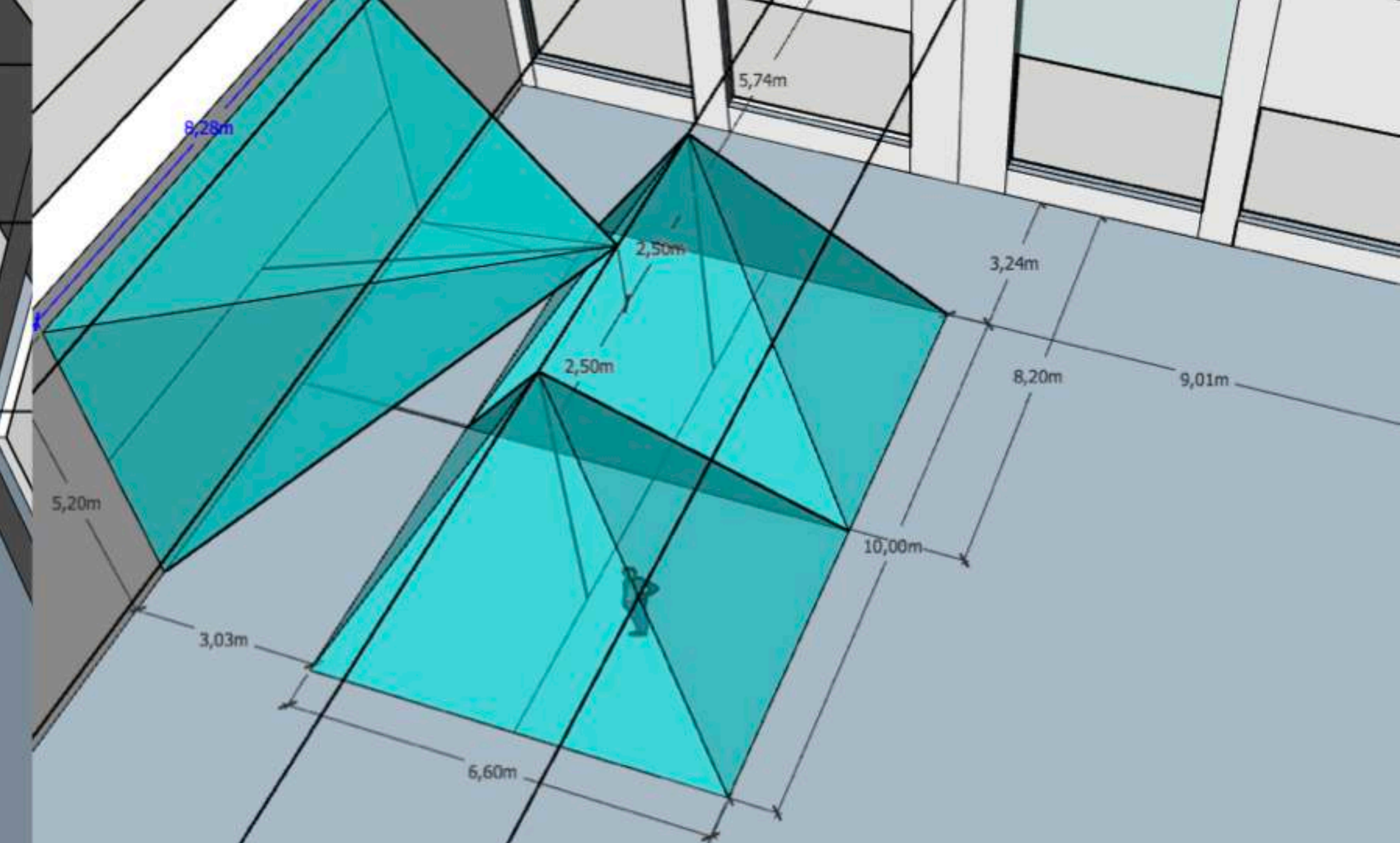
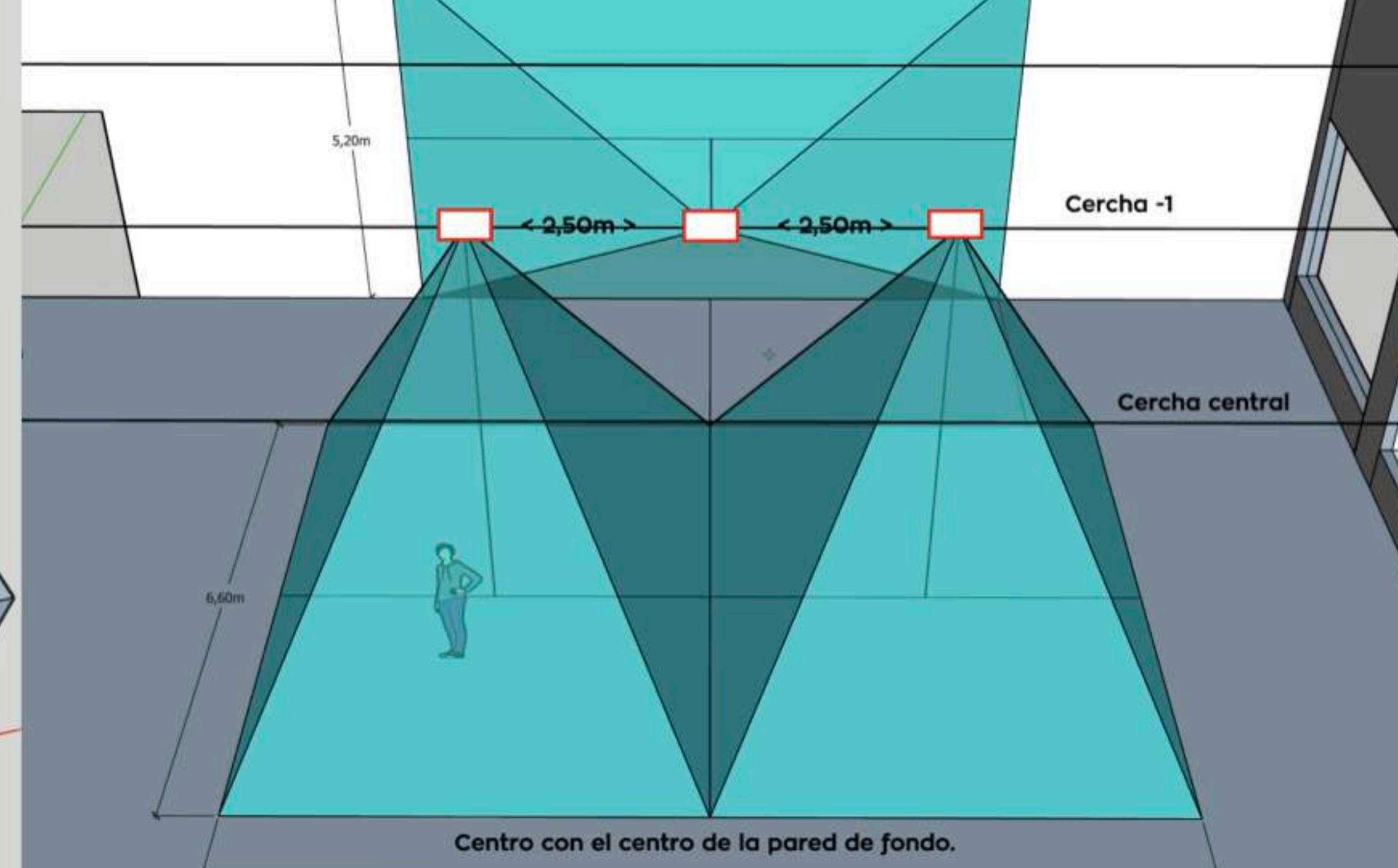
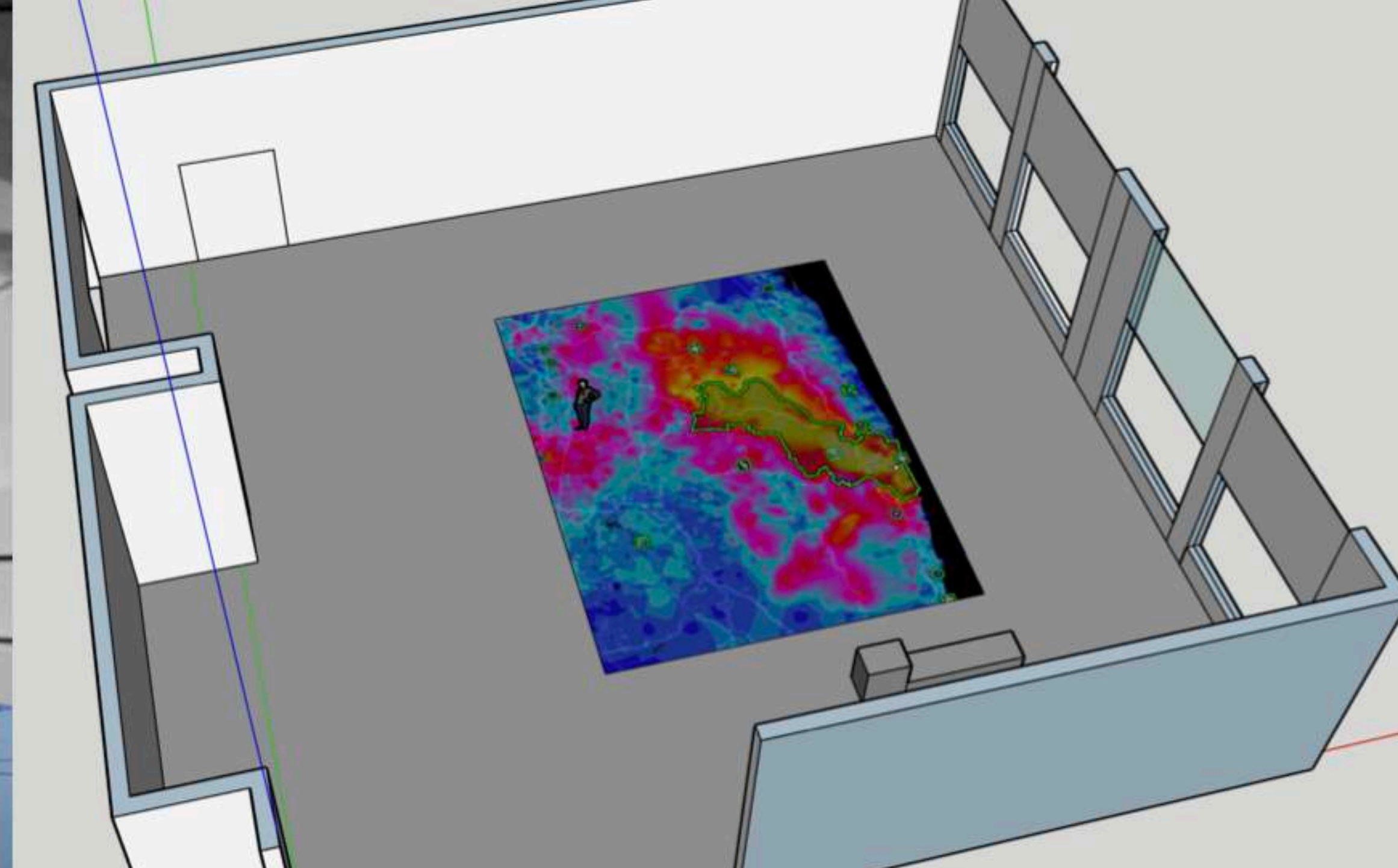


Technical Description

The Zone consists of four main parts: 1/ an outdoors installation, 2/ an interactive map, 3/ a workers area, 4/ a documentation area. Taking the Fukushima disaster as a case study of the Anthropocene/Capitalocene, the project explores the possibilities of art & cartography displays in understanding contemporary environmental disasters.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fwAxN3BLGk>





Outdoors Installation

An outdoors installation occupy the public space at the entrance of LABoral Art Center. It consists of a deposit of radioactive bags evoking the storage facilities for contaminated soil from the nuclear crisis spread over all the ridges of Fukushima prefecture.

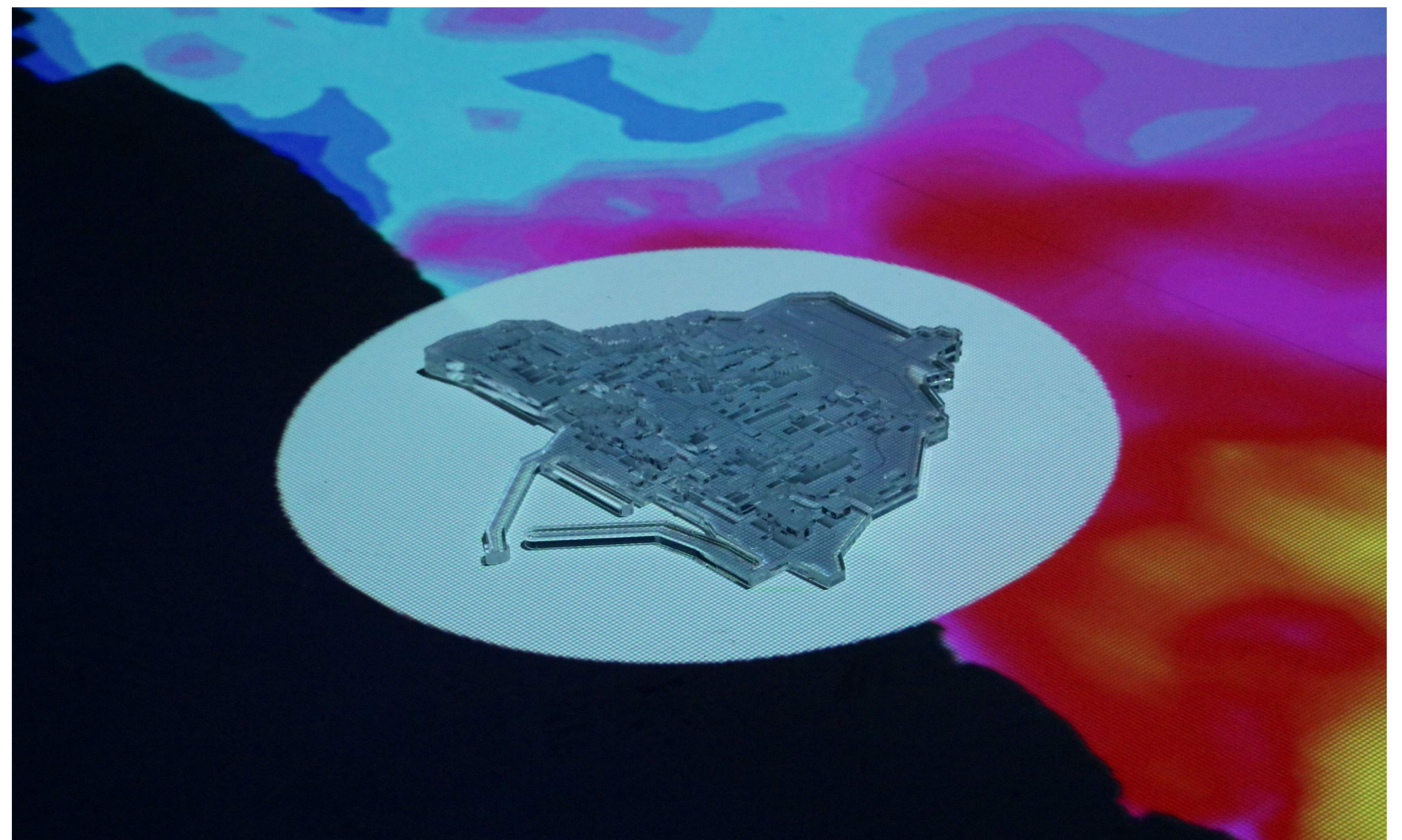






Interactive Map

The main piece of The Zone is a 78 square metres interactive map. The map is projected on the floor allowing the visitors to walk on the top of it. Five digitally fabricated objects on its surface, when approached by the visitor, activate a specific story. These stories include 1/ the earthquake and tsunami, 2/ the multiple nuclear reactor meltdowns, 3/ the evacuation of the population, 4/ the first journalist to get into the Exclusion Zone, and 5/ the citizen science as a response to the radiological disaster.

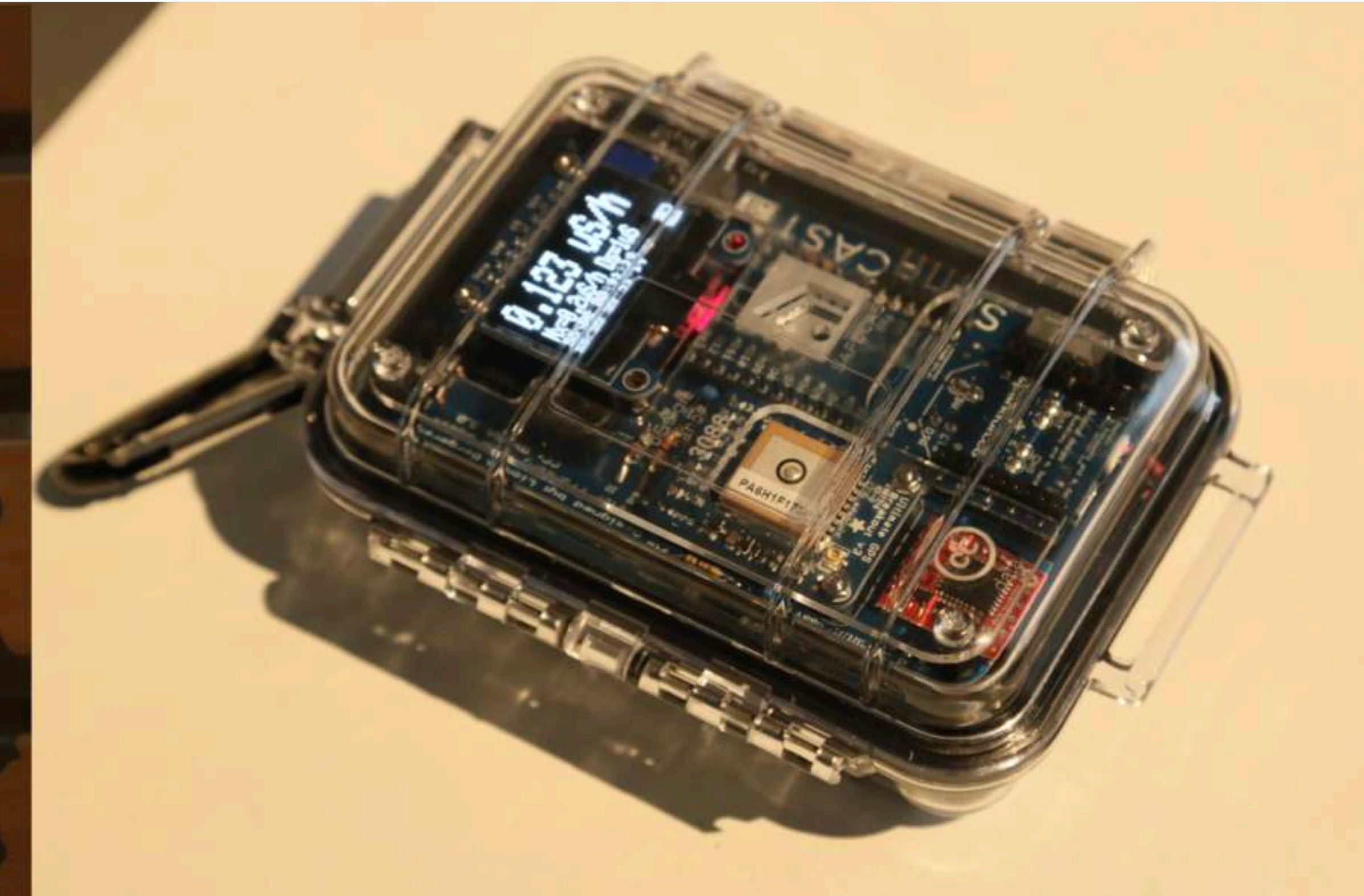
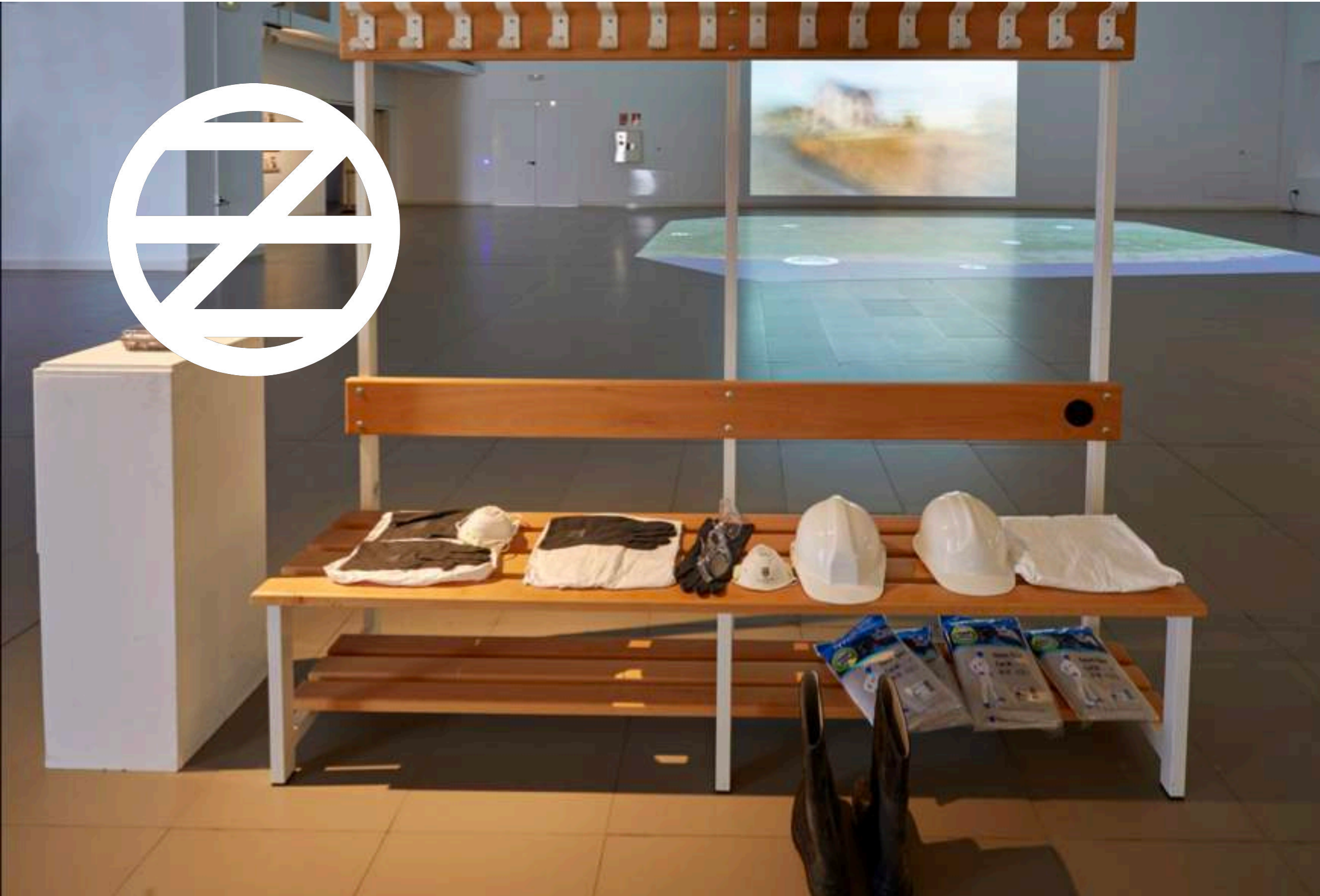




Cpm (SV/h): PELIGRO!

Cpm (SV/h): PELIGRO!

Cpm (SV/h): PELIGRO!



Workers Area

The workers' area is a tribute to the thousands of workers, mostly subcontract ones, who enter Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant everyday or work in the decontamination brigades. It includes a Geiger Counter developed by Safecast, a citizen science community established in Japan as a response to the nuclear disaster.







Documentation Area

The Zone includes a documentation area with books, reports, photos and academic papers on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. It additionally includes resources from primary sources collected in Japan between November 2011 and February 2012. Selected Academic Papers are organised into six main categories: Social Movements, Citizen Science, Philosophy, Ecosystems, Activism, Workers and Public Health.





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Román Torre's work is not anchored to any particular format. He is especially interested in visual and speculative narratives inspired by science and science fiction. He likes to recreate that kind of situations consciously or unconsciously through installations, devices and other series of artistic formats that allow him to combine technical and visual research, interest in contemporary issues surrounding the human being in its technological and social environment.
<http://www.romantorre.net>

Pablo DeSoto is a scholar and artist with a singular and iconoclastic experience across geographic and disciplinary borders. He holds a Master Degree in Architecture from the Royal Institute of Technology of Stockholm and a PhD in Communication & Culture from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. He is LAB_Joven Experimenta & LAB_Cyberspaces awards by LABoral. Pablo is the editor of three books and he has exhibited, taught and lectured worldwide.
<http://pablodesoto.org>



Credits

A Project by Pablo DeSoto and Román Torre.

6th DKV Álvarez Margaride Production Scholarship by LABoral Art Center & DKV.

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Pictures by Marcos Morilla, Román Torre, Pablo DeSoto & Gabriel Díaz. Logo by María Muñiz.

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