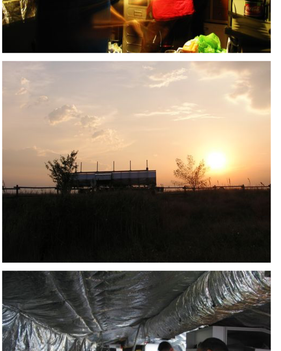
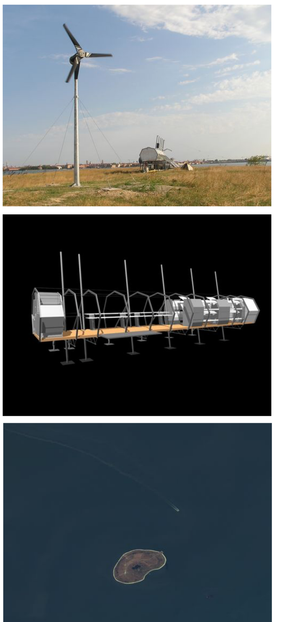
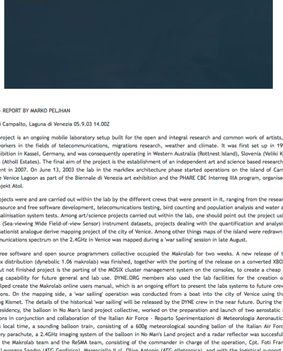
MAKROLAB : Venice Operations 2003







MLA050903002M - REPORT BY MARKO PELJHAN

Makrolab, Isola di Campalto, Laguna di Venezia 05.9.03 14.00Z

The MAKROLAB project is an ongoing mobile laboratory setup built for the open and integral research and common work of artists, scientists and tactical media workers in the fields of telecommunications, migrations research, weather and climate. It was first set up in 1997, during the documenta X exhibition in Kassel, Germany, and was consequently operating in Western Australia (Rottnest Island), Slovenia (Veliki Kras) and in the Scotish Highlands (Atholl Estates). The final aim of the project is the establishment of an independent art and science based research station on the Antarctic continent in 2007. On June 13, 2003 the lab in the markilex architecture phase started operations on the island of Campalto (Isola di Campalto), in the Venice Lagoon as part of the Biennale di Venezia art exhibition and the PHARE CBC Interreg IIIA program, organised by Patagonia Art, re:la and Projekt Atol.

Many discrete projects were and are carried out within the lab by the different crews that were present in it, ranging from the research of the local ecology, to open source and free software development, telecomunications testing, bird counting and population analysis and water and solid waste recycling and desalinisation system tests. Among art/science projects carried out within the lab, one should point out the project using the SeaStar satellite SeaWIFS (Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view Sensor) instrument datasets, projects dealing with the quantification and analysis of the life in the lab and a situationist analogue derive mapping project of the city of Venice. Among other things maps of the island were redrawn and remapped and the telecommunications spectrum on the 2.4GHz in Venice was mapped during a 'war sailing' session in late August.

The DYNE.ORG free software and open source programmers collective occupied the Makrolab for two weeks. A new release of the DYNEBOLIC bootable CD Linux distribution (dynebolic 1.06 makrolab) was finished, together with the porting of the release on a converted XBOX console. The other initiated but not finished project is the porting of the MOSIX cluster management system on the consoles, to create a cheap and affordable cluster computing capability for future general and lab use. DYNE.ORG members also used the lab facilities for the creation of performance situations and helped create the Makrolab online users manual, which is an ongoing effort to present the labs systems to future crews for safe and effective operations. On the mapping side, a 'war sailing' operation was conducted from a boat into the city of Venice using three monitoring computers running Kismet. The details of the historical 'war sailing' will be released by the DYNE crew in the near future. During the second part of the DYNE crew residency, the balloon in No Man's land project collective, worked on the preparation and launch of two aerostatic meteorological observation baloons in conjunction and collaboration of the Italian Air Force - Reparto Sperimentazioni di Meteorologia Aeronautica, (ReSMA). At 6.30UTC, 8.20AN local time, a sounding balloon train, consisting of a 600g meteorological sounding ballon of the Italian Air Force Meteorology Service, a recovery parachute, a 2.4GHz imaging system of the balloon in No Man's Land project and a radar reflector was successfully launched by Nin Brudermann, the Makrolab team and the ReSMA team, consisting of the commander in charge of the operation, Cpt. Foti Francesco (GARN), Maresciallo II cl. Lavorgna Sandro (ATG Geofisico), Maresciallo II cl. Oliva Antonio (ATG ellettronica), and with the logistical support by 51o Stormo Istrana, represented by Primo Maresciallo Randazzo Francesco (ATG Motorizzazione).

The balloon was launched from the position 45deg 27.662 North and 27deg 19.093, 15m SE from the markilex structure on Campalto Island, Venice Lagoon, and ascended at an approximate speed of 7m/s.

The imaging system operated nominally for approximately 30 minutes, to the estimated altitude of 12600m, then the LOS occurred. No visual observations of the balloon were reported by approaching or departing aircraft at nearby airports. (a class 1, series B NOTAM, Number 4288 was issued in conjuction with the launch). The second launch from the same location was executed at 1805 UTC, 2005 local time, with a larger payload and a longer range transmission system developed by the artist and radio-amateurs from Germany and Austria. The launch was carried out during the start of a CB based storm, but was extremely successful in terms of imaging, with the transmission lasting 45 minutes, even though the balloon entered several lower and higher cloud layers in extreme temperatures. 0600 UTC and 1800 UTC are standard observation times for Global Upper Air Observation.

The Balloon in No Man's land project by Nin Brudermann is an ongoing art/science project that the artist is carrying out in conjunction with meteorology services and agencies of various countries. In September and October of this year she will be operating and launching from the Aurora Australis ship and the Australian Antarctic Station Casey.