

## Joëlle Bitton – “Abstract project”

My current research based on the development of the concept for the project “Abstract” aims to place people in an empty space so they experience a razor’s edge situation: always on the border, between two worlds, passing from one to the other. Inspired by elements at stake in the Japanese garden and the tension between contemplation and action, this project offers the experience of difference and of a fragile balance, of what is called in the Japanese culture, the impermanence of things. The latter is then staged in a relationship to the cycle of time, to the emotions that the expectation of something to happen can generate.

The perception of the reality and the time that passes raise key questions that directly relate to the constraints and qualities of interactive projects. The time of the interactivity is not regular. Interactive works seldom approach the issues of rhythm that accepts that users can be attentive, active at certain times and passive at others. This is why integrating the notion of a cycle - the four seasons of a garden for instance - is particularly interesting. Separated from the world, the garden in which one can let go is also located in the world. The importance of the empty space and what it "generates" accentuate a disconcerting or altered perception of the reality, an expectation of something that can happen, that has to happen. What does one do while waiting? What does one project on the uncertainties of waiting?

This project also cares to invite the users to use their bodies and its movements as interfaces. Indeed, cast shadows of the participants are projected on the ground and uncover drawings and videos that recall a Japanese garden. This experience of the cycle of time and the waiting triggered by the forced focus of the participants on a detail, cast by their shadow, attempts to push the visitors in an abstract journey, guided by their own body. This concept wishes then to be very physical so it underlines the energy spent to wait and questions what waiting can generate as dangerous.

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To date, Joëlle Bitton’s research has centered on the themes of cultural identity and immigration heritage; intimate interfaces and love relationships; everyday life and triviality; urban and private environments.