

**MULTIMEDIA SCULPTURE INSTALLATION**

**TITLE: "COSMIC WAVES RECEIVER"**

**AUTHOR: RAFAEL TIMONER**

**YEAR: 2.022**

> The "Cosmic Waves Receiver" by Rafael Timoner is the installation made expressly for the participation in the exhibitions "Elogi de la Taula, Menorca Ciclopia".

**Dates and places:**

- 8 October 2022 - 8 January 2023: Centre d'Art Ca n'Oliver, Mahón, Menorca.

- 14 January - 25 March 2023. Sala El Roser, Ciutadella, Menorca.

**Curator:** Carles Jiménez

**Organized by:** Consell Insular de Menorca.

**Collaborating:** Mahón City Council, and Ciutadella City Council.



**INTRODUCTION**

The Insular Council organizes an institutional exhibition linked to the candidacy of Menorca Talayótica to be declared a world heritage site by UNESCO.

<https://www.menorcatalayotica.info/en/TalayoticMenorca>

[https://youtu.be/u1TCm\\_2nDOQ](https://youtu.be/u1TCm_2nDOQ)



*Photo: "Taula", an example of a prehistoric monument from the Island of Menorca.*

*Note: The term "Taula" refers, in the strict sense, to the central element in the form of a "T" of a type of building known as a taula enclosure. This central element is built with two large rectangular slabs, which can exceed four meters in height. The vertical slab is called the support stone while the upper, horizontal one is the capital stone.*

**"Elogi de la Taula. Menorca Ciclòpia"** is a proposal around the "Taula" as a monument (memento) that brings together concepts such as memory, ritual, cosmos, symbol and landscape. The 'taula' as the maximum expression of some unique and exclusive constructions of Menorca, island where we can find one of the highest densities of archaeological sites in the world.

The "Taula" is, without a doubt, the colossal construction that has most inspired contemporary artists. Eugenio López, Rafael Timoner, Laetitia Lara and Gemma Andreu present us their work around the concepts mentioned above and thus contribute to a greater understanding of the meaning of these Talayotic monuments. The exhibition, praising the "Taula" is divided into four concepts and in which each of the artists has created his own proposal: Symbol, Cosmos, Rite and Landscape. In the case of Rafael Timoner, his project has been developed from the "Taula-Cosmos" concept.

Astral worship is a constant in the beliefs of ancient peoples. The Talaiotic culture is not an exception and there are several hypotheses that have been put forward over the years. The scope begins with an original work by Waldemar Fenn, an ink on canvas work depicting the celestial vault. Rafael Timoner (Maó, 1964) is an outstanding artist of sound art, video and installations. It proposes an sculpture made up of an aluminum, and an audio-visual projection that reflects on the cosmic rhythm and our relationship with the cosmos through astral sounds.

## COSMIC WAVES RECEIVER

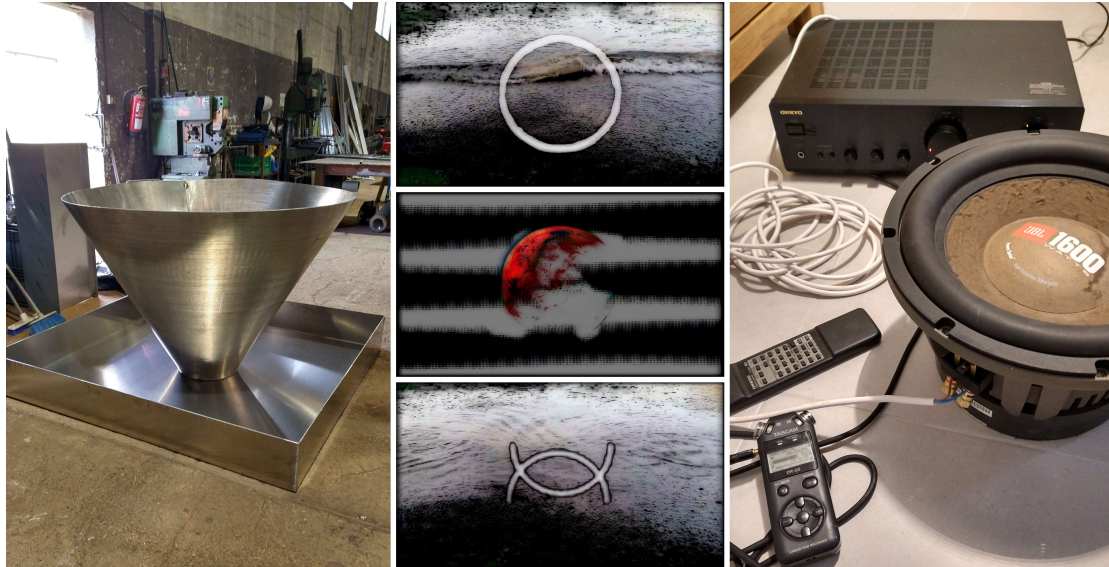
### DESCRIPTION



*Photo: audio visual installation project.*

CWR is the title of the Audio Visual Installation by Rafael Timoner composed of two sculptural aluminum elements (cone and square base). Inside the cone there's a speaker-subwoofer that reproduces the lower frequencies. The square shape of the base contains water that reacts to the vibrations of the reproduced sound. The video is projected on the front wall, which is simultaneously connected to the subwoofer and to a second mini external speaker which reproduces the medium and high frequencies.

The interaction of the audio is used twice to, on the one hand, transfer the sound waves on the surface of the water by means of the "Cimatic", and on the other hand, for the animation of the background video textures of the projection, everything in full sync.



*Photo: audio visual installation project with some video frames.*

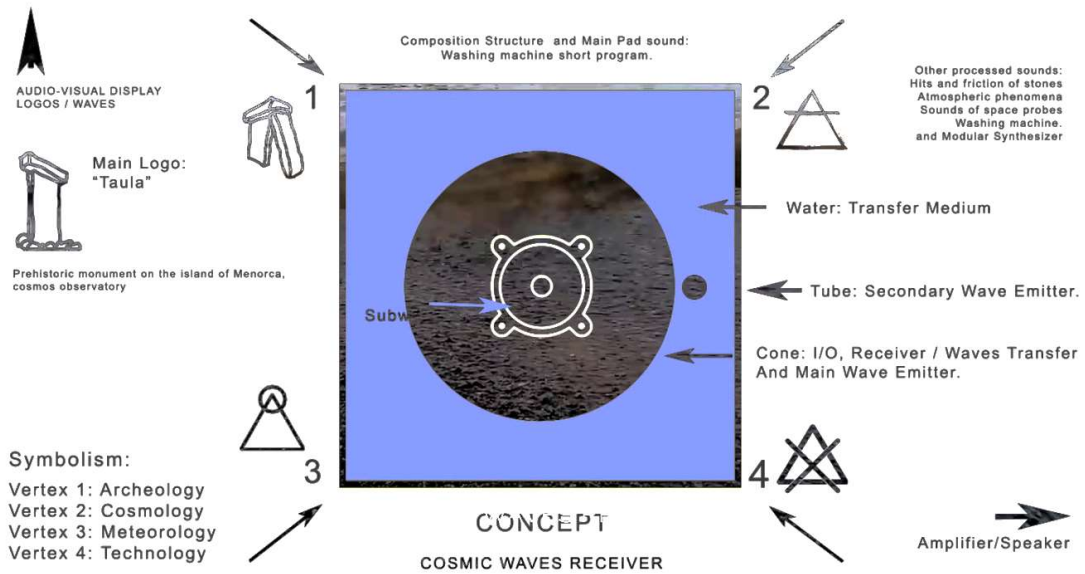
## **CONCEPT**

### **"Elogi de la Taula, Menorca Ciclàpia": Taula / Cosmos.**

Some theories about the origin and use of the "Taulas" in prehistory range from the lunar cult hypothesis of Waldemar Fenn, or their use as places of contemplation of the cosmos according to Michael Hoskins, where the constellation of Centaurus plays a main role. In the actual art installation it includes the aspect not only of contemplation, but also of reception, hence the title of the art work presented.

Rafael Timoner's installation, based on the Taula/Cosmos concept, focuses on the use of symbolism developed with the constant use of pictograms/logos as the main figure of the audio visual projection. Under this concept of "Cosmos" the four sciences that appear metaphorically represented with each one of the vertices of the square base of the main sculpture are grouped: Archeology, Cosmology, Meteorology and Technology.

As the whole art piece are dividen in four parts, both the images and backgrounds that appear in the projection as well as the sounds used correspond to each of these groups or parts, creating a dialogue that develops throughout the 20-minute duration.



*Photo: conceptual project outline.*

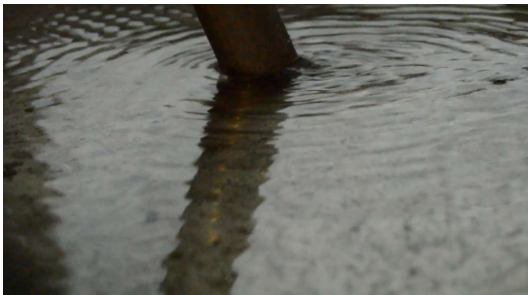
A very important aspect of this work is the constant presence of water in different forms: sea, rain, stagnant water (in the enclosure of the sculpture base that contains it), moving water, etc. The idea of territory surrounded by water is extremely important, a scenario created symbolizing isolation, an isolated portion of land where all the proposed fiction unfolds, an Island.

Just as the cone part of the sculpture is the receiver of cosmic waves, the entire aluminum piece also acts as a translator-converter by means of the conical base and the tube that comes out of it, the sound waves are propagated and transmitted to the water surface of the square base of the sculpture that contains it, in this way these waves are no longer only audible, they also become visible. the transfer of the waves is achieved by means of the vibration of the waves reproduced by the 1200 Watt loudspeaker/subwoofer installed inside the cone.



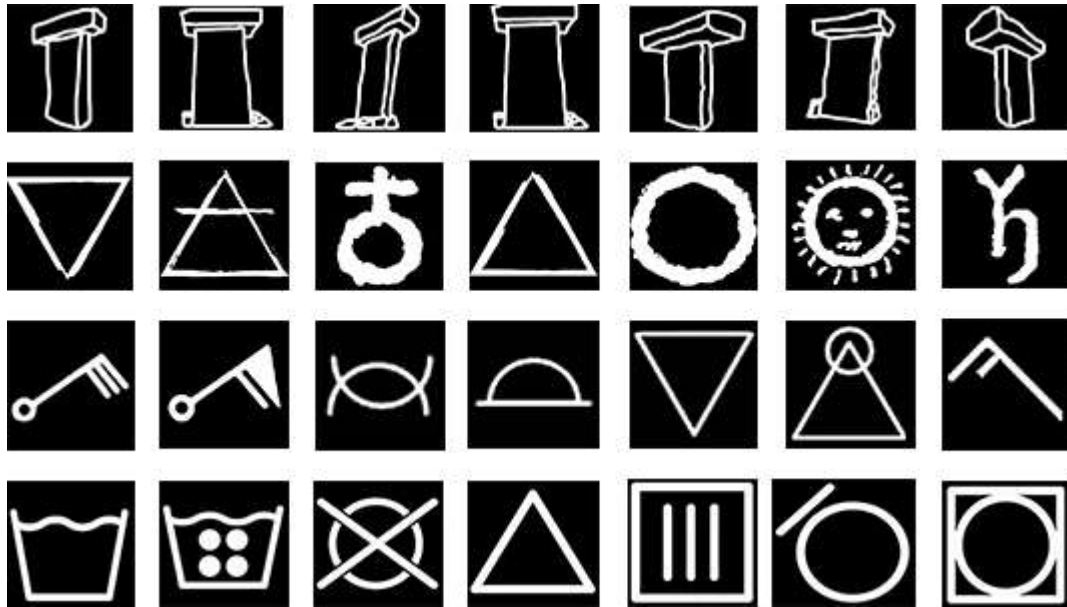
*Photo: Subwoofer.*

Also the mechanical recoil of the subwoofer membrane causes an increase in pressure and displacement of air, which is redirected towards the additional tube that connects from the bottom of the aluminum cone and to the water, this force is harnessed as a secondary waves emitter.



*Photo: Tube as a secondary waves emitter.*

Returning to the four parts in which the work is divided, at the first part corresponding to "**Archeology**" the pictograms represent different perspectives of "Taulas" used as symbols. The second part, the pictograms correspond to the symbols of the elements, planets, sun, moon, stars... in correspondence to "**Cosmology**". The third part is represented by the meteorological symbols (force of the sea, waves, storms, rain, etc...) which is the "**Meteorology**". And the last and fourth part represents "**Technology**", the pictograms correspond to the symbols of a washing program from a washing machine, in this case, of course, with a certain ironic and sarcastic dose.



*Picture: Some of the symbols used in each of the four parts.  
From top to bottom: Archeology, Cosmology, Metheorology and Technology.*

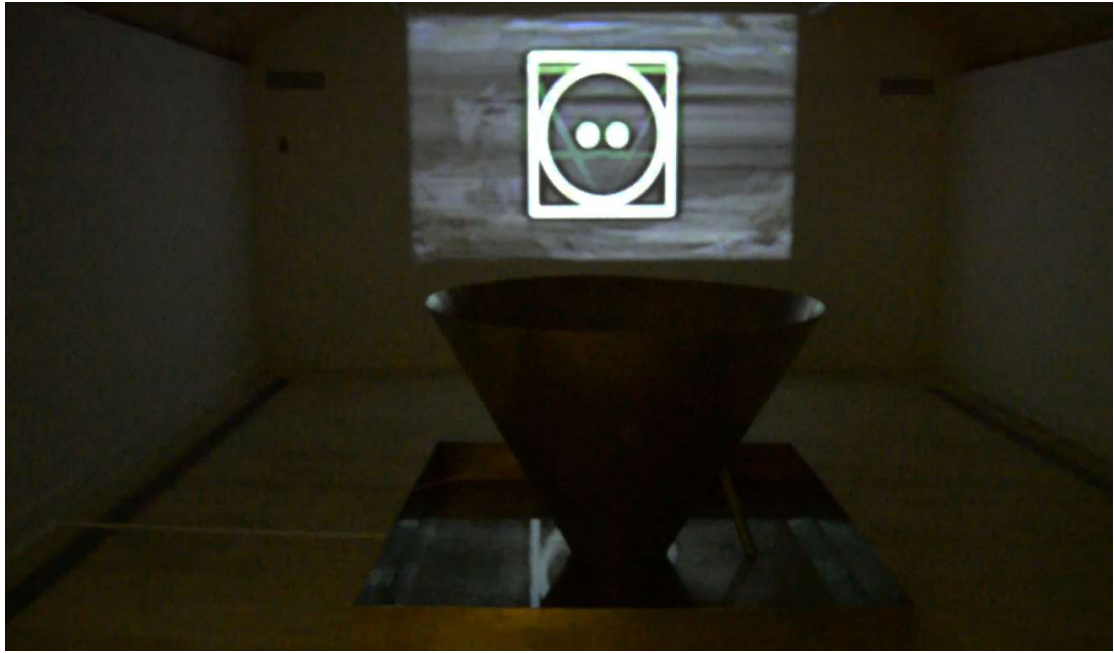
About the sound track, the structure is composed following the different rhythms and silences of the noise produced by a short washing machine program and its stages: wetting, washing, rinsing and spinning (drying). That is the sound that you can hear as the background as a pad and representing the "Technology". That pad by means of an "Envelope follower" is what produces the synchronized movements of the background textures that appear in the video, which, ultimately, are also caused always by sound waves, the audio.

The part of the "Cosmology" is sound with recordings made by NASA through space probes, these sounds proceed from the cosmos, planets, stars, etc... filtered and edited. The sonorities of meteorological effects and other phenomena are those that represent the part of Meteorology. and the part of Archeology is represented by sounds created from shocks and friction of different types of stones from the Island of Menorca.

All these sound sources are the ones that are combined and structured to create the final composition of the audio that accompanies the video.

It is important to point out that the origin of both the video and the audio is created and synchronized by means of sound waves, which in turn are the ones that have been selected with the intention of supporting, in all senses, both the movement and the concept of the entire installation.





*Photo: Installation front view.*

These have been the keys to understanding the proposed audiovisual installation, many other details will undoubtedly appear when experiencing the installation live. Direct experimentation is conceived and designed to envelop the visitor (receiver) in a sea of waves and vibrations, both acoustic and visual, which make them an important part of the art work itself, being a total sensory experience.

#### **LINKS**

<https://www.rafaeltimoner.com/av-installations>

<https://youtu.be/dtBlizuGmTY>

rafaeltimoner@outlook.es