



All the
LIGHT
Reveals

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All the Light Reveals

An MFA Thesis Exhibition
by Vivienne Valladares

OCAD U, Graduate Gallery
205 Richmond St. W.
Toronto, ON M4R 0A4
March 26 – 29, 2026



Photographed by Aman Deshmukh

All the Light Reveals is an immersive and interactive light exhibit. Viewers are invited to explore, reflect and revel in the light.

Much of what we understand about the Universe emerges from collecting and interpreting information carried by light — a process that has shaped both scientific knowledge and our sense of place within the cosmos. My work reflects on how these acts of interpretation reveal an interconnected universe, positioning the human subject within the expansive, intricate web of the Cosmos.



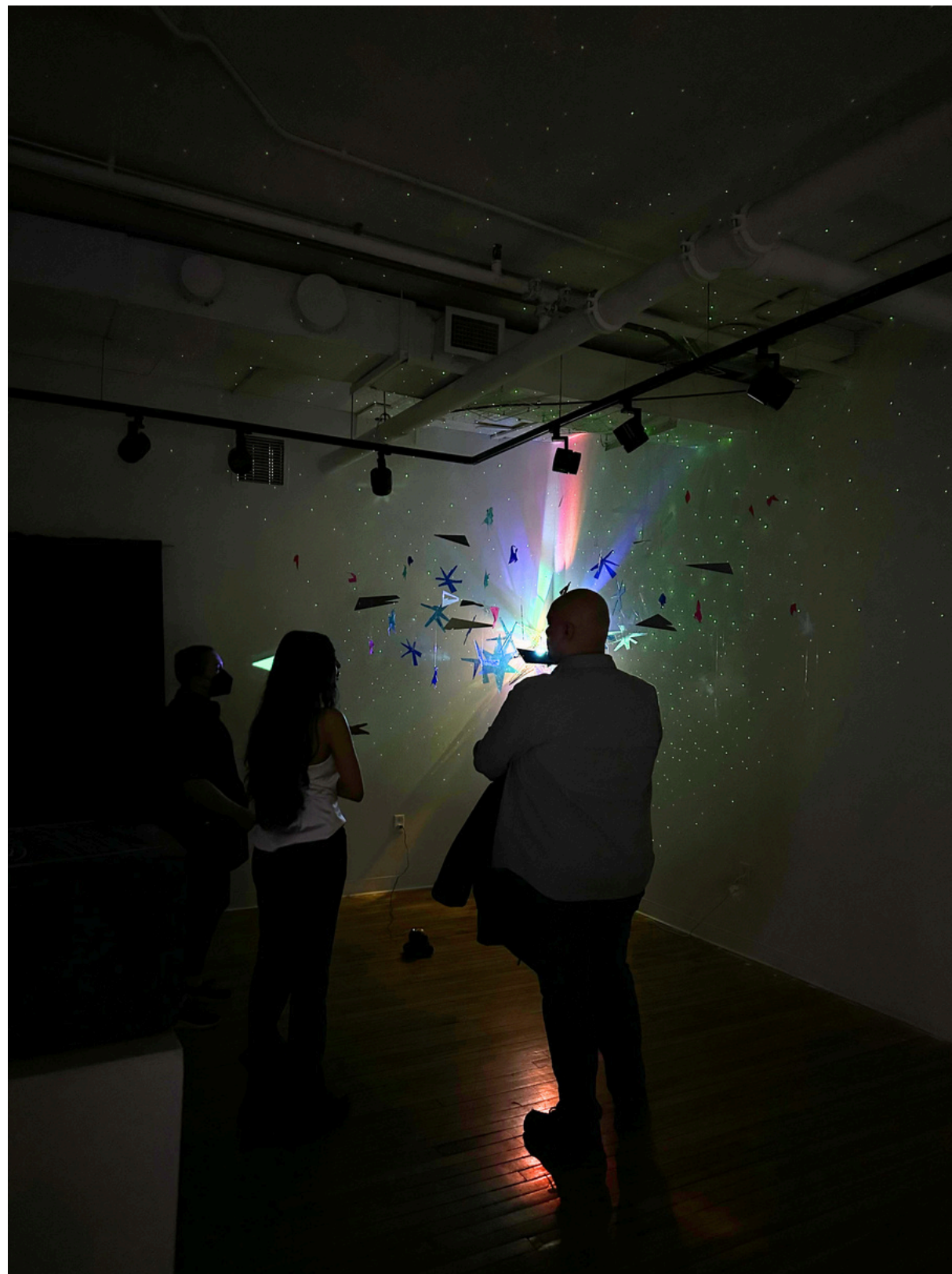
Photographed by Aman Deshmukh

01

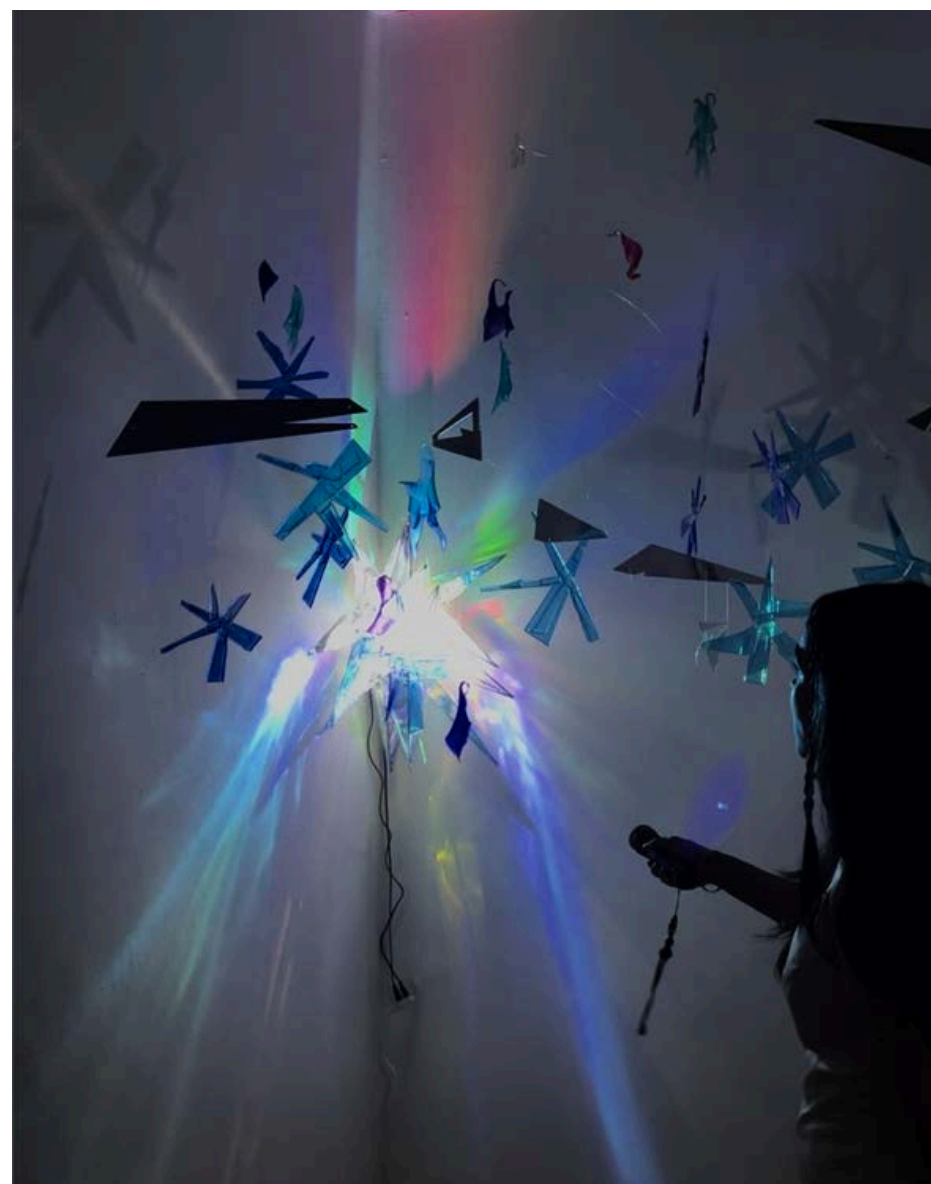
*you were once
a star*

Materials: LED spot lights, glass, clear acrylic, silver mirrored acrylic, holographic film, bioplastic, wooden skewers, cellophane wrap, PVC dichroic vinyl film, reflective mylar, laser star projector and a flashlight.

Dimensions variable.



Photographed by Natalia Valladares



Photographed by Natalia Valladares

Interaction:

Viewers were invited to interact with this installation using a flashlight. Changes in the direction of the beam and the viewer's proximity to the centre star would affect the caustic projections created.

TLDR artist blurb:

you were once a star is a mixed-media installation using glass, bioplastic, holographic film, reflective mylar, and light. The work uses the supernova as a metaphor for the continuous redistribution of matter across the cosmos — the process by which star stuff becomes everything, including us.



Photographed by Aman Deshmukh

The longer story:

Humans have had an extensive history of looking to the night sky and asking where we come from. Different cultures and Indigenous knowledge systems have long held the stars as ancestors. Science eventually caught up to the truth in what was considered myth.

Astrophysics describes how most elements heavier than hydrogen and helium are fused in the hearts of stars through a process called nucleosynthesis. When a star dies in a supernova, these elements are scattered across the cosmos, gathering over billions of years into new forms: meteors, planets, protostars, and eventually, life.



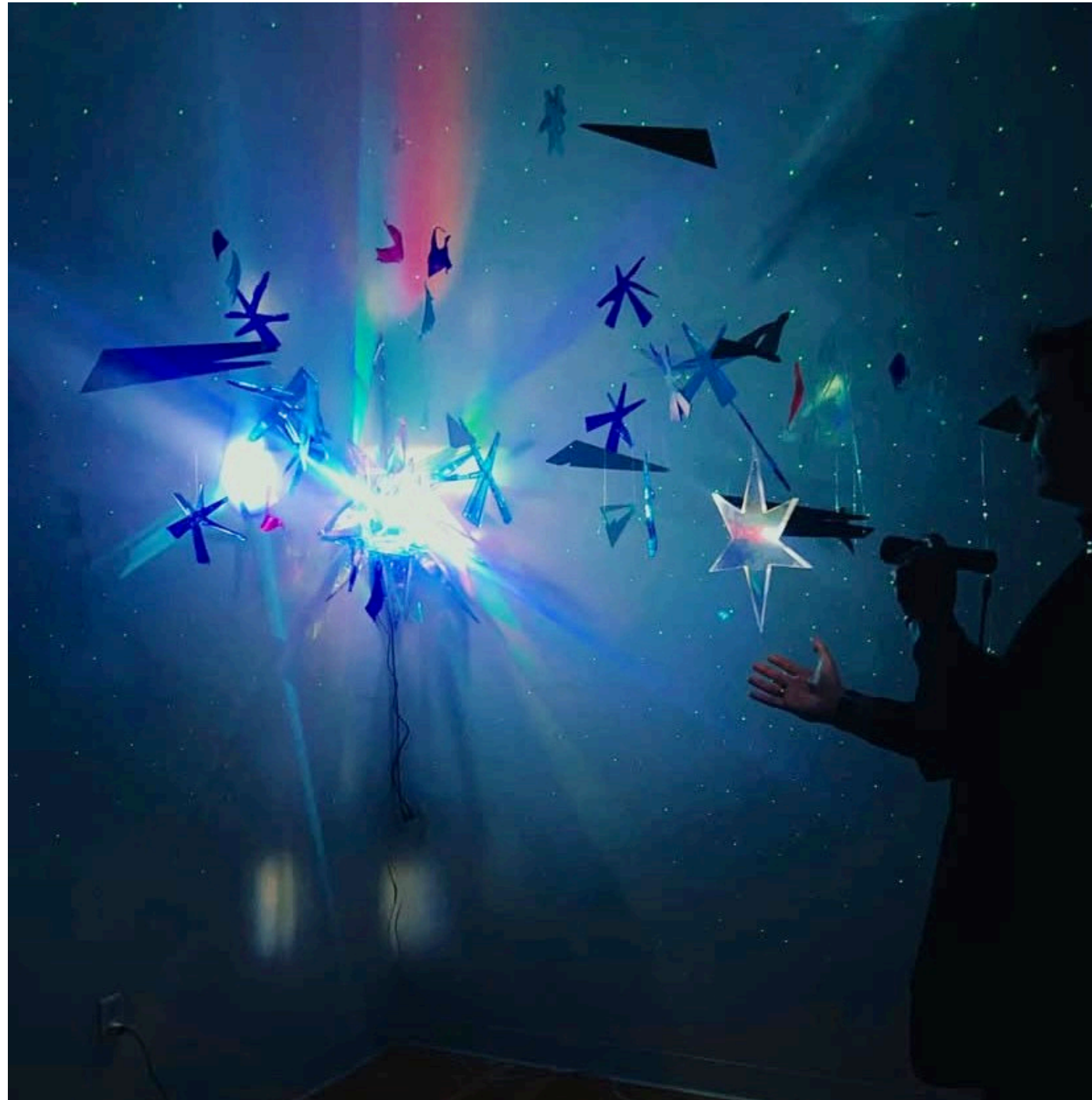
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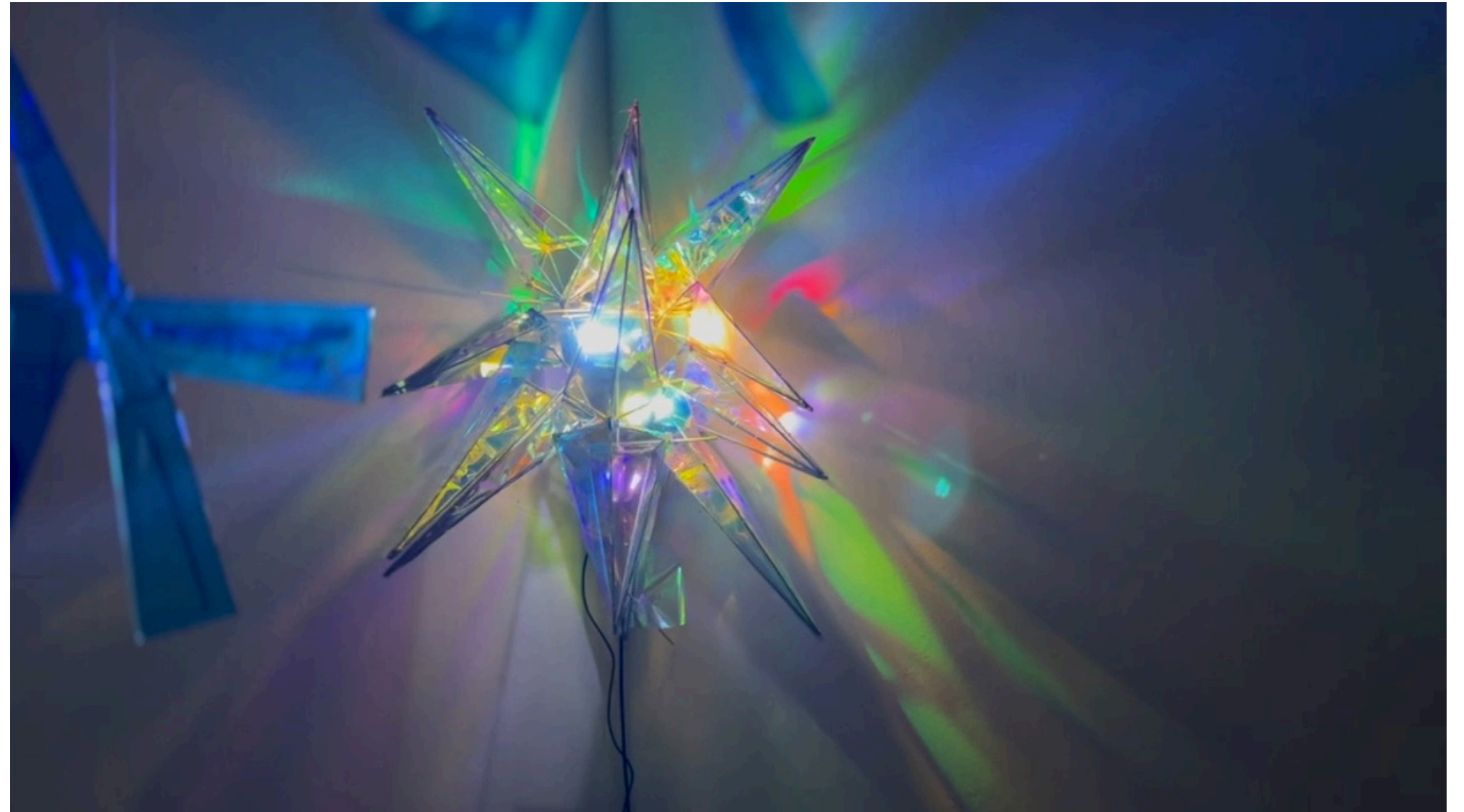
Photographed by Aman Deshmukh



Photographed by Aman Deshmukh



Photographed by Assal Toudehfallah



Photographed by Suhavi Dhillon



Photographed by Aman Deshmukh

02

touch what grass?

Materials: grass carpets, black fabric, metal trays, water, bass shakers, microphones, flashlights, mini disco tiles, watercolour paper and watercolour.

Dimensions variable.

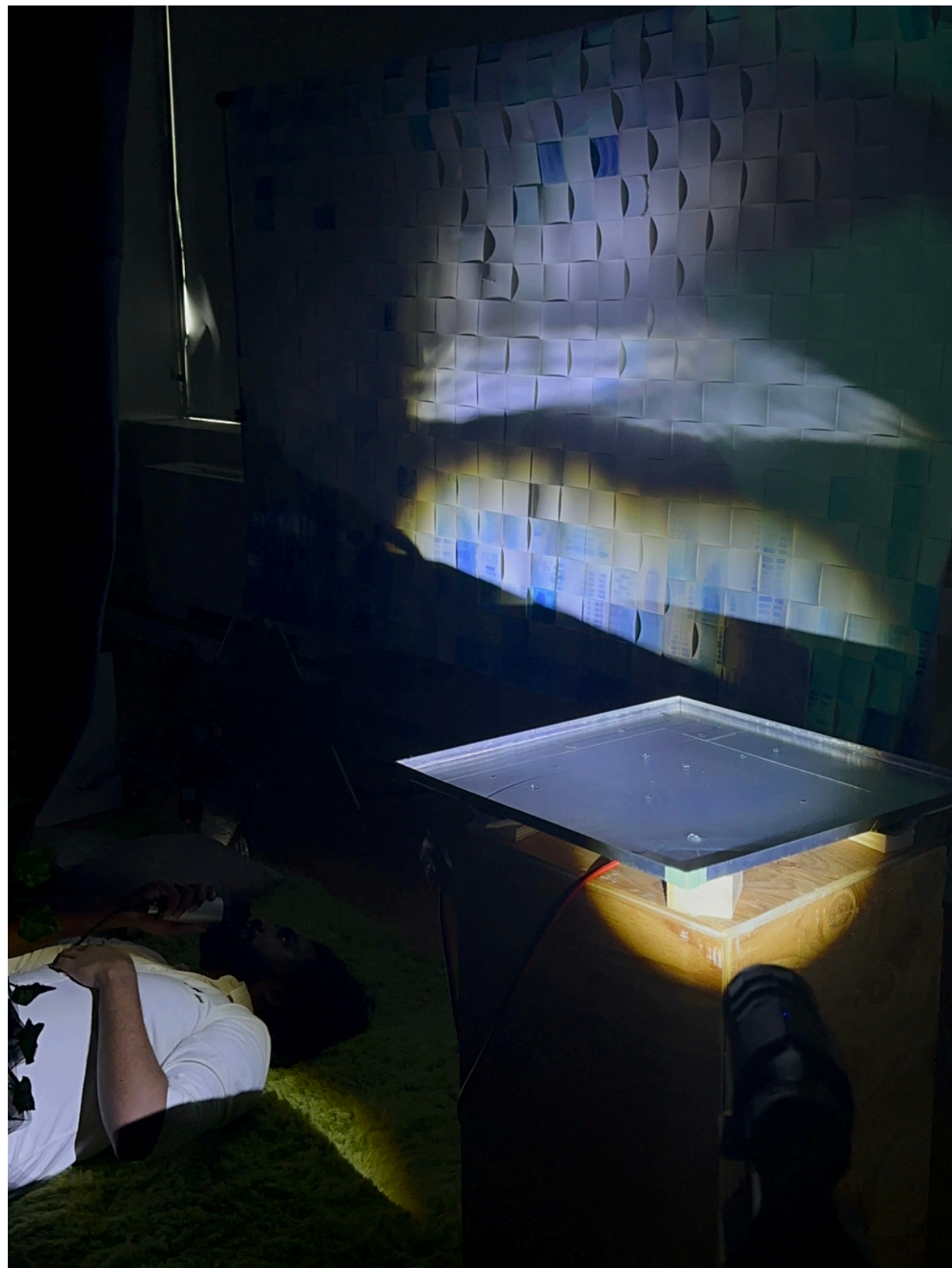


Photographed by Aman Deshmukh

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Photographed by Aman Deshmukh



Photographed by Natalia Valladares

Interaction:

Viewers were invited to sit or lie down on the grass carpet. They were invited to speak, hum or sing into the microphones, creating vibrations in the metal trays that would cast caustic projections on the woven screen and the black suspended canopy.



Photographed by Natalia Valladares



Photographed by Natalia Valladares



Photographed by Natalia Valladares

TLDR artist blurb:

touch what grass? comments on the current nature of stargazing in our increasingly digital and artificial world. The work features a carpet of grass, inviting viewers to sit or lie down on it. Directly ahead is a large hand-woven paper screen painted to evoke an abstract cityscape. Suspended overhead is a black canopy, enveloping the space like a night sky emptied of stars. Light beams shine onto water trays, casting shifting caustic projections onto the woven screen and the canopy above. The light patterns are produced by the audience themselves, creating the very thing that obscures the sky.

The longer story:

For most of history, the night sky has been a shared inheritance and global resource. It has been a constant presence that shaped how we told time, navigated the world, and understood our place within it. Today, more than 80% of the world's population lives under skyglow. The artificial lights of our cities have steadily erased the night sky from view. The stars still shine as bright as ever, but we simply just do not see them from where we stand.

More recently, the rapid proliferation of satellite megaconstellations — most visibly Elon Musk's Starlink network — has introduced a new layer of obstruction, cluttering the sky and Earth's exosphere. We have never known more about the universe, yet we have rarely been less able to simply look up at it. The question this installation asks is: *touch what grass?* It asks us to confront how much of the natural world we get to experience in its original forms.



Photographed by Natalia Valladares





Photographed by artist



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Photographed by Aman Deshmukh

03

further and further still

In collaboration with **Daniela Ortiz Correa**

Materials: clear acrylic orbs, paper screen,
2D experimental animation, generative animated
visuals and Touchdesigner webcam filters.

Dimensions variable.



Photographed by Anupreet Kaur



Photographed by Natalia Valladares

Interaction:

This work included three interactions.

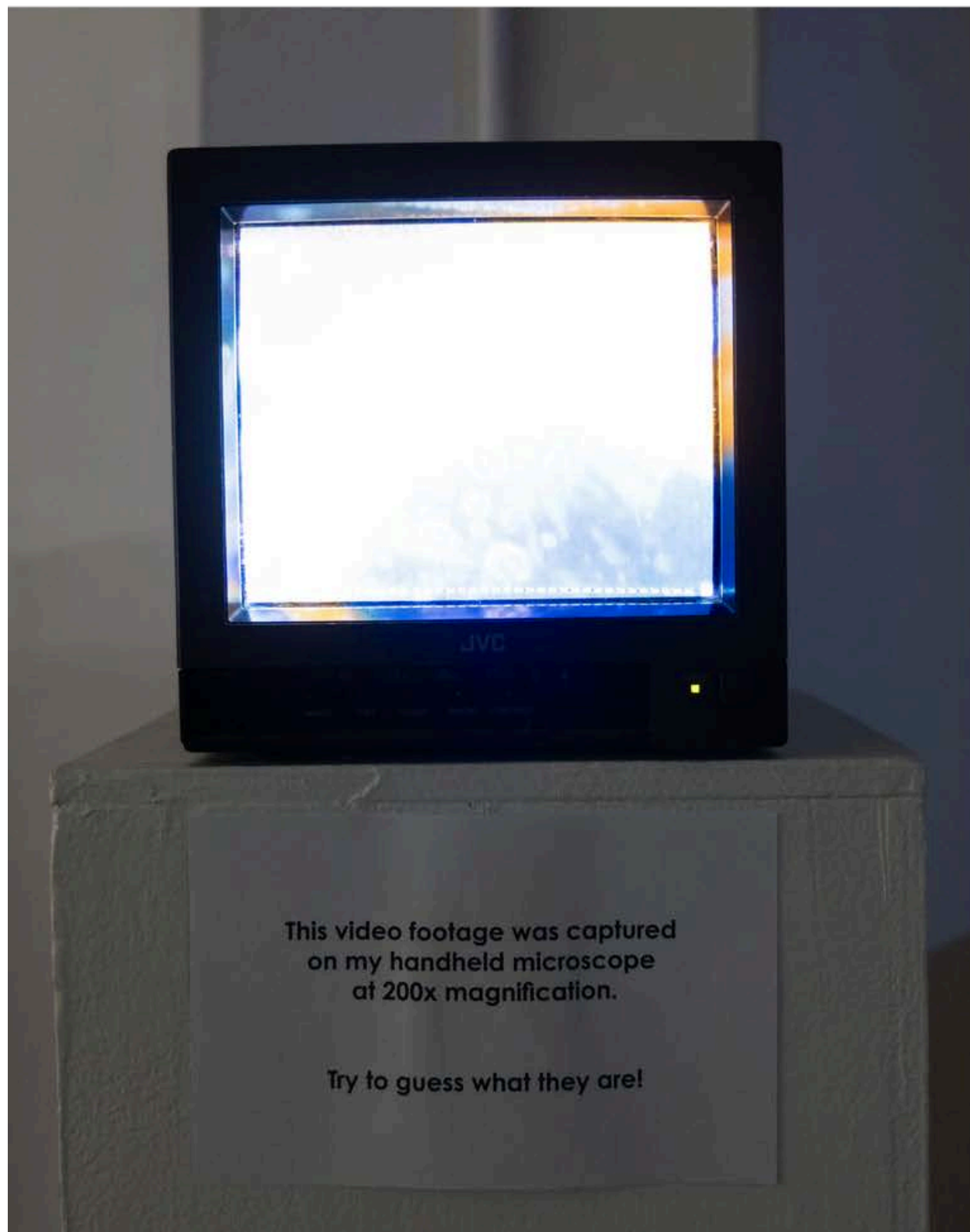
1. Viewers were invited to guess the objects in the microscopic footage playing on the CRT TV.
2. Viewers could look through the handblown glass sphere to see an optical illusion, as well as look through the handheld microscope, which magnifies surfaces 200x.
3. Finally, viewers could interact with the webcams to see live footage of themselves projected into the hanging orbs.



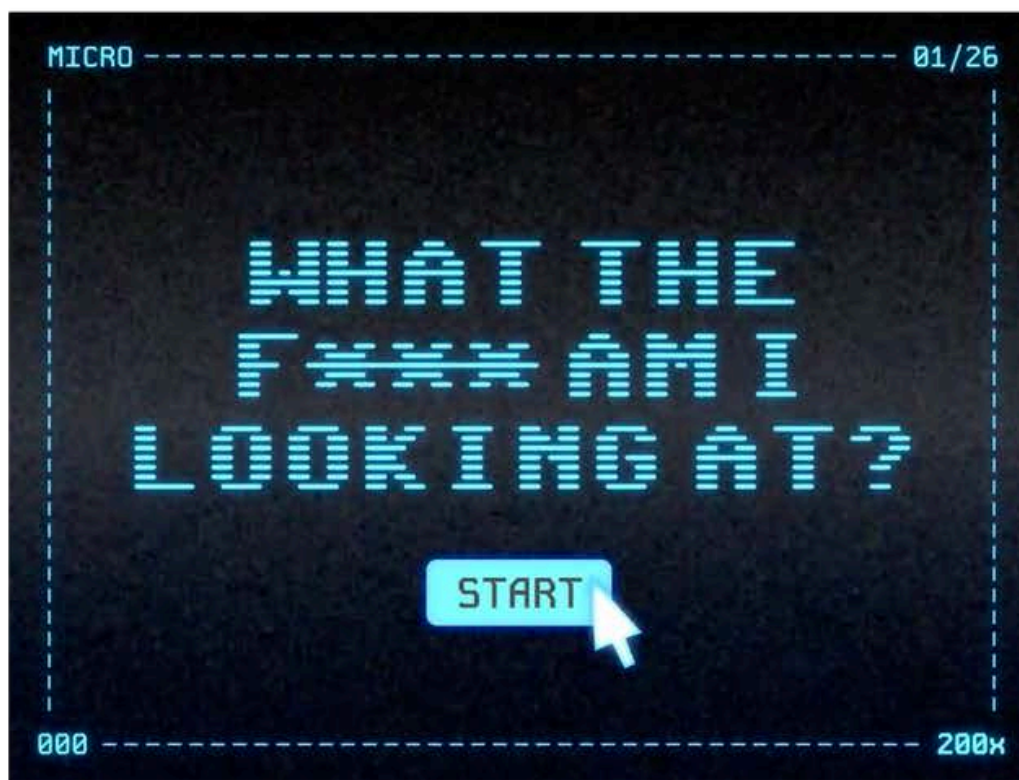
Photographed by Joshua Henriquez

TLDR artist blurb:

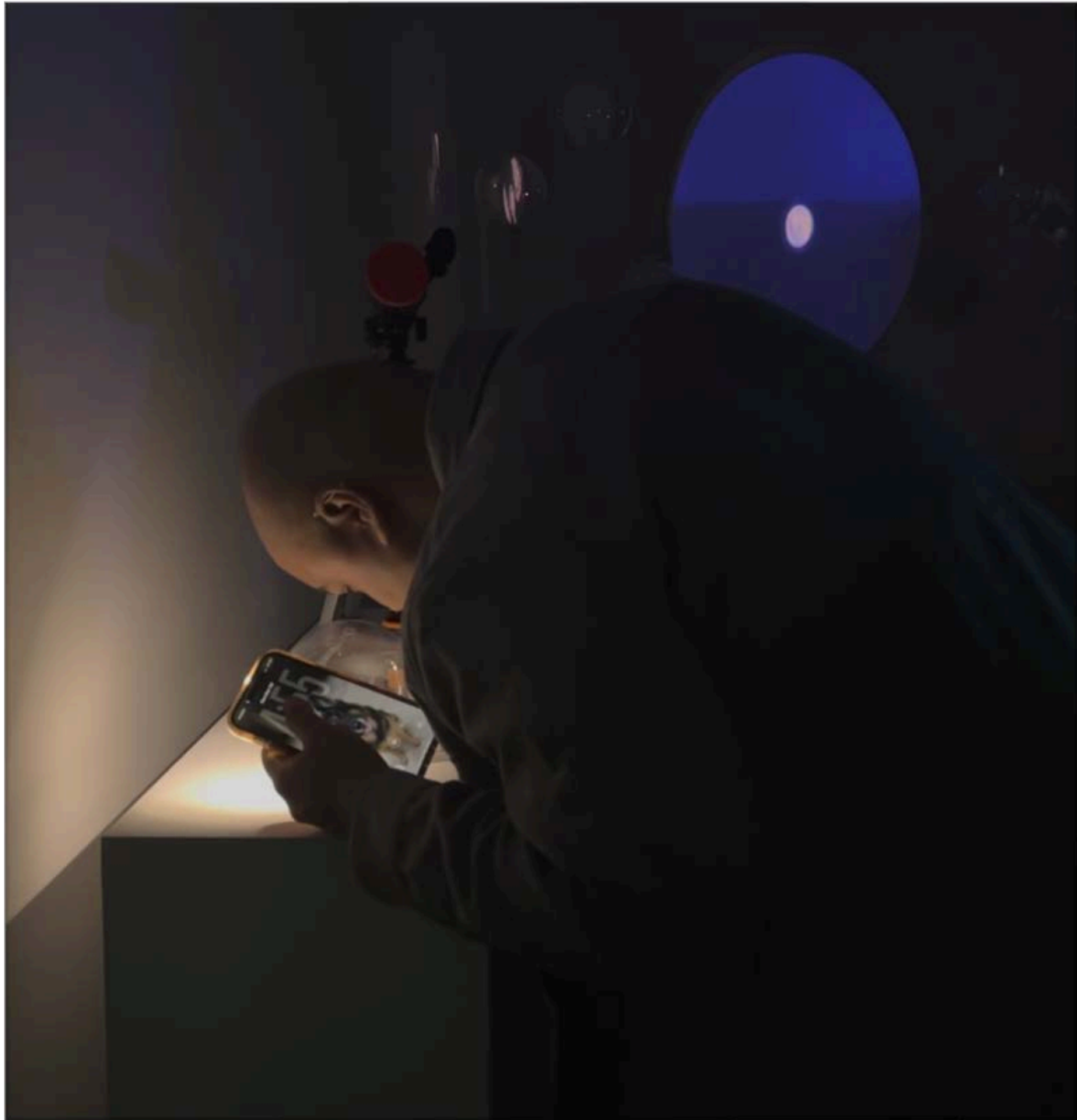
further and further still showcases an experimental animation projected into a large circular screen. The animation moves between abstracted microscopic and macroscopic scales. It positions the viewer within the vast range of scales that optical technologies have made visible. Surrounding it are suspended clear acrylic orbs, reflecting live footage of the audience through webcam filters and looped visuals developed in TouchDesigner. The viewer is confronted with abstract and altered versions of themselves in real time.



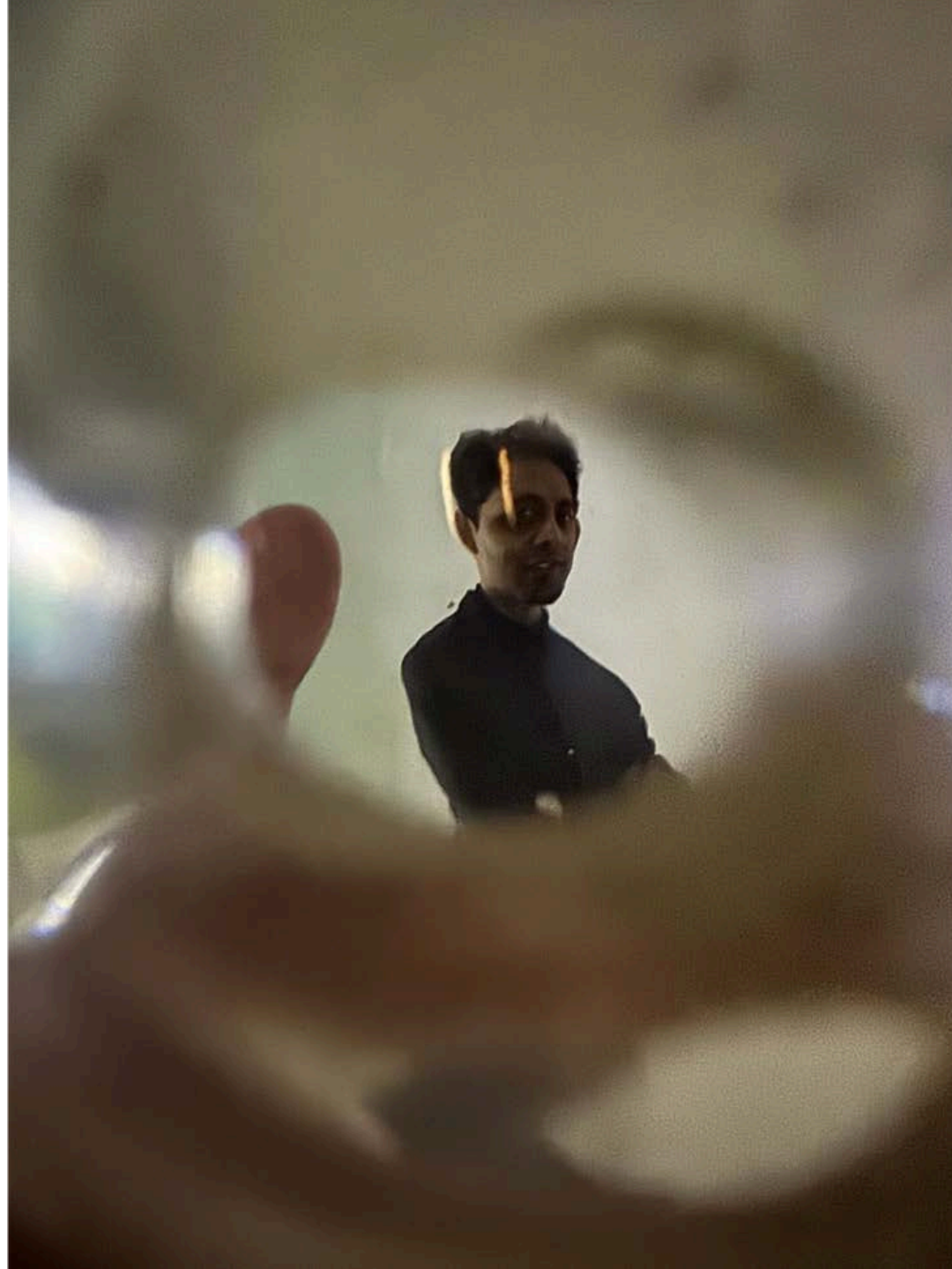
Photographed by Joshua Henriquez



Stills from the footage



Photographed by Natalia Valladares



Photographed by Anupreet Kaur



Photographed by Aman Deshmukh

The longer story:

The invention of glass, beginning around the 3rd millennium BCE in Mesopotamia and Egypt, marked a significant turning point in material culture. For centuries, it remained primarily decorative and functional. In the early 17th century, humans invented the first optical lenses, forever changing the way we see the world. Microscopes and telescopes showed us worlds that had always existed but been entirely invisible to us. We could see into intricate cellular structures within living organisms as well as observe galaxies billions of light years away. Every advancement in optical knowledge has expanded human knowledge. And with each advancement, our understanding of who and what we are has shifted.

further and further still takes its title from that ongoing movement. No matter how far our instruments reach, there is always more to see and more to learn — about the universe, and about ourselves.



Photographed by Aman Deshmukh



Photographed by Aman Deshmukh

Thank you!

Aman Deshmukh, Natalia Valladares
and my wonderful audience members
for the beautiful photographs.