



Photon - n. / pron. [foton]

The quantum of electromagnetic energy, generally regarded as a discrete particle having zero mass, no electric charge, and an indefinitely long lifetime.



Foton is a Brussels-based collective experimenting with music, mixed media, installations, research and off-limits partying. Foton started operating as a record label in 1998, focusing on distinct electronic music: minimal soundscapes, abstract ambient and twisted frequencies. Being a key player in the blooming electronic music scene in Brussels, Foton positioned itself where experiment and quality meet.

After three years of label work, Foton mutated into something larger: a mixed media collective, having many facets and modes of output: installations, performances, concerts and workshops. Several disciplines, such as music, video, dance, fine arts and technology, are combined in our productions, enhancing each other in the process. Artists from different fields are regularly brought together to work on collaborative projects, with music as the ever-present underlying theme. Last but not least, we like to party and enjoy a good concert – that's still very much an essential part of what we stand for.

Foton artists/collaborators/partners are a.o. Susanne Bentley, Antonin De Bemels, Hans De Man aka Antz, FoAM (Nik Gaffney, Lina Kusaite, Maja Kuzmanovic), Free University of Brussels (Dirk Lefeber, Jean-Paul Schepens), Laurence Konyk, Olivier Meunier aka Genoflex, Périactes (Baptiste De Bemels), Max Tilgenkamp, Peter Van Hoesen aka Object aka Vanno, Jo Vernailen aka Lowdjo, ...

General inquiries:

info@foton.be / www.foton.be

voice: +32-2-411.31.19 - fax: +32-2-648.73.83

Troonstraat 187
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium

Studio address:

Koolmijnenkaai 30-34
B-1080 Brussels
Belgium

A selection of our projects:

Installations

- **Chill-Out 3000**

“Chill-Out 3000” is a unique tactile sound-installation. To experience the installation one has to crawl inside a soft and stretchable cocoon, thus becoming part of an intimate and futuristic chill-out environment. A suspended metal plate is hanging in the middle of the cocoon. Using advanced vibration technology this plate is transformed into an interactive loudspeaker, making sound tactile. Visitors can play with the plate, thereby transforming the sound.

“Chill-Out 3000” was presented at:
Happy New Ears festival – Kortrijk (B), 2001
Vi:sonic festival – Belfast (UK), 2005

Concept: Hans De Man / Sound: Peter Van Hoesen / Environment: FoAM / Technical assistance: Jean-Paul Schepens / Support: Free University of Brussels (VUB) - Department of Multibody Mechanics

Images & movie: www.foton.be/en/projects/chillout3000

- **Phaser/Sleeper/Whisper**

How do we perceive sound? How does our brain (re)construct waves captured by our ears? Is what we hear really what's being sent out? "Phaser/Sleeper/Whisper" is a sound installation in three parts, dealing with shifting perceptions and spatial notions of sound. "Phaser" presents modulated frequencies, traveling around while changing pitch, affecting each other in the process. The listener's perception is tricked through techniques such as phase cancellation and a quad speaker setup.

"Sleeper" and "Whisper" both play on shifting human voices, slowly coming together to form a strange, unnatural language. Here also, spatial sound design adds an element of trickery. The setup of "Phaser/Sleeper/Whisper" requires a dark and isolated room. No visuals are used - no light is present.

"Phaser/Sleeper/Whisper" was first presented at:
Subliminal festival – Brussels (B), 2005

Sound design: Peter Van Hoesen

Sound excerpt: www.foton.be/en/projects/psw

- **JazzTube**

“JazzTube” is a sound installation initially created by Foton for the .Motives Jazz festival 2005 and the city of Genk. Jazz is music - music is sound - sound is waves. Making these waves visible to

the naked eye is what “JazzTube” is about. “JazzTube” is part composition, part hardware. The composition is a fragmented collage, reshaping sound snippets from the artists who performed during the .Motives festival. The hardware consists of two metal tubes with built-in speakers, positioned above the water of a fountain. Sound waves travel from the speaker through the tubes, onto the water surface. Sound becomes visible.

“JazzTube” can be reconfigured into a more generic "SoundTube" for all different kinds of music and compositions, and can be extended by adding more tubes.

“JazzTube” was first presented at:
.Motives Jazz festival – Genk (B), 2005

Concept: Hans De Man & Peter Van Hoesen / Sound: Peter Van Hoesen / Technical assistance: Jean-Paul Schepens

Images & movie: www.foton.be/en/projects/jazztube

- **16**

Foton and partners-in-crime FoAM join forces for an enchanting installation that injects different sources of lights into the dark winter months. The installation is a combination of glowing electroluminescent structures, alienating organic visuals, subtle light compositions and a minimal soundscape. All the elements combine to make you forget the winter darkness.

"16" was first presented at:
Recyclart – Brussels (B), 2005

Concept & realisation: Hans De Man, Laurence Konyk, Lina Kusaite, Maja Kuzmanovic, Peter Van Hoesen, Rachel Wingfield

Images & movie: www.foton.be/en/projects/16

- **Ice 'n' Bass**

“Ice 'n' Bass” is a visually impressive organic and tactile sound installation. Its core consists of a row of suspended metal plates carrying huge blocks of ice. The sound of waterdrops detaching themselves from the melting blocks of ice is amplified using contact microphones. These are hidden underneath a large metal strip bolted to the floor. This particular sound is combined with an extremely physical subbass soundtrack. The audience can touch the blocks of ice and use the metal strip underneath as a percussive instrument, thus becoming part of the sound generated by the installation.

“Ice 'n' Bass” is presented in a dark and hidden place, increasing its claustrophobic but at the same time zenlike effect.

“Ice 'n' Bass” was first presented at:
Geheime Verbindingen/Liaisons Secrètes - Central Station, Brussels (B), 2002

Concept: Hans De Man & Annemie Maes / Sound: Marc Roesems / Technical assistance: Jean-Paul Schepens

Images & movie: www.foton.be/en/projects/icenbass

- **Clicks 'n' Cars**

“Clicks 'n' Cars” is an impressive audiovisual installation, involving four brand new car frames and four shakers, state-of-the-art scientific tools normally used in vibrational research. The car frames are attached to the ceiling and become loudspeakers by sending amplified sound into the shakers. Each car frame functions simultaneously as loudspeaker membrane and -housing, as well as musical instrument due to its particular frequency response.

Using the installation, Foton artists provide a unique soundtrack of extreme frequency patterns, stripped-down soundscapes and physical resonances. Onto the futuristic visual experience created by the suspended car frames, a dreamlike layer is added through clever use of stroboscopic and ambient lighting effects. All these elements turn a “Clicks 'n' Cars” performance into a unique blend of auditory and visual wonder.

“Clicks 'n' Cars” was presented at:

Capture / KunstenFESTIVALdesarts – Brussels (B), 2001

Vooruit – Ghent (B), 2002

Elektra Festival – Montréal (CA), 2003

Concept & production: Hans De Man & Peter Van Hoesen / Technical assistance: Jean-Paul Schepens / Support: Free University of Brussels (VUB), Department of Multibody Mechanics

Images & movie: www.foton.be/en/projects/clicksncars

Performances

- **Bent Object**

Bent Object is the collaborative project of New-Zealand dancer/singer Susanne Bentley and Belgian electronic musician & Foton co-founder Peter Van Hoesen. It's the tale of our rapidly changing reality - of signs and symbols multiplying left and right, of people coping and adapting. A Bent Object performance presents an intense combination of movement, sound and sensor bending, complemented by FoAM's unique visuals.

More info at: www.foton.be/bentobject

- **Object**

Foton co-founder Peter Van Hoesen's solo project, presenting a mix of crystalclear sound design and deep subbass waves, infused with a wiff of mutated techno, hip-hop or r'n'b. Described as 'living machine music for the mind' by some, and as 'extreme frequency explorations' by others. Object's advanced sounds are combined with live visuals, translating musical movement into a fascinating canvas of fragmented beauty. Peter Van Hoesen has released two CDs on Foton with his Object and RM monikers.

- **Antz** (DJ set)
Hans De Man wears many masks: robotics engineer, Foton founder, concert & party promotor, multimedia curator, installation artist and dj. As dj Antz he was one of the pioneers within the belgian breakcore-scene. Like no other he links like extreme 'core'-madness to a booty-attitude: ragga-, jungle-, break-, speed- and deathcore are mixed into a solid whole, smile included. In his "Go Psycho"-mixes electronics are replaced by a deranged combination of high-energy contemporary rock mutants, punky wreck'n'roll and wicked psychobilly.
- **Vanno** (DJ set)
Peter Van Hoesen's long standing DJ alter ego, active for over ten years and known to cultivate a healthy obsession with subbass and freaky rhythms - be it techno, electro or dubstep. Resident and organizer of the famous Essential parties, resident at the Bass Boogie nights at Fuse and the man behind the Capital Beats radio show on FM Brussels. His music has been released on Foton, Lan Muzic, Backroom and Sound of Habib.

Concerts/party series

- **Mutant Hip Hop / Mutant Rock**
Concert and dj nights in collaboration with Les Halles de Schaerbeek (Brussels), focusing on alternative cross-overs between hip hop/rock and experimental electronic music.
Some artists who have been on our Mutant stage: Vex'd, Patric Catani, Kode 9, Shadow Huntaz, End, King Automatic, ...
- **Go Psycho**
Concert and dj nights in collaboration with Recyclart (Brussels). Central theme is the link between electronica and its precursors, such as rock'n'roll, garage, psychedelic music,...
Some artists who have been on our Psycho stage: Reverend Beat-Man, Gravediggers, Uriel, ...
- **FOtones**
Concert and party series, presenting a monthly line-up with new and groundbreaking electronic artists. FOtones is fusing electronic sounds and digital imagery - from horizontal listening experiences to vertical dancefloor mayhem: minimal soundscapes, abstract ambient, techno, breaks, electrotrash, breakcore, noise and more.
Up to now we invited more than hundred artists, including DJ Rupture, Eavesdropper, Farmers' Manual, Drop The Lime, Cylob, Transforma, Sébastien Roux, dDamage, Telco Systems, Bong-Ra, Din-ST, Xingu Hill, Imminent, Dragan Zivadinov, ...

Workshops

- **Fotonlab 1.0 (June 2005)**

A five-day workshop dealing with advanced surround visual and sound technology. Participants included visual artists and musicians, working together using the W.O.A.W. (Windows on Another World) system, a real-time multiscreen 3D, video and sound effects processor.

More info at: www.foton.be/fotonlab - www.woaw.info

- **Bericht aan de Bevolking/Avis à la Population (April 2002)**

A six-day dj/vj/scratching workshop with youngsters between 15 and 19 years old as participants, It resulted in an astonishingly professional live performance. Part of a series of other workshops for children by a.o. Wim Vandekeybus, Mauro Pawlowski, ...

- **K-Danse/Body Soundcheck (March 2002)**

A seven-day contemporary dance workshop with choreographer/dancer Heine R. Avdal, exploring the interaction between 10 dancers, installations, musical interfaces and sound. Bodies served as sound sources and submitted themselves to technologically advanced interfaces, different types of microphones were attached to dancers, processed sound was injected back into the dance floor.

Multimedia festival

- **Subliminal**

Subliminal is Foton's very own festival - a multi-sensory illusion machine. The festival's main theme is the border between the observable and the non-observable - the result is a parallel world based on illusions and altered perceptions. This parallel world is created through music, video, dance, film, lectures, theater, performance art, installations and scientific experiments.

The first edition of Subliminal was presented at:
Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B), January 2005

More info at: www.foton.be/subliminal

Foton CD/DVD releases:

- **Bent Object & FoAM: In human format (foton 005) DVD**

There exists the notion of exploring new territory and radically transforming natural sounds and images through digital technologies, as opposed to the replication of ‘real life’ analog processes through these same technologies. E.g. a sampler can be used to imitate a violin – but it can also be used to create completely new sounds. The last application is more interesting for artists experimenting with new ways of production.

“In human format” is a prime example of full-on experimentation with this idea. Vocals, music, organic images and computer-generated designs are digitally grafted together, creating a multi-layered and intensely evolving reality. It is a visually and musically challenging work: even after several viewings one can still detect new elements and patterns emerging from a dense and ever-evolving generative world.

Thematically, Bent Object and FoAM’s joint project explores our place as humans in today’s increasingly complex world. In ‘Edit/Restart’, Susanne Bentley asks the listener to “define valid commands, stretch the fabric, mark out the frame”, urging you to question your place in a network of complex realities. A densely layered visual canvas offers endless possibilities for interpretation.

Preview screening of “In human format” at:
Victorian Circus II / De Brakke Grond – Amsterdam (NL), April 2006
(with a live performance by Bent Object)

“In human format” was composed by Peter Van Hoesen, Susanne Bentley, Maja Kuzmanovic and Nik Gaffney.

- **RM – 1025 [foton 004] CD**

RM is the cooperation between Jeroen Baekelandt and Peter Van Hoesen (Object). Coming from a broad electronic music background, RM produces a dense yet minimal sound. ‘1025’ deals with the inner sound of Brussels, the city RM operates in. Positioning their work within an imaginary part of the city, the track titles refer to places and situations that might exist or take place. Breathing, living, churning, “1025” transports the listener into an imaginary universe where out-of-phase sequences, hissing noises and absent melodies produce an alienating yet warm sound.

- **Object – Release the object [foton 003] CD**

“Release the object” is the debut album by Object, one of Foton co-founder Peter Van Hoesen’s musical projects. Minimal, refined sounds evolve into repetitive rhythmic patterns and complex sound structures. This is indeed the music of the object: music seen as a repetitive series of events and objects within a musical space. For Object, minimalism is a means to an end, not an end in itself. This results in an experimental but musical album, sometimes revealing complex rhythmic patterns, sometimes exploring extremely high and low frequencies, sometimes combining these two aspects. “Release the object” bears subtle similarities to the work of

Ultraphonist and Ryoji Ikeda. However, Object's eclectic and specific taste for composition provides this release with a distinct, unique sound.

- **Ultraphonist - Discover the antistress with... [foton 002] CD**

Ultraphonist is a project by Marc Moedea and Gabriel Séverin. The two also collaborate on Jardin d'Usure (Sub Rosa) and Silk Saw (Sub Rosa, Ant-Zen). "Discover the antistress with ..." presents a sound that has to be experienced not only by the ears. When listened to at the right volume level, the almost everpresent bass and the resonance it invokes create a very physical experience. Intentional cracks, almost unhearable sounds, an occasional shy and minimal beat, vibrating and echoing bass loops, ..., together they force the listener into an intense and at the same time relaxed state of mind, shattered only once or twice by sudden outbursts of higher pulses. Don't hesitate to undergo the experiment.

- **Urawa - Villa Vertigo [foton 001] CD**

Urawa is Olivier Moreau and John Sellekaers, together responsible for Torsion (Re-Load Ambient) and Ambre (Ant-Zen). Olivier is known from Imminent Starvation (Ant-Zen) and Delta Files (Re-Load Ambient), whereas John incarnates the projects Xingu Hill (Nova Zembla) and Internal (Zoth Ommog). For "Villa Vertigo" the two got help from Hervé Thomas, who created Fragile and Hint. "Villa Vertigo" is an architectural weird dream, guiding the listener the rough an imaginary deserted residence. Slowly evolving, deep and subtle textures seem to come from inside the different rooms, transforming the whole building into a soundscape.

Organic sounds and mechanical vibrations, express the villa's peculiar rhythm. Plants and light become sound in the greenhouse. In the study a clock vainly tries to say that time is important. Your feet pound on the stairs, but it could also be the other way round. In the lounge you are called by those that attended the last cocktail party ages ago.

"Villa Vertigo" combines minimalism with ambient, as well as it combines minimalism with more noisy and unclear parts, thereby slightly suggesting the background of its musical creators.

More info at: www.foton.be/en/catalog

A selection of past Foton events:

2006

05/05/2006	Go Psycho #4	Recyclart – Brussels (B)
20/04/2006	Foton and friendz	Voodoo Twist/Café Aman – Brussels (B)
08/04/2006	Bent Object live	Victorian Circus II/De Brakke Grond – Amsterdam (NL)
01/04/2006	Mutant Rock #1	Les Halles de Schaerbeek – Brussels (B)
11/03/2006	Go Psycho #3	Recyclart – Brussels (B)
25/02/2006	Mutant Hip Hop #2	Les Halles de Schaerbeek – Brussels (B)
15/02/2006	Vanno	Artefact festival – Leuven (B)
10/02/2006	Vanno	Cimatics/Greatshare – Brussels (B)

2005

11/11/2005	Sendai live	Frequencies – Brussels (B)
05/11/2005	Antz/Casual Club	Kapotte Radio – Leuven (B)
01/11/2005-31/01/2006	Installation '16'	Recyclart – Brussels (B)
31/10/2005-19/11/2005	Installation 'JazzTube'	.Motives Jazz festival – Genk (B)
31/10/2005	Vanno	Cimatics/M.A.P. – Brussels (B)
01/10/2005	microFOtones 3.0	Nuit Blanche/Foton HQ – Brussels (B)
30/09/2005	Antz/Nyx	Basurama Recupfestival – Brussels (B)
30/09/2005-01/10/2005	Bent Object live	Nadine – Brussels (B)
31/07/2005	Foton	Transhumance – Formia (I)
14/07/2005	microFOtones 2.0	M.A.P. – Brussels (B)
27/06/2005-01/07/2005	Fotonlab 1.0	Argos – Brussels (B)
01/06/2005	FOtones 18.0 / TRG	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
26/05/2005	Lowdjo/Vanno/Object	STUK – Leuven (B)
27/04/2005	FOtones 17.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
23/04/2005	microFOtones 1.0	Foton HQ – Brussels (B)
08/04/2005	Go Psycho #2	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
30/03/2005	FOtones 16.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
23/03/2005	Lowdjo/ Bent Object/ Eavesdropper/Sendai	Kulturbunker Mülheim – Cologne (D)
18/03/2005-20/03/2005	Antz/Lowdjo/Vanno/Object	TRG/Kibla – Maribor (SI)
12/03/2005	Mutant Hip Hop #1	Les Halles de Schaerbeek – Brussels (B)
02/03/2005	FOtones 15.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)

25/02/2005-17/03/2005	Installation '[Diesel Eclipse]'	Ad!dict/Diesel Concept Store – Brussels (B)
11/02/2005-20/02/2005	Installation 'Chill-Out 3000'	Vis:onic – Belfast (UK)
03/02/2005	Antz/Lowdjo/Vanno	Vooruit – Ghent (B)
02/02/2005	FOtones 14.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
27 & 29/01/2005	Kernwasser Wunderland	Rotterdam Film festival – Rotterdam (NL)
19/01/2005-22/01/2005	Subliminal festival	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
19/01/2005-22/01/2005	Installation 'Phaser/Sleeper/Whisper'	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
07/01/2005	Go Psycho #1	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)

2004

24/11/2004	FOtones 13.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
18/11/2004	The Ghost in the Apartment live	Haunted Folklore/Recyclart – Brussels (B)
13/11/2004	Antz/Lowdjo/Antonin De Bemels	VAD 2004 – Girona (ES)
06/11/2004	FOtones/aLOSTaSOULS	Netwerk – Aalst (B)
27/10/2004	FOtones 12.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
02/10/2004	Antz/Lowdjo	Nuit Blanche/dj olympics/Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
29/09/2004	FOtones 11.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
22/07/2004	Vanno	10 Days Off – Ghent (B)
17/07/2004-29/08/2004	Kernwasser Wunderland	SMBA – Amsterdam (NL)
25/06/2004	Foton/Boups party	Plan B – Brussels (B)
17/06/2004	FOtones 10.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
03/06/2004	FOtones 9.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
20/05/2004	FOtones 8.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
06/05/2004	FOtones 7.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
22/04/2004	FOtones 666.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
08/04/2004	FOtones 5.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
25/03/2004	FOtones 4.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
19/03/2004-15/08/2004	Kernwasser Wunderland	Z33 – Hasselt (B)
11/03/2004	FOtones 3.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
26/02/2004	FOtones 2.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
11/02/2004	FOtones 1.0	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)

2003

20/11/2003- 21/11/2003	Installation 'Clicks 'n' Cars'	Elektra festival – Montréal (CA)
10/07/2003	Vanno/liquidx	Dour festival – Dour (B)
26/06/2003	Antz/Eavesdropper	SOS – Antwerp (B)

2002

22/11/2002	Wreck'n'roll a gogo	Recyclart – Brussels (B)
05/10/2002- 13/10/2002	Installation 'Ice 'n' Bass'	Geheime Verbindingen/Liaisons Secrètes - Central Station – Brussels (B)
21/06/2002	Distinct Electronics 2002.4	Recyclart – Brussels (B)
31/05/2002	Installation 'Clicks 'n' Cars'	Vooruit – Ghent (B)
20/04/2002	Bericht aan de Bevolking / Avis à la Population workshop	Beursschouwburg/Recyclart – Brussels (B)
19/04/2002	Foton	Domino Festival/Ancienne Belgique – Brussels (B)
12/04/2002	Distinct Electronics 2002.3	Recyclart – Brussels (B)
22/03/2002	K-Danse / Body Soundcheck workshop	Beursschouwburg – Brussels (B)
15/02/2002	Distinct Electronics 2002.2	Recyclart – Brussels (B)
25/01/2002	Distinct Electronics 2002.1	Zaal België – Hasselt (B)

2001

17/11/2001	Urawa live	Seat'n'Beats/Cultuurcentrum Luchtbal/Hof Ter Lo – Antwerp (B)
21/10/2001	Installation 'Chill-out 3000'	Happy New Ears/Kunstencentrum Limelight – Kortrijk (B)
16/10/2001	Object live	Rauschen festival/Podewil – Berlin (D)
05/10/2001	Foton/Diskono	Les Halles de Schaerbeek – Brussels (B)
19/05/2001	Installation 'Clicks 'n' Cars'	Capture/KunstenFESTIVALdesArts – Brussels (B)
04/2001	Distinct Electronics 2001.1	Recyclart – Brussels (B)

1999-2000

13/07/2000	Antz/Object/Ultraphonist/ Imminent	World-Information/Brussel 2000 – Brussels (B)
30/06/2000- 30/07/2000	Installation 'The Foton Informator'	World-Information/Brussel 2000 – Brussels (B)

24/06/2000	Foton	De Markten – Brussels (B)
02/06/2000	Foton	Cuba Club – Münster (D)
06/05/1999	Foton Factory live	Box – Brussels (B)