

**E-SQUARED MAGAZINE**

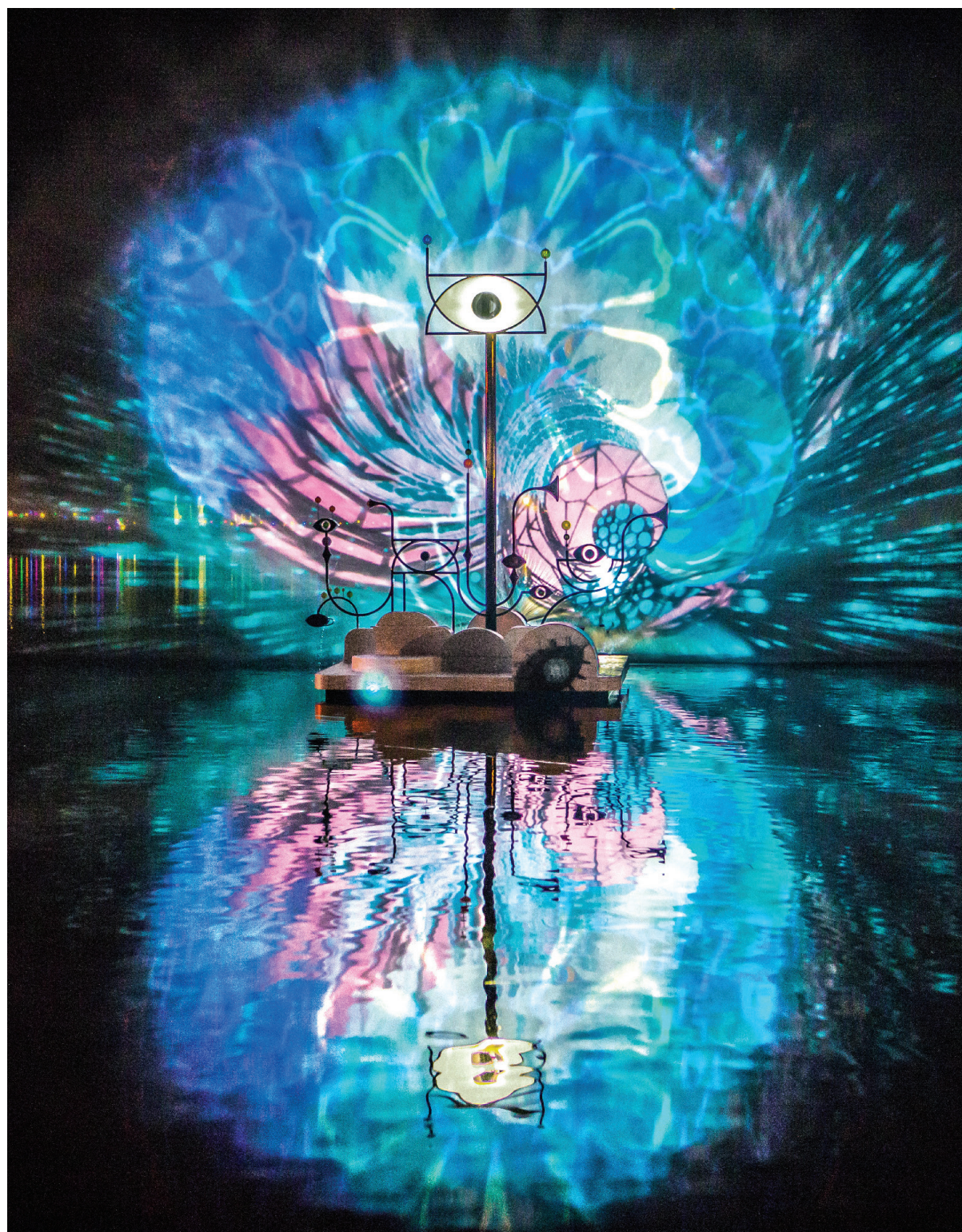
A R T + S C I E N C E





# THIJS BIERSTEKER

*“Scientists have been alone with the facts too long. We need to come together as artists, novelists, poets, musicians, and other makers to add emotion to the facts. Only then can we shift behaviour, only then can we change for climate change.”*



Whether it's an interactive mist cloud, pictures controlled by brain waves, or Virtual Reality goggles that allow viewers to experience a different universe, the innovation, artistry, and impactfulness of Thijs Biersteker's creations are truly revolutionary. As an interactive installation artist, he utilizes technology to create works that are equally impactful and aesthetically pleasing.

Muddying the divide between artwork and invention, Thijs Biersteker's technological innovations are creating ripples of awareness throughout the world. *Plastic Reflectic* is seemingly just a dark pool until 601 pieces of ocean trash float to the surface, mirroring the outline and movement of the viewer standing at the edge. With a tall tree as the centerpiece, *Voice of Nature* stresses the importance of our acknowledgement of climate change. The tree—with sensors connected to its roots, branches, and leaves—measures CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature, moisture, and light levels, generating nearly 2,000 data points to create the visualization. By depicting the health of our planet in real time, Biersteker gives a voice to nature that might not otherwise be heard by humanity.

By directly communicating the state of the environment to the viewer on a personal level, Thijs Biersteker establishes a form of accountability using his art at levels rarely achieved. He has won awards like the prestigious Lumen Prize for digital art, been nominated for the Stars Prize from Ars Electronica, and the New Technology Art Award. Biersteker exhibits his work regularly at galleries around the world and has been featured in *Wired*, *New Scientist*, *Financial Times*, and Discovery Channel, among others. Biersteker is founder of Woven Studio which works together with universities, scientists, research groups, museums, and architects to communicate scientific facts in more immersive ways.

**Left:** *Periscopista*. 2016. Data harvesting periscopes. Dimensions variable.  
**Above:** *Plastic Reflectic*. 2017. Interactive kinetic installation. 3 x 2 m.  
**Next Spread:** *Periscopista*. 2016. Data harvesting periscopes. Dimensions variable.



