

As I'm writing this I'm surrounded by waves. As you are reading this, you are surrounded by waves. I think about your visualizations of invisible forms and wonder simultaneously about danger and beauty.

Do you think of your antennae as extensions of human senses? Do you ever wish you could see invisible things?

Visible light is a fairly small portion of the vast electromagnetic spectrum, and the portions of the spectrum that we can't see fascinate me. Radio signals are very physical in nature, and constructing antennae is a good exercise toward interpreting and understanding them. The Octoloop antenna for this exhibit contains a 500 foot length of copper wire used to receive radio signals anywhere from 10 to 100 kilometers in length. When lightning strikes it emits radio signals in this spectrum. The antenna and radio visualization system expand our perception, and allow us to interpret elements that are otherwise intangible. But to me the visualization process is an inherently abstract challenge. We can't see energy in this spectrum, so it is mysterious to imagine what it might look like.

The patterns you record and then visualize evoke weavings from many peoples. When I look at them simultaneously knowing that they are radio waves, it's like I'm experiencing a bridge between ancient culture and modern technology. I also think of the background radiation from the big bang.

When you're out in the field making recordings, do you feel a connection to ancient phenomena or traditional artforms?

It seems that there are many specific locations on Earth that mystical and spiritual practitioners have tuned in to, but science hasn't been able to define what draws people to these locations. Simultaneously, the patterns found in weavings from many different cultures share similar aesthetics. A friend of mine recently mentioned that a Mexican weaving I have looks very similar to the weavings found in traditional Lithuanian culture. Perhaps there is inherent wisdom in these patterns. The Jacquard looms used to weave the tapestries I have been creating utilize technology that played an important role in the development of modern computing. I use data visualization software in order to create weavings that reference aesthetics of traditional and ancient cultures. They bridge the gap.

OPPOSITE:
WAVES FROM THE EAST.
OCTOBER 19, 2014. 6:47 AM.
1296 MHZ
ACRA, NY

Rimas Šimaitis

