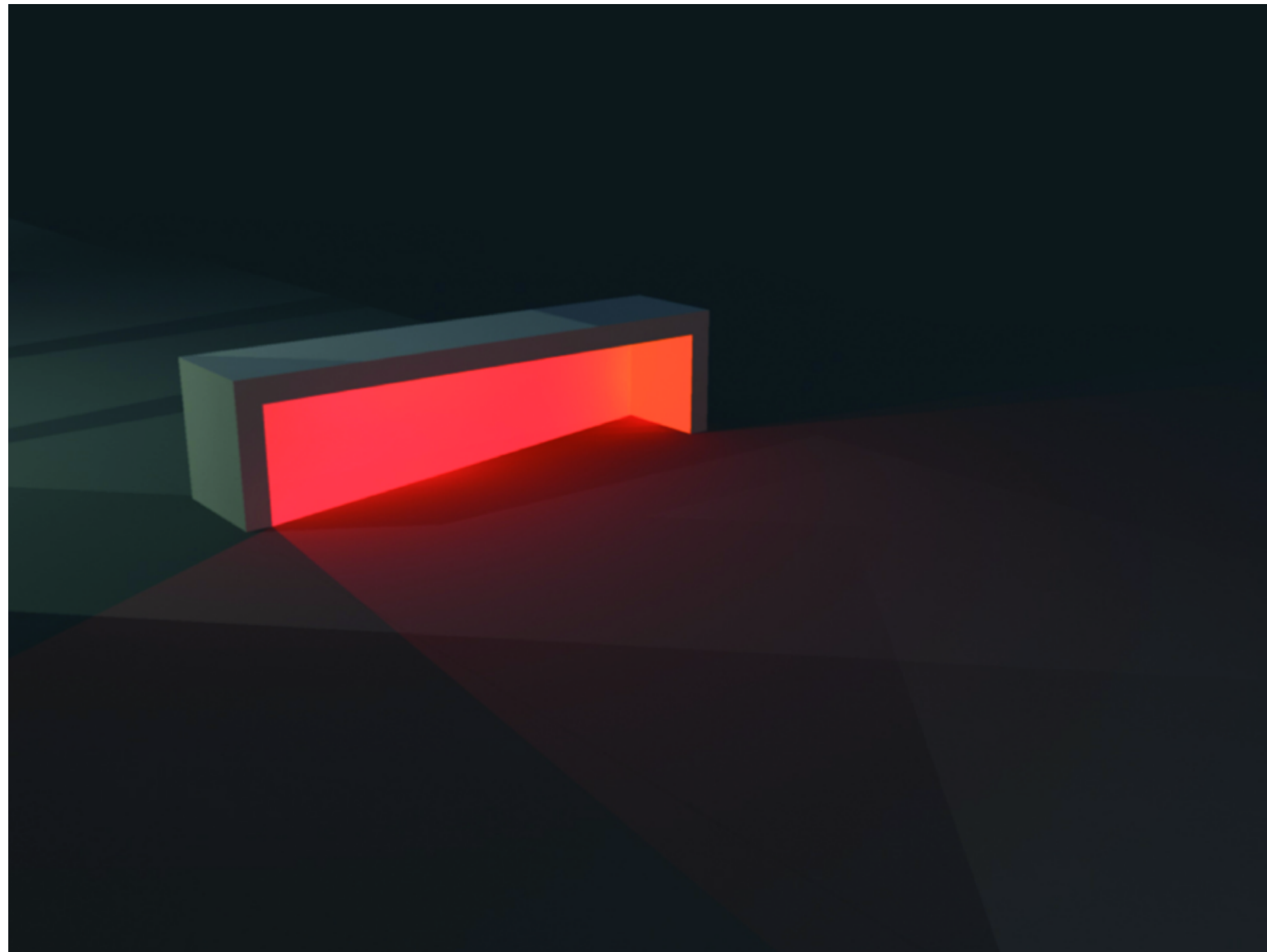


SHARJAH DIALOGUES

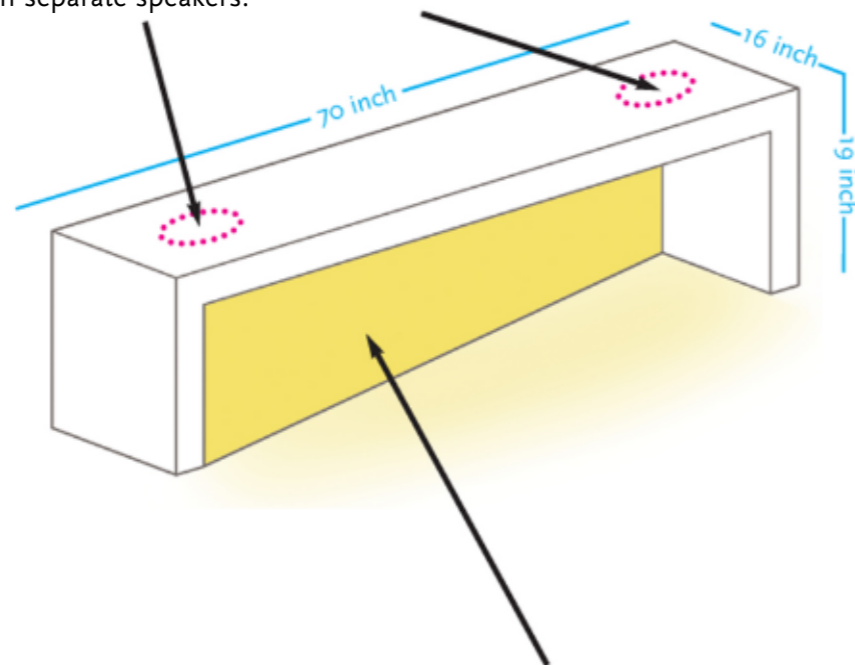
NOMAD ACADEMY 2008



PUBLIC BENCH MADE OF CONCRETE

Two hidden speakers are built into the underside of the bench.

These are linked to an external CD/DVD player, which plays a conversation between two people in such a way that the voices come from separate speakers.



Translucent glass sheet. Behind the glass sheet are a number of RGB LED light sources controlled by a colour sequencer, which cause the light to gradually change colour over time.

Sharjah Dialogues

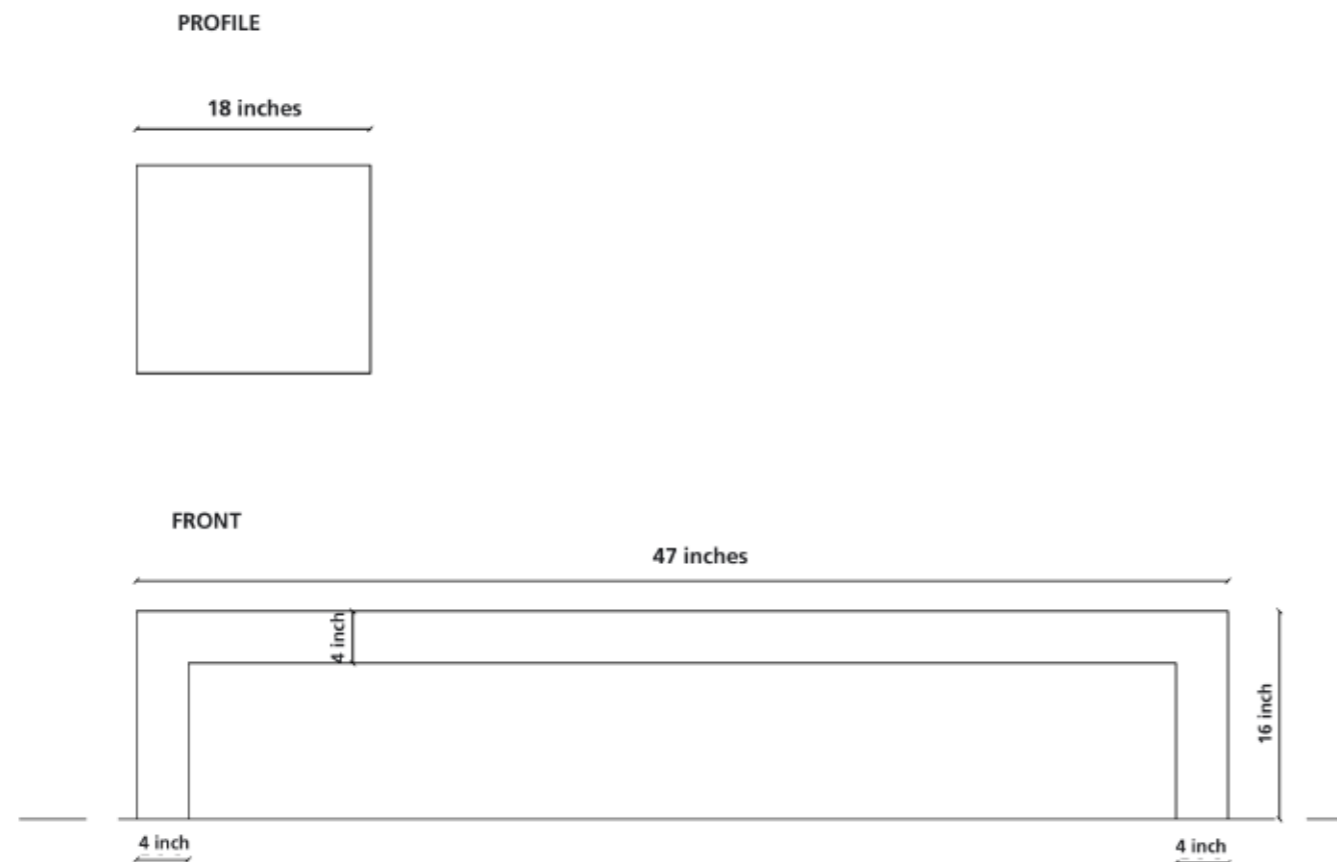
Consist of a number of public benches placed at different location in the Sharjah Citys public arena.

Each bench has a shifting colour light sequence coming from the underside of the seat. Also each bench has two built-in sound speakers that plays a recorded dialogue between two imaginary human beings,- a man and a woman. This dialogue is an autentic poem written specifically for this project by Danish poet Ursula Andkjær Olsen, translated into arabic by poet Duna Ghali and recorded in arabic by Duna Ghali and her brother Fanar Ghali.

The poem is fundamentally about the dialogue as a way of connecting to other people, feelings, places and events.

The benches and the sound of the two people concersating invites you to sit for a while lisening to these imaginary people..

Enclosed please find a CD with the sound recording together with further information on the Sharjah Dialogues.



Artists Statement

Art is not an isolated world in itself, but rather one of many ways of being in the world - of understanding and relating to the world. I like to describe art as an interface, an interface between us and the world. Just as the interface of a computer establishes a common language between the computer's binary codes and the users, art can create a common space that enables us to be in and relate to our common reality, in all its facets. I can thus agree with the sociologist Zygmunt Bauman, who stated in an interview that from his point of view, one of the great tasks of the present time was to: "relearn the ability to translate individual problems into common questions." That could in principle be an excellent description of what much art is attempting to do today.

Sharjah Dialogues

Translating individual problems into common questions is precisely what Sharjah Dialogues is about. The benches function as a kind of interface in the public arena. Through their aesthetic qualities and function, they invite a dialogue with the public. You sit down and enter into a dialogue between two imaginary people. You listen and reflect yourself in the things, places and events that the people are talking about, and thereby inevitably become a participant in the dialogue.

A NOMAD ACADEMY PROJECT 2008
www.nomad-academy.org

CONCEPT and DESIGN
Visual artist Peter Holst Henckel

TEXT / POEM
Poet Ursula Andkjær Olsen

TRANSLATION INTO ARABIC
Duna Ghali, Poet

SPEAK
Duna Ghali, Poet
Fanar Ghali, Mucician

