

Jan-Peter E.R. Sonntag   3 spacial works   **I∞   nomen nominandum   EUROPA**  
as part of the Light(Art)Region of Europe Hellweg ein Lichtweg

Every year, new works of light art are realized by nationally and internationally renowned artists as part of the Light(Art) Region of Europe *Hellweg ein Lichtweg* under the overall artistic direction of Matthias Wagner K.

Jan-Peter E.R. Sonntag has so far created two permanent works and two temporary interventional works as permanent works of light art for the Light(art) Region - one of them currently in the Bröderkirche in Lippstadt alongside his permanent installation **I∞** in a historic water tower - Lippstadt's landmark. Built and commissioned between 1900 and 1901 as an elevated water tank and decommissioned in 1983, the technical monument and highly visible Lippstadt landmark has been enveloped since 2013 by an endlessly rising column of light and sound by Sonntag based on a psychoacoustic and spacial illusion, which he and his team first realized exactly twenty years earlier for the stairwell of the Ministry of Science and Culture in Hanover and for the first time ever as a phenomenon on an IRCAM workstation.

The enclosed volume of air appears to be moving in a rising wind. If you look along the rising column of light, the tower seems to open up towards the sky in luminous white high fog. With **I∞**, the tower has become a walk-in spatial work and Sonntag's endlessly rising noise in combination with the optical sensations of a column of light reaching into white infinity within the built architecture has been stabilized as an artistic and immediate physical space of experience. The installation can be visited as part of a guided tour.

Currently - October 2024 - on the occasion of the anniversary of Lippstadt's Light Promenade, Sonntag is realizing the temporary raum-Arbeit **nomen nominandum** in and for the Bröderkirche. It divides the space into zones of different densities and pulses through a sound mixture of standing waves in a pulsating light of a glowing rotating metal vapor light plasma. From the ceiling, where a cross used to hang, a double bass hangs overhead, its strings kept in permanent vibration by an excitation and feedback system developed by Sonntag and his team. The material vibrations picked up under the bridge of the bass are transmitted into the room as airborne sound by a horn system, interacting with the resonances within the historic vaulted brick room and with the body of the instrument stretched over the strings. The result is a fragile oscillating system, through whose (non-metaphorical) spatial sound or space of sound and, as it were, within the pulsating monochrome light, the recipient is invited to wander and experience the space as substance-filled and structured.

Also part of the Hellweg ein Lichtweg is Jan-Peter E.R. Sonntag's **EUROPA**, a permanent light, electronic and steel sculpture/composition also for the EUROPA-Platz of the city of Lünen since 2021.

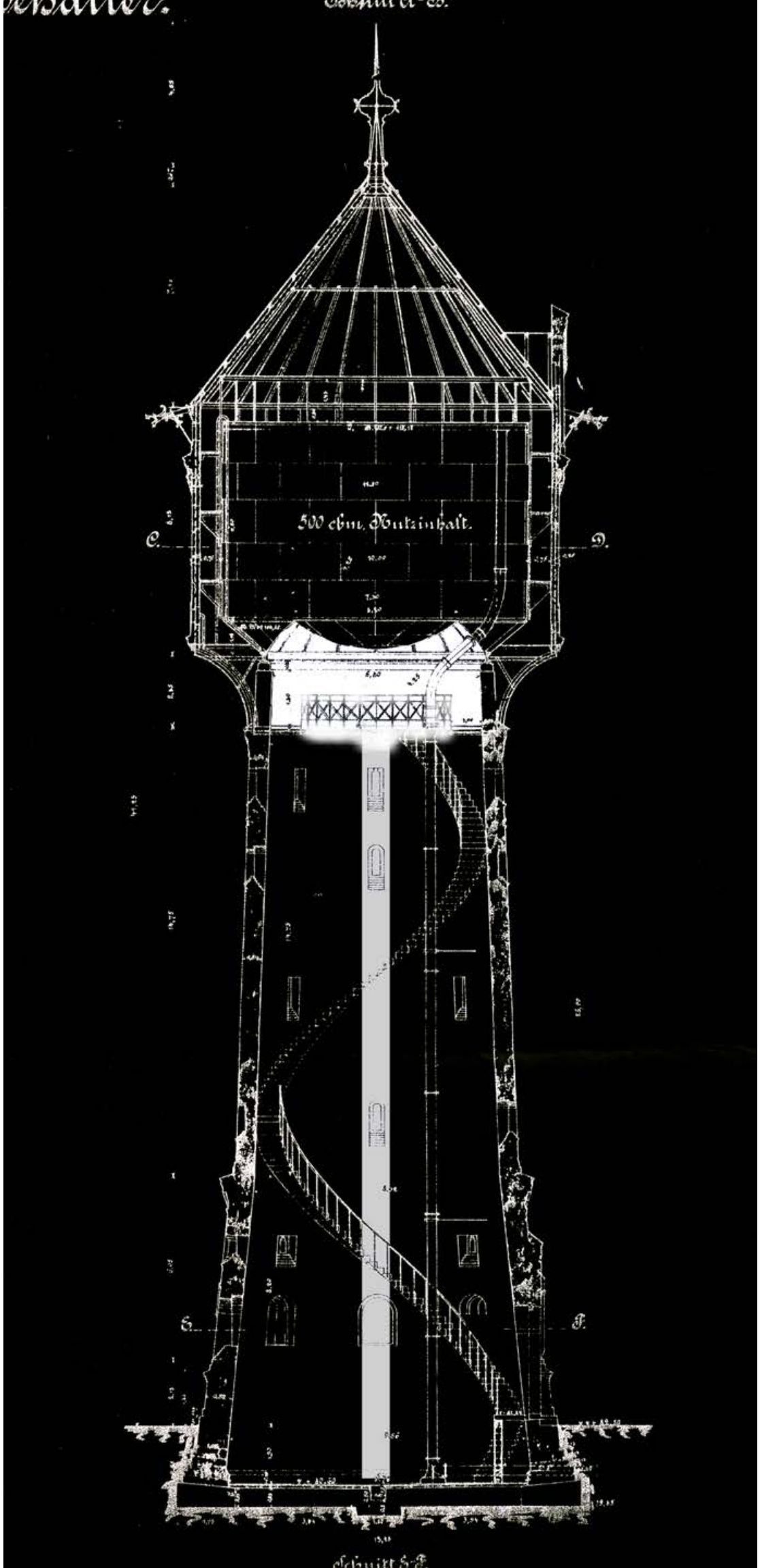
In art history, Europe is usually symbolized by a young woman on a bull. According to Greek mythology, the god Zeus once stole a Phoenician princess in the form of a bull. According to Herodotus, the name of this princess in the ancient world referred to the Peloponnese, the West or what was once known as the Occident, and today designates a small part of the Eurasian continent. The European Union is a union of 27 countries that emerged from an economic community of only 6 states in the 1950s. Its flag bears a starry banner of 12 stars on a blue background. In 1985, the flag was adopted as the official symbol by the heads of government of what would later become the European Union. The flag and its motif are older.

Sonntag's **EUROPA**: 12 stars form a circle. A blue steel line swings up from the surface of the square as a closed spatial figure and forms a dodecagon describing a circle, which carries 12 points of light and holds them above the heads of passers-by on the square. 12 autonomous circuits made of high-performance LEDs (20,000 lumens), control electronics specially developed for this work, whose central components are a counter and clock generator like an opto-coupler, transform the incident sunlight into a composition of light pulses whose rhythms never repeat themselves.

Light art in public spaces, if it does not illuminate something more or less meaningfully, has to put up with the accusation of light pollution and energy waste, which makes it appear incompatible with the current values represented by the EU.

The task Sonntag and his N-solab set themselves was not only to transform a light composition into a circuit, but also to develop circuits that operate independently of our power grid day and night at temperatures ranging from minus 30 degrees Celsius to plus 50 degrees Celsius and under water for as long as possible. The light pulses, which draw their energy from sunlight, are extremely short and only hit individual creatures that move or stand under the angular circle of light, so that insects are not disturbed by the light work beyond the surrounding natural lighting during the day and artificial lighting at night. If you walk around the steel sculpture, its line and intersection point shift continuously in your visual perception. Between a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 72 pulses of light, the rhythmic patterns in the space are unpredictable and, as it were, counterpoint to each other.

All following photos taken and © by Jan-Peter E.R. Sonntag

















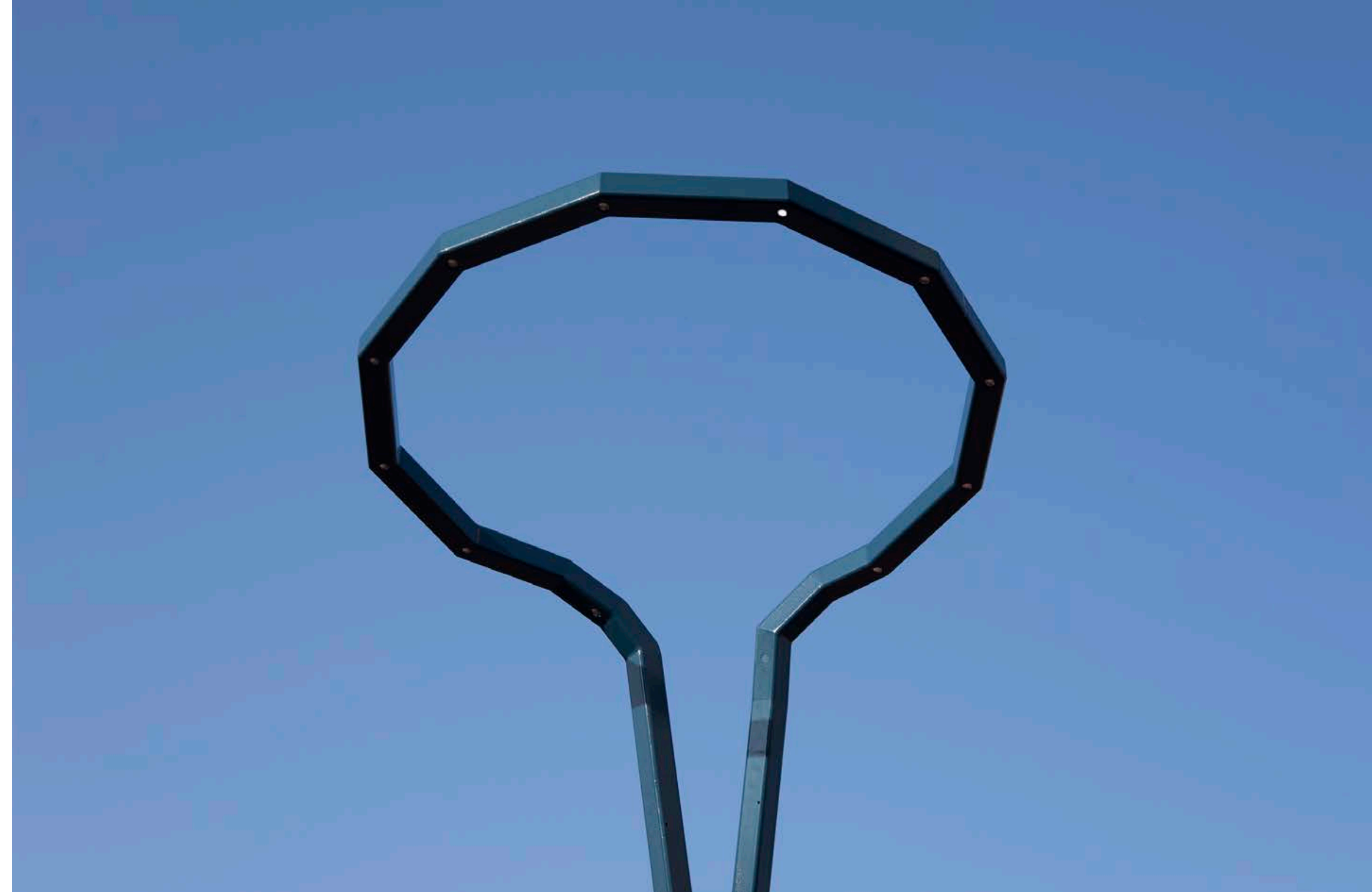














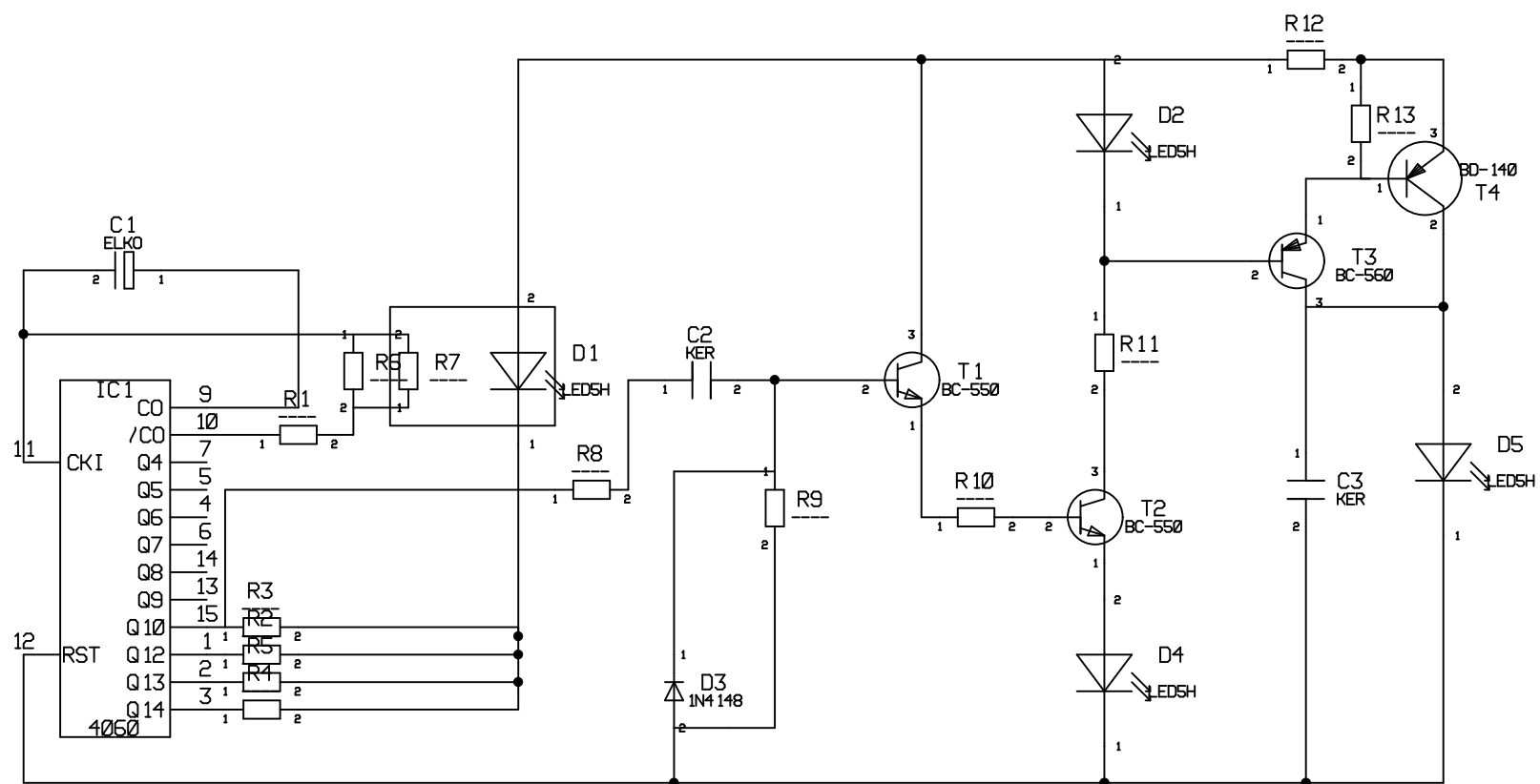




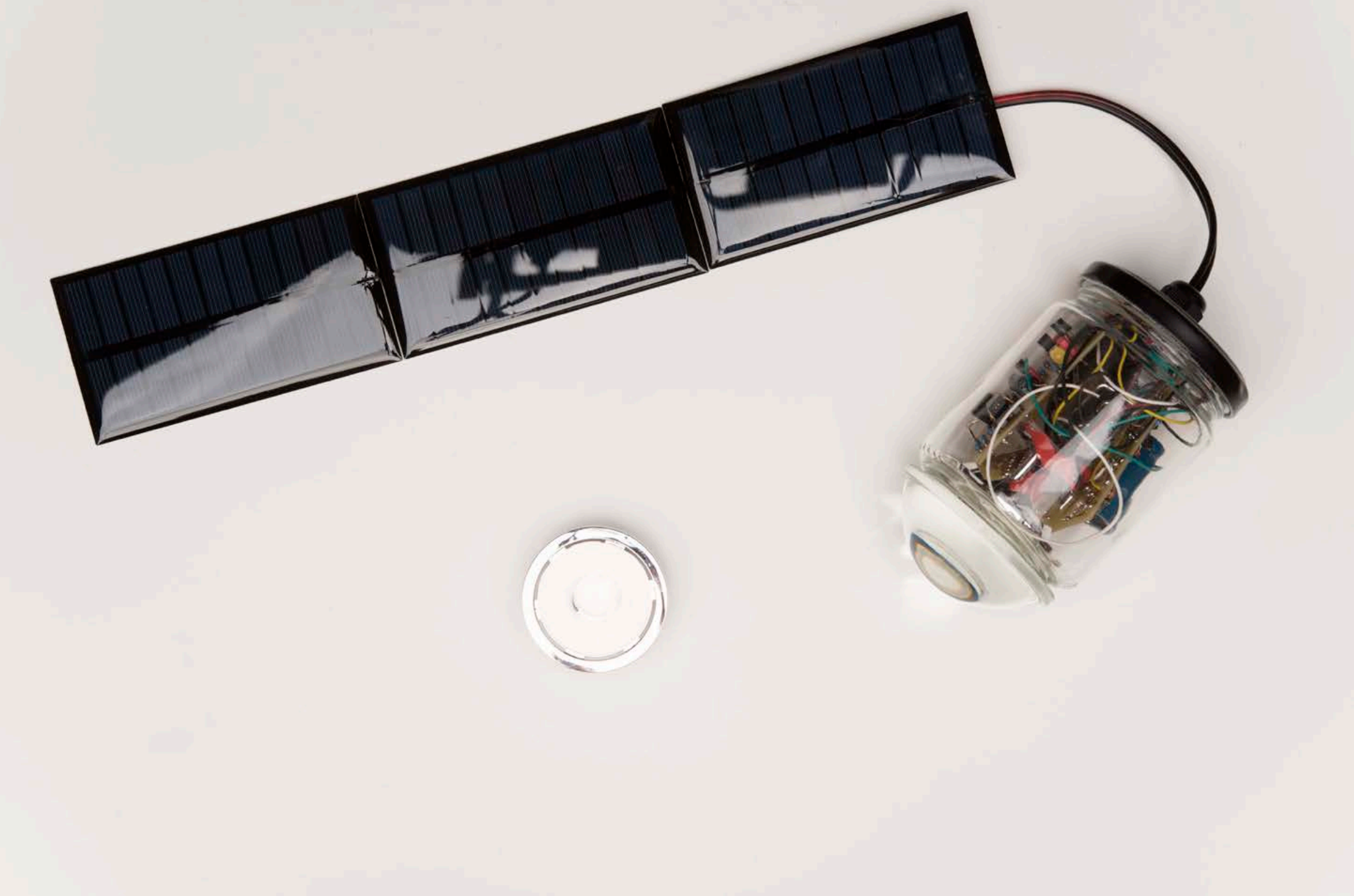


















photos page 3, 5, 7, 8

Jan-Peter E.R. Sonntag **le∞**, an endlessly rising column of spacial coherent cold white light and noise in the historic, listed water tower - a landmark on the outskirts of Lippstadt - a permanent installation since 2013.  
(Optical system in a black aluminum base, from which a beam of focused xenon light is thrown under the fogged former water tank in the dome. Also cold white, 6500K HQI light in the tower, falling fog / 4 fog systems, computer and sound system to create a seemingly endlessly rising noise) photos © the artist

photos page 10, 11, 13, 15, 16

Jan-Peter E.R. Sonntag **nomen nominandum**, Brüderkirche, 20 years Lichtpromenade Lippstadt, 2024 / installation view  
(sonD-double-bass / electromagnetically excited and feedback bass strings, sonT horn system, rotating light plasma spot light) photos © the artist

photos page 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 33

Jan-Peter E.R. Sonntag **EUROPA**, a permanent light, electronics and steel sculpture / composition, EUROPA-Platz of the city of Lünen, 2021  
(height 8m, diameter: 3.5m, weight without base: 2.4 tons; 12 computer and control electronics developed for this work by N-solab + high-power LEDs (20,000 lumens) and solar panels in glass housings, 16cm x 16cm square galvanized steel tube, 3 coated with 2K micaceous iron oxide paint DB blue and 2K UV protection on a recessed reinforced concrete base) photos © the artist

