

Portfolio

Vivian Charlesworth

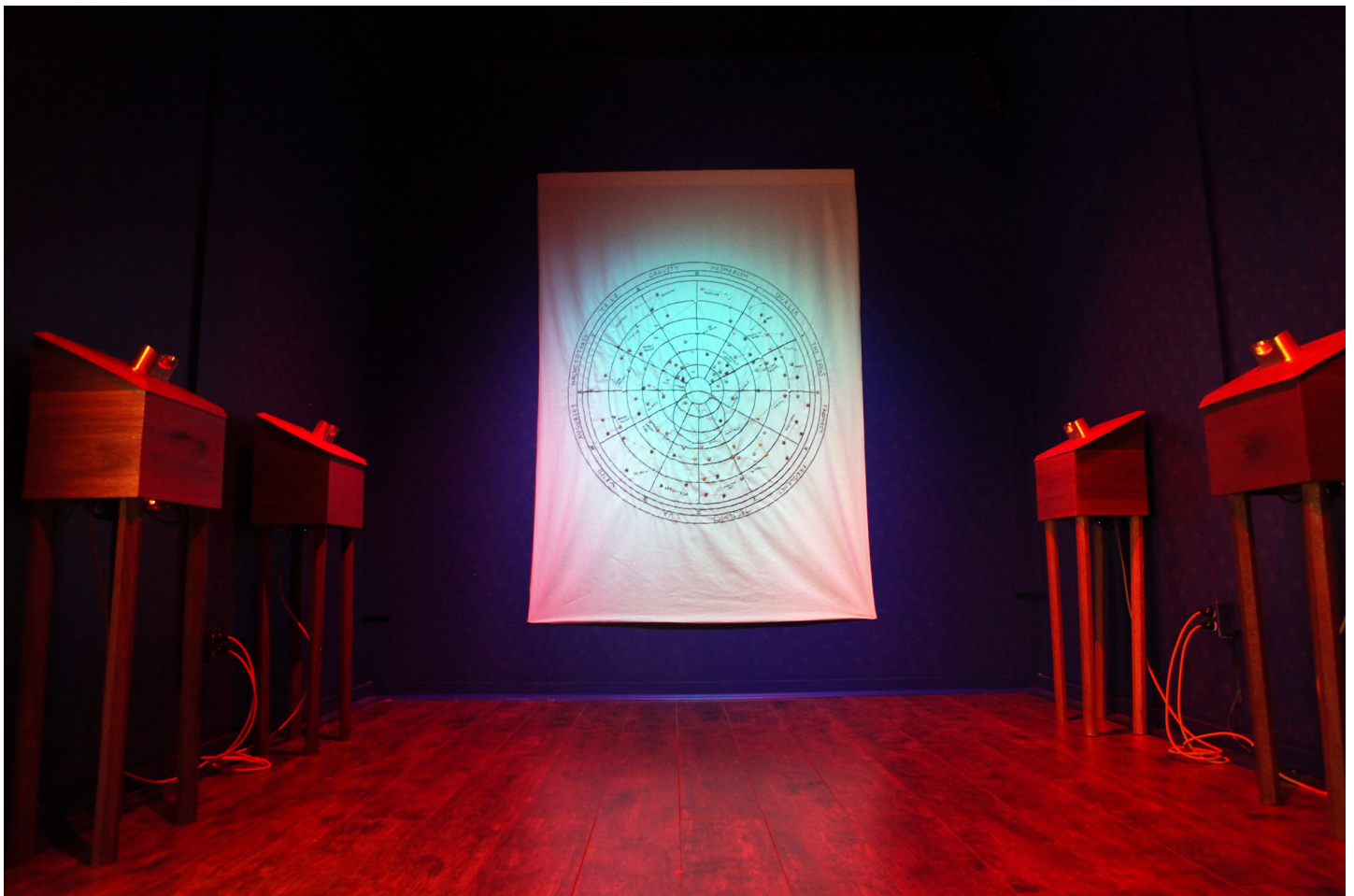
Auguries, 2015

Site Specific Installation

Mahogany, Brass, Raspberry Pi, Programming, Video, Audio, Embroidery on Canvas, 3D Printing.

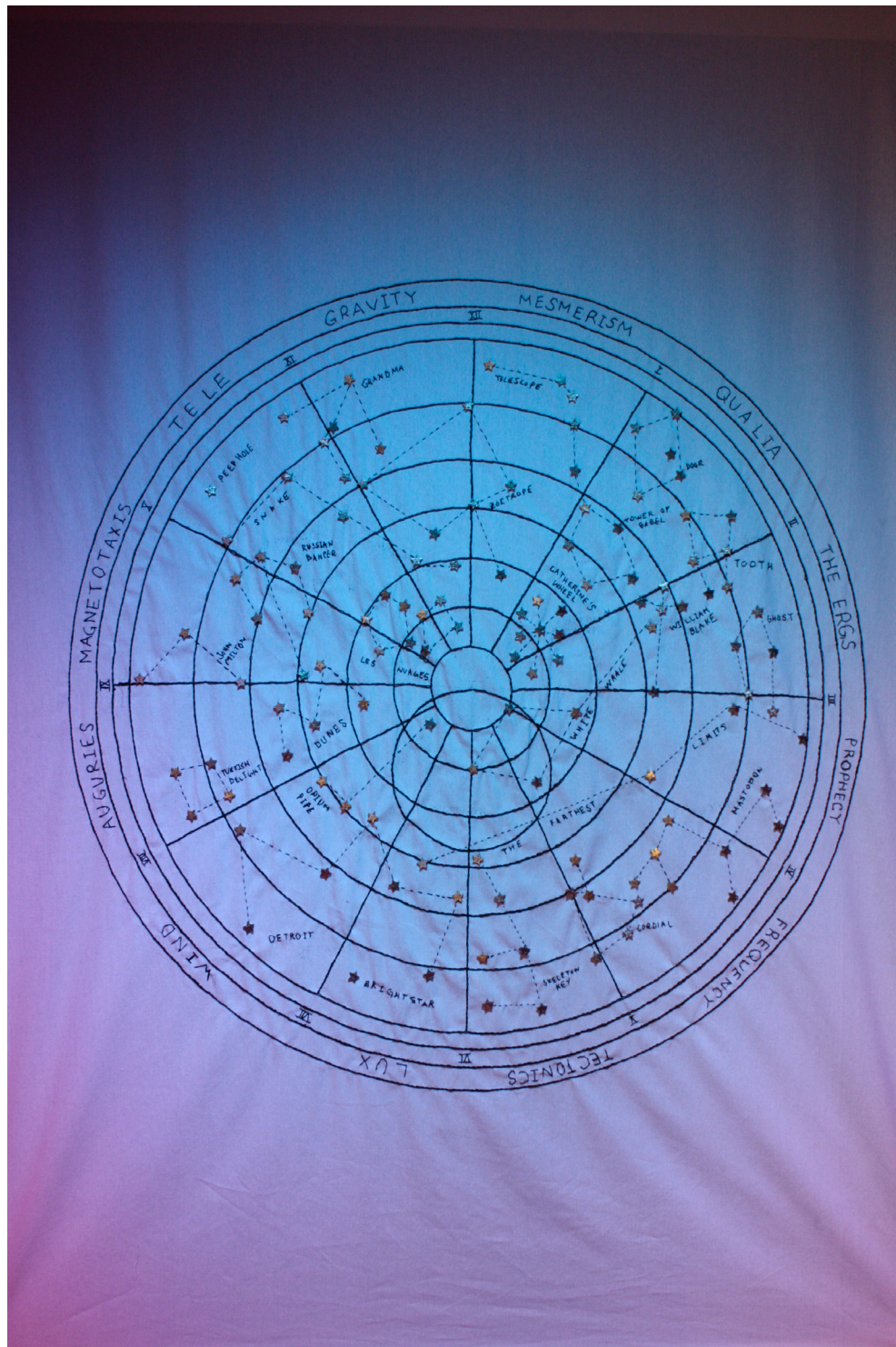
At one end of the space, an eight foot embroidered star chart hangs surrounded by four mahogany kinetoscopes with brass binoculars. Each box contains a three minute long video, and acts as a portal into the world of the chart's maker. The walls are a deep blue, and are decorated with hand-painted abstracted stars that act as wall paper. The floor is furnished with dark wood floors, and a twenty minute sound loop reverberates in the space, reflecting the video content and the star chart.

How do astronomers and astrophysicists construct models of the sublime reaches of outer space, illustrating a macrocosm beyond technology's analytical grasp? Since history's beginning, humans have developed visual, philosophical, scientific and mythological representations of the universe to comprehend this disembodied space. In *Auguries*, I mythologize myself, pushing the boundaries of reality in order to make sense of my conscious and subconscious self. It is a terrain more complex and delicate than any atlas I've seen on earth, and so, in *Auguries*, I attempt to model my personal universe in a similar way to science's cosmological models.



Star Chart.
Embroidery on Canvas with 3D Printed Star Beads.

Embroidery on Canvas with 3D Printed Star Beads.



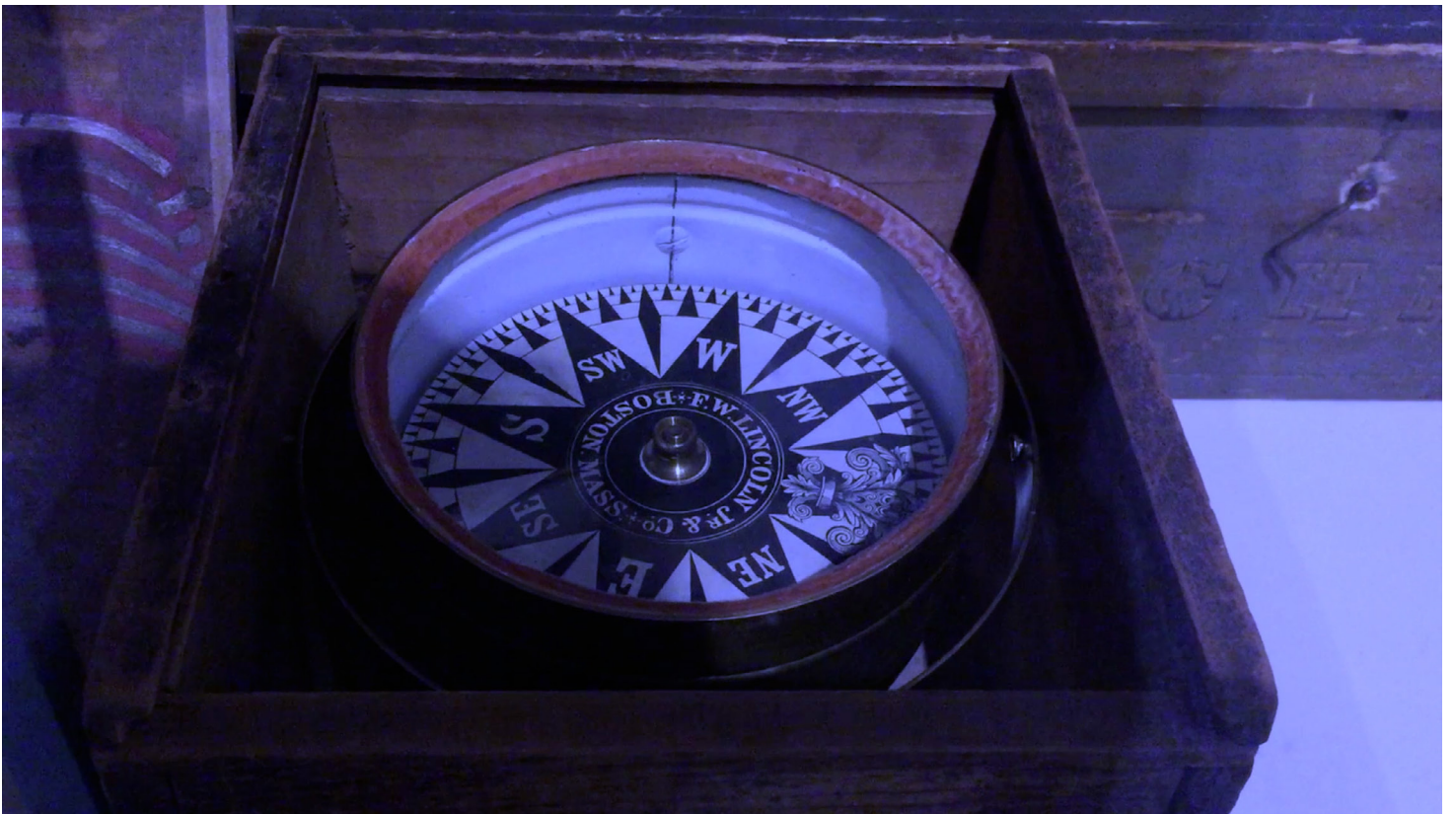
Auguries, 2015

Kinetoscope Detail

Mahogany, CNC'd Brass Binoculars, Raspberry Pi, Programming, Electronics, Video.



Still from Kinetoscope video #4 "Lux".



Auguries, 2015

Stills from Kinetoscope Videos



Still from Kinetoscope #2 Video "Conduits". This film was shot primarily at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in S. California. This facility was a major player in the Space and Arms Race. The building in the background is a rocket test stand that tested the Apollo rocket engines amongst others.



Still from Kinetoscope #3 video "Tectonics". This film was shot partially at the Lick Observatory in N. California.

Tyger, Tyger, 2014

Site Specific Installation

Audio, Video, Found and Constructed Objects

Upon entering *Tyger, Tyger*, the viewer is met with a television depicting rocket engine tests from the Apollo mission. Alarms ring and fire laden explosions roar from the mid-century television at the center of the room. Around the tented space, a voice sings William Blake's poem "The Tyger" while another speaker whispers several poems depicting a sensuous and destructive internal narrative that parallels the themes present in Blake's original poem. Both the rocket tests and the stained glass skylight of the tiger "burn bright" in the room, while also demonstrating forces of perfect beauty and perfect violence. The sounds around the space are completely immersive, and it is required that the viewer move and explore the room in order to experience all aspects of the soundscape.



Tyger, Tyger, 2014

Detail.

1940's Illuminated Globe and Carved Wooden Rocket Ship.



Intrasectum, 2013

Site Specific Installation

Audio, Video Projection, Video, Performance, Found and Constructed Objects, Rubber, IV Bag, Insects.

Intrasectum explores an alternative hydrotherapy in which insects are injected into a patient intravenously. The piece aims to evoke an atmosphere of peaceful discomfort by the use of jarring colors and a soundtrack of echoing drips. While immersed within the work, the viewers are challenged to create a narrative for themselves, since there is no overt storyline to be found. As the patient sits in the tub, nude, she watches an “informational video” that is meant to describe what her procedure entails. Nevertheless, the video and the message are abstract, lending an air of mystery to the overall artwork. Concurrently, an animation of butterflies seem to fly out of an IV bag full of insects and circles the room.

While considering this project, I researched turn of the century hydrotherapy and medical practices, as well the historical usages of insects in medicine. I discovered that hydrotherapy was primarily used within insane asylums in order quiet patient fits. I therefore used lighting and sound to replicate this feeling of forced pacification.



Intrasectum, 2013

Detail.
Vintage Compass and Butterflies

