Ivana Franke, *Seeing with Eyes Closed*

2011

Wooden construction, polystyrene panel, 251 white 10 mm LED lights arranged in hexagonal grid, micro controller, pillow. 122 x 66 x 110 cm

Frequency range of blinking light: 12-50 Hz. Sequence duration: 3’18”

Simultaneously illuminating LED lights are programmed to flicker at a frequency between 12 and 50 hertz for a duration of 3 minutes and 18 seconds. Flash duration of 6 milliseconds is constant while pause duration varies.

The visitors are invited to sit on the floor in front of the object and close their eyes. They are exposed to flashing light which produces quasi-hallucinatory visual experience of flowing images behind closed eyes.

Each person’s experience differs from that of others (so far following perceptual responses were mentioned: black and white or colored geometric patterns (waves, checkboards, circles, spirals) swirling, jumping or flowing; aerial images of earth, black and white images of cities in 30’s, oneself, eyes, human figures, horses, in various positions and sizes).

The installation is a part of the project Seeing with Eyes Closed with Ida Mommenejad, conceived in collaboration with neurosurgeon Alexander Abbushi and the Association of Neuroesthetics
Installation view: Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice