



# Light Trails and Echoes Form a Massive, Multisensory Canvas

*Kevin Holmes (/author/kevinholmes) — Jun 14 2016*



*Photos courtesy of United Visual Artists*

Like the tick-tock of a grandfather clock, a new artwork by [United Visual Artists](https://uva.co.uk/) (<https://uva.co.uk/>), called *Our Time*, explores the tangible passage of time through sound and movement. But unlike the single, standing timepiece, it takes the form of 21 large-scale pendulums which immerse the audience in a fog of trailing light and echoing audio.

The installation is currently on at the [Dark Mofo](https://darkmofo.net.au/) (<https://darkmofo.net.au/>) festival in Hobart, Austria where viewers can enter a warehouse and stand under this undulating canvas, experiencing the fluctuating compositions that gradually change from order to disorder.



*Photos courtesy of United Visual Artists*

Each of the pendulums is a counterweighted two-axis robot arm containing a speaker and spotlight, which together form a system that allows for the synchronous and asynchronous movement throughout. "The speaker and light source integrated into each pendulum bob creates a direct, physical connection between sound, light and movement," explains Matt Clark. "Each instrument is calibrated and monitored using a central control system, so that each unit responds in exactly the same manner."



*Photos courtesy of United Visual Artists*

As the pendulums swing back and forth, nearly touching each other, they find their own tempo; their disintegrating presence creates a palpable sense of time passing. The piece is part of a series of kinetic sculptures which date back to the studio's 2013 work, *Momentum* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPNbH4gRqFM>), each exploring the relationship—the concord and discord—of light, sound, and movement together.



*Photos courtesy of United Visual Artists*

Visit United Visual Artists' website [here \(https://uva.co.uk/\)](https://uva.co.uk/).

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