

When he was in high school in Texas, Eric Ryan Mims used a similar arrangement to detect underground nuclear tests in Nevada (1996/2008)

Matt Rogalsky

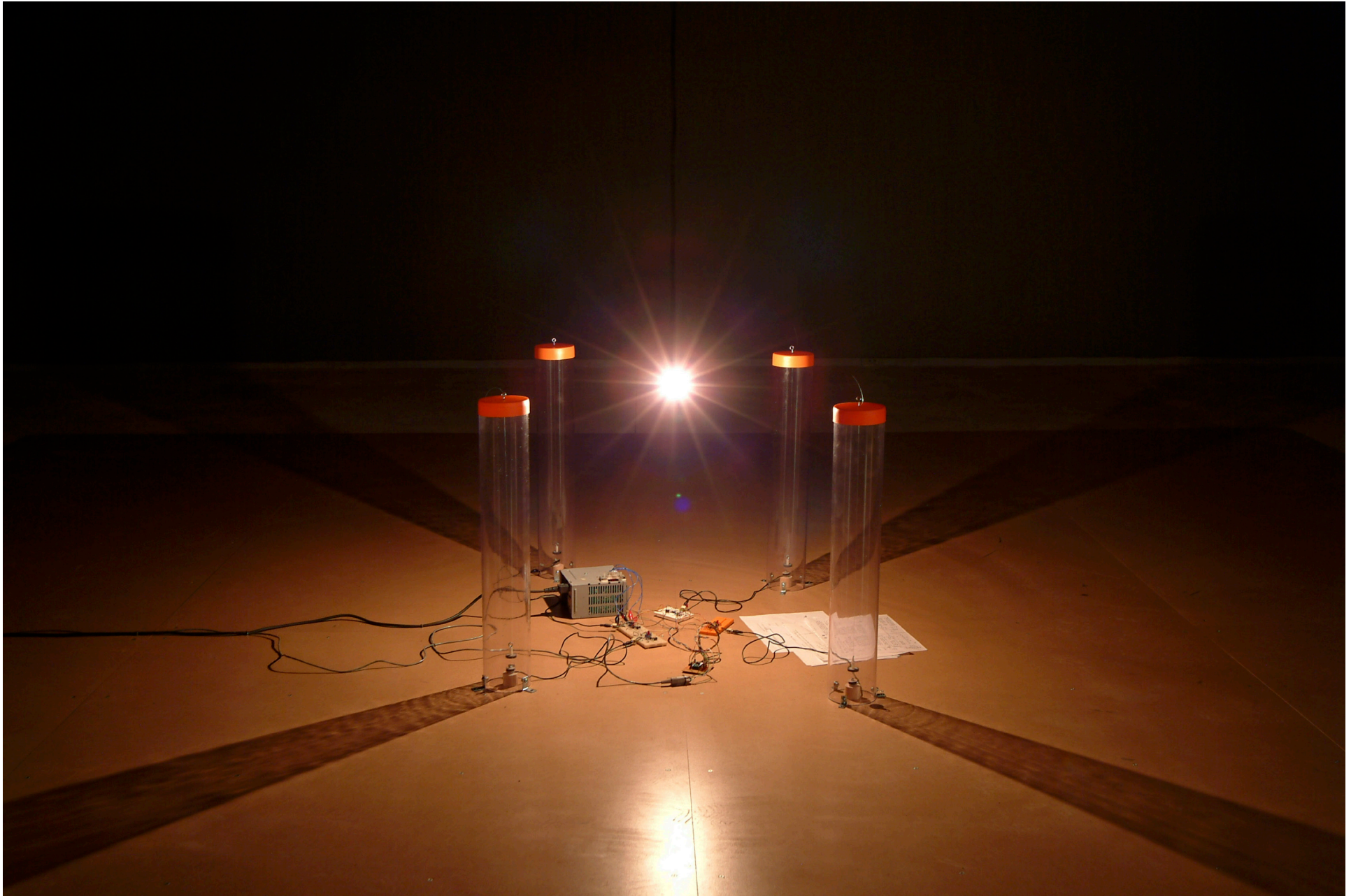
Four homemade seismometers with MIDI triggers, computer, custom software, four channel sound

A meditation on cold war boy-hobbyists and fascination with nuclear annihilation. Four homemade seismometers are present in the gallery, each sensitive enough to be triggered by a passing truck, a subway underground, or footsteps of visitors. The circuits, presented as breadboards with components exposed, are based on a design found in Forrest W Mims' "Engineer's Mini Notebook: Science Projects", published by Radio Shack in the 1970s. Mims references his son in the article, using the sentence which was adopted as the title of the piece.

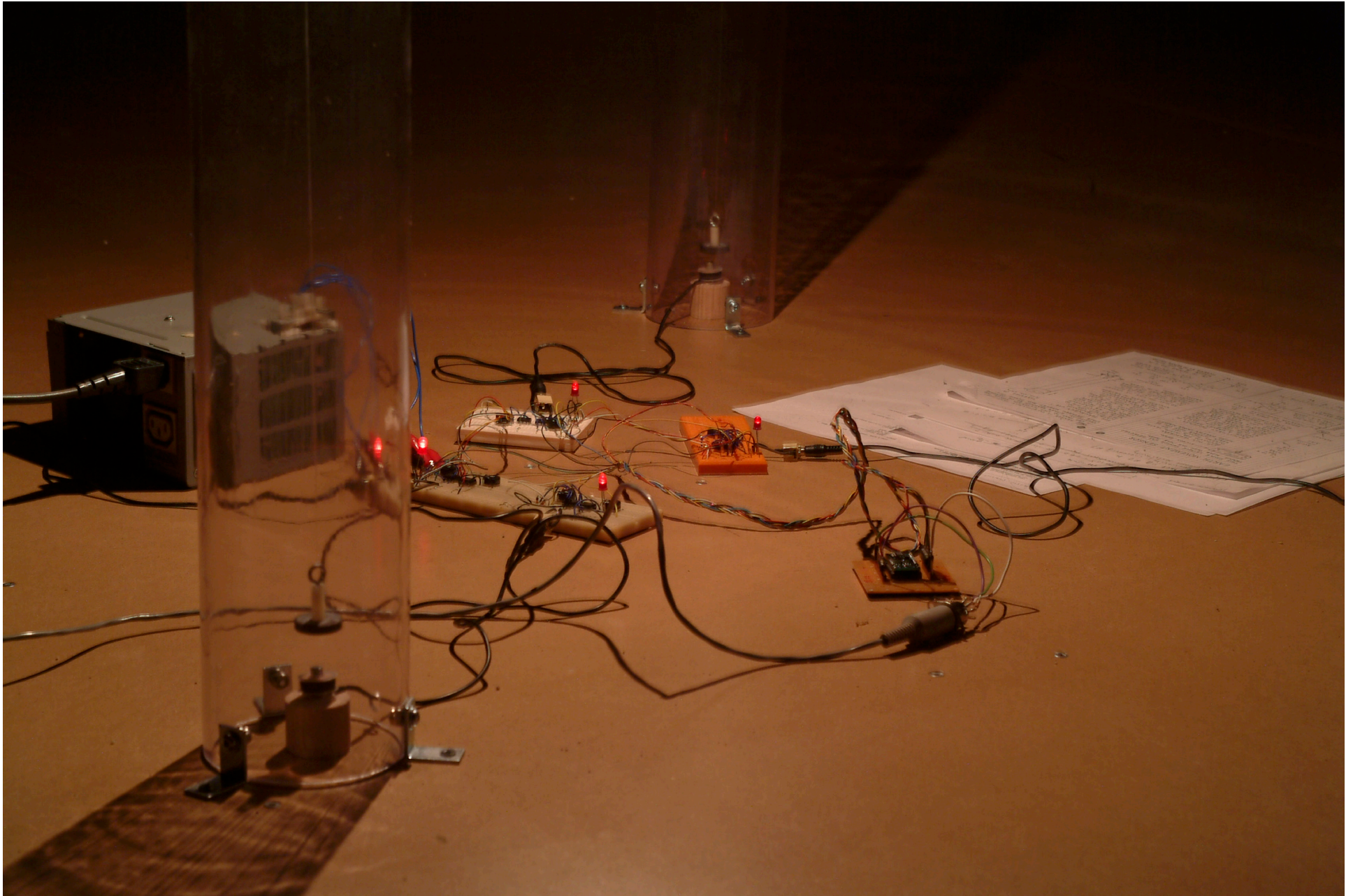
The seismometers have red LEDs which flash when triggered, and simultaneously MIDI signals are sent to a 'backstage' computer running software written in the SuperCollider programming language. SuperCollider generates Geiger-counter-like clicks which accumulate in a delay line over the course of the exhibition, with a decay time mimicking radioactive decay.

About the accompanying audio documentation

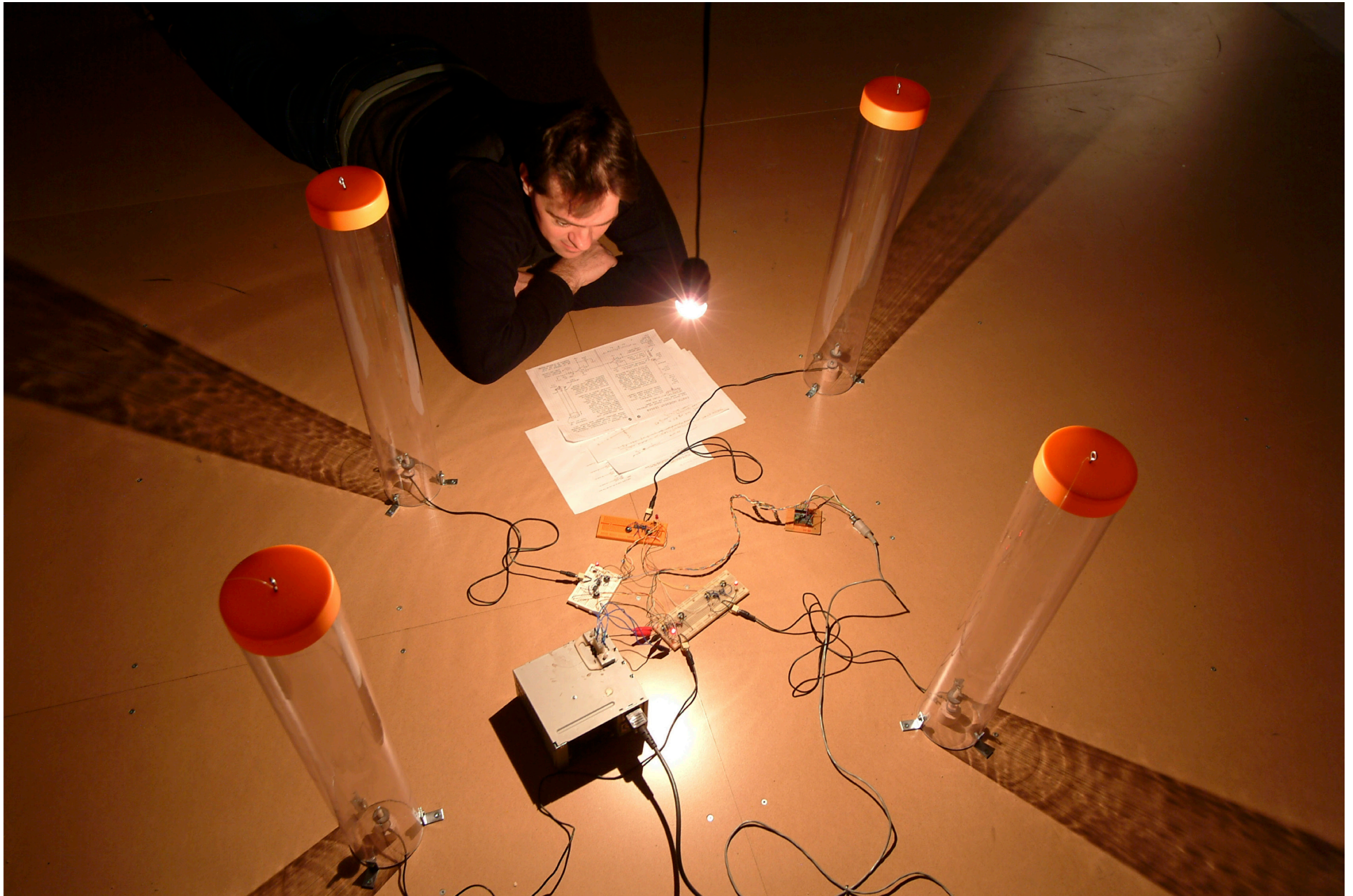
A recording of output from the piece, presented in a simulation of a compressed day in the gallery.



When he was in high school...
2008 Agnes Etherington Art Centre



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When he was in high school...
Documentation photo, artists's basement