
THE
SUBJECTIFIED
OBJECT
SERIES

Living with Things

Monika Hoinkis
Interaction Design
University of the Arts Berlin 2005



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OBJECT
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Living with Things

Prototypes and Photography
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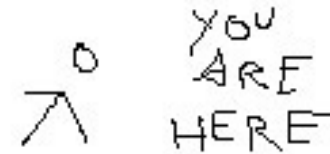
abstract

The only way to become sane is to embrace your insanity.

Mike Mills

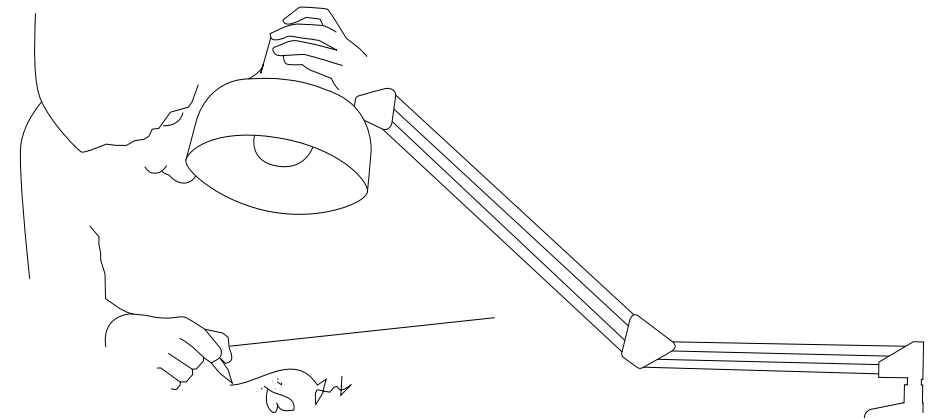
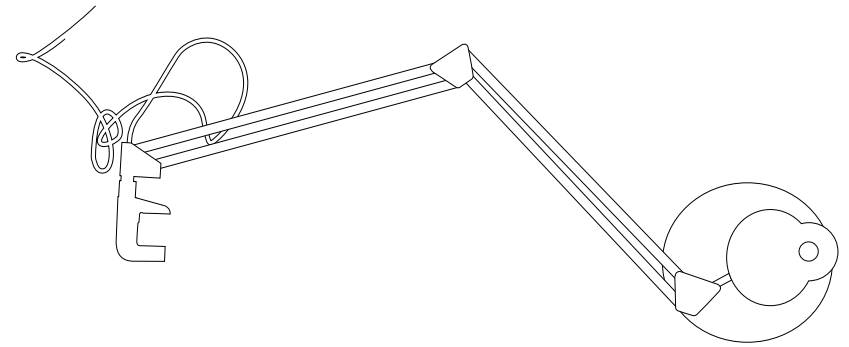
Living With Things is a series of seven everyday objects, modified in their functionality. They explore how and to what degree an object can be subjectified by a person's imagination and emotions, and how intimate moments can be created between a human and an object. Through using the objects you create a symbiotic relationship - they need you as much as you need them. The project is about emotionally enhancing everyday life, creating moments to make you stop and consider.

The project has also been documented photographically. These photographs search for the aforementioned moments – where, when and how they take place – and then captures them. The objects and photography together encourage people to explore a different view of the world, of everyday life and therefore themselves. It won't change the world, but may alter our perception of it, and perhaps open up new ways of looking at things we often take for granted.



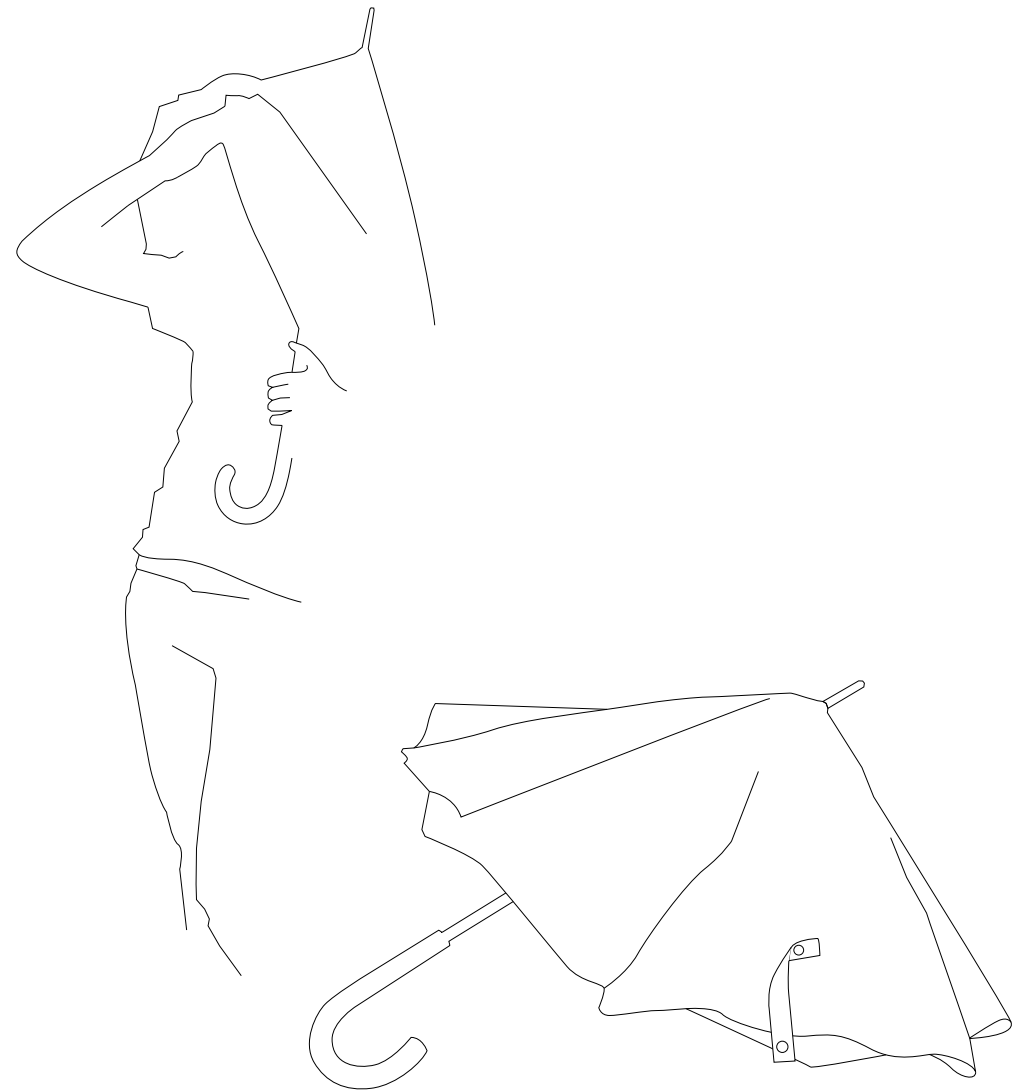
LAMP

A lamp without stability. The joints are loose and cannot be locked-off anymore. It still works as a lamp, but it has to be constantly held up by the user.



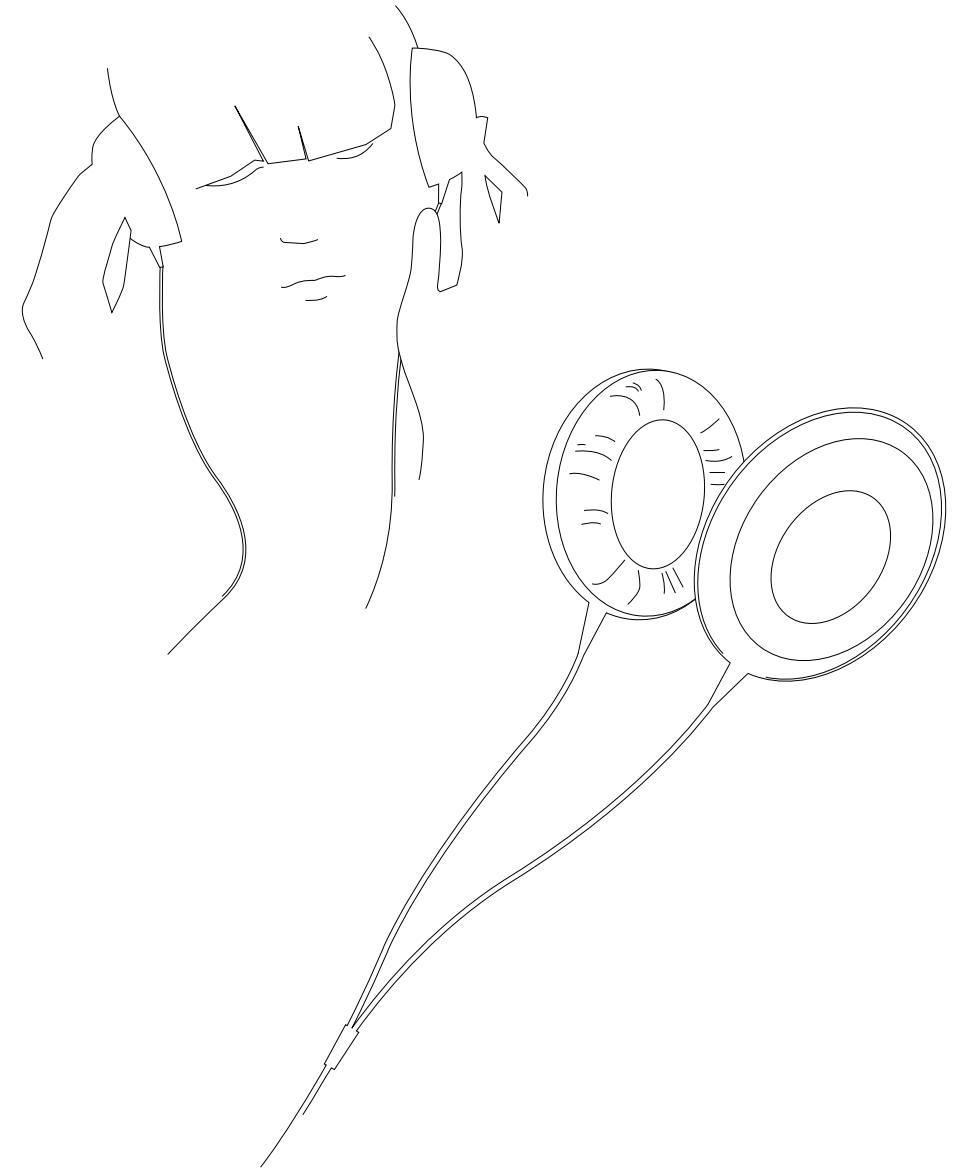
UMBRELLA

The inside supporting frame has been removed from the umbrella, now just the cloth is left. It is huddling, still protecting. If not from the rain, then from something else.



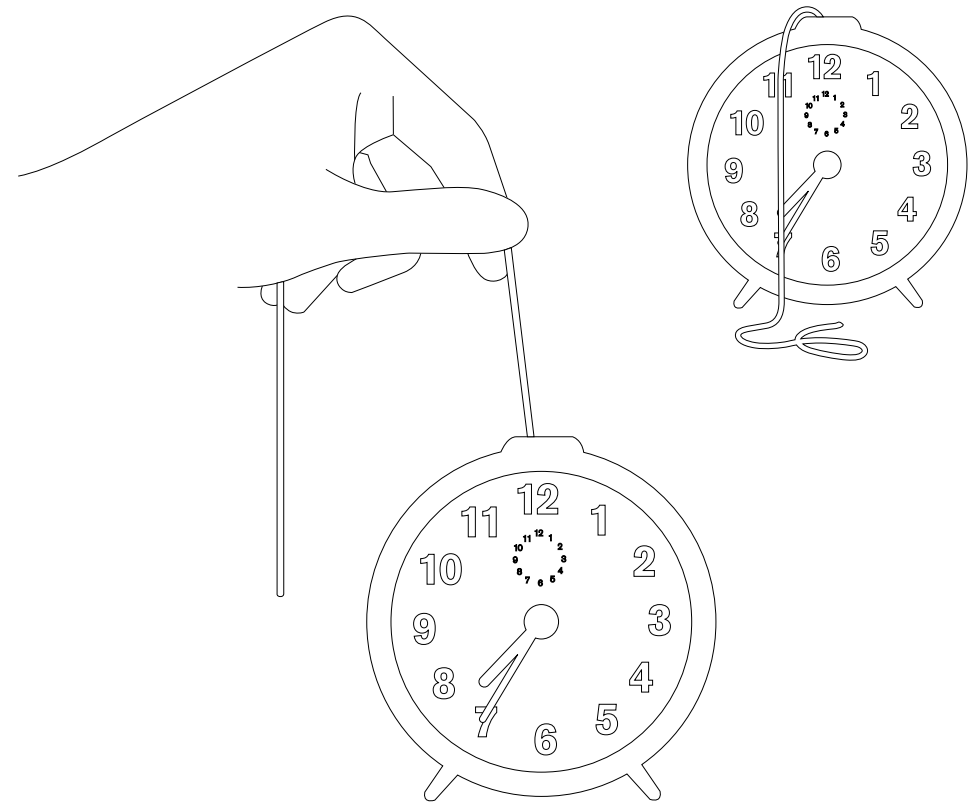
HEADPHONES

Big bulky headphones without the head-strap. Now to listen to music one has to hold the shells up in one's hands.



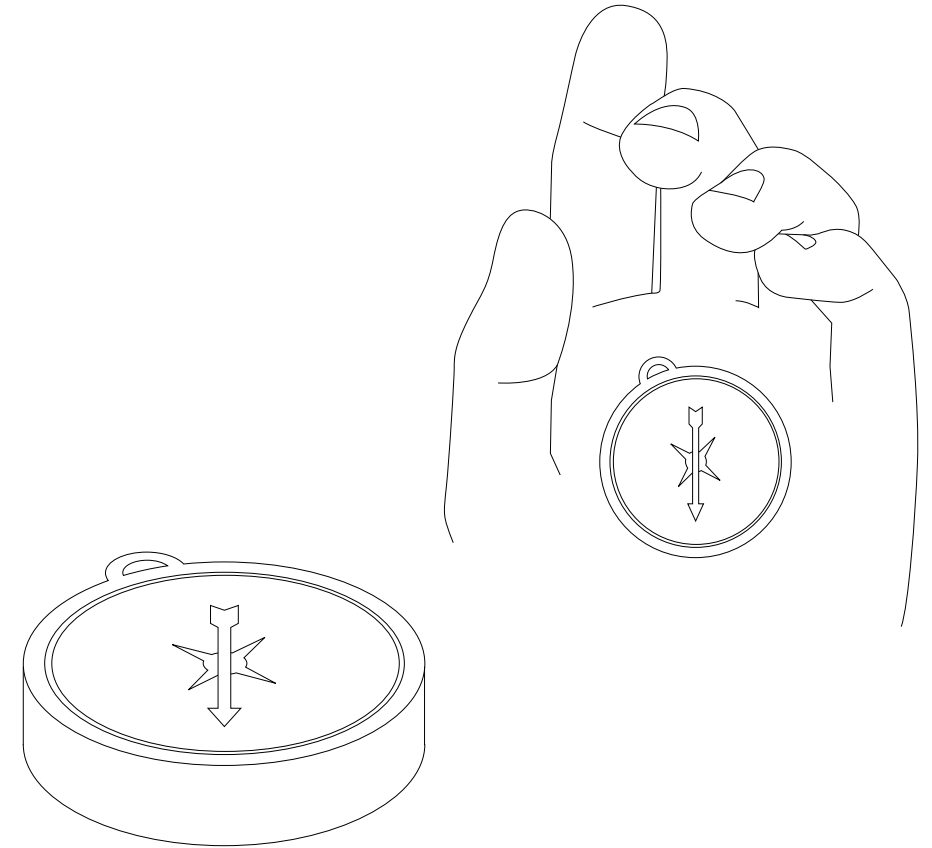
ALARM CLOCK

You cannot set this alarm to ring at a certain time. To make it go off you have to pull the chain which is replacing the button that normally stops the alarm. It will only ring for as long as you are pulling. As soon as you let go, the alarm will stop.



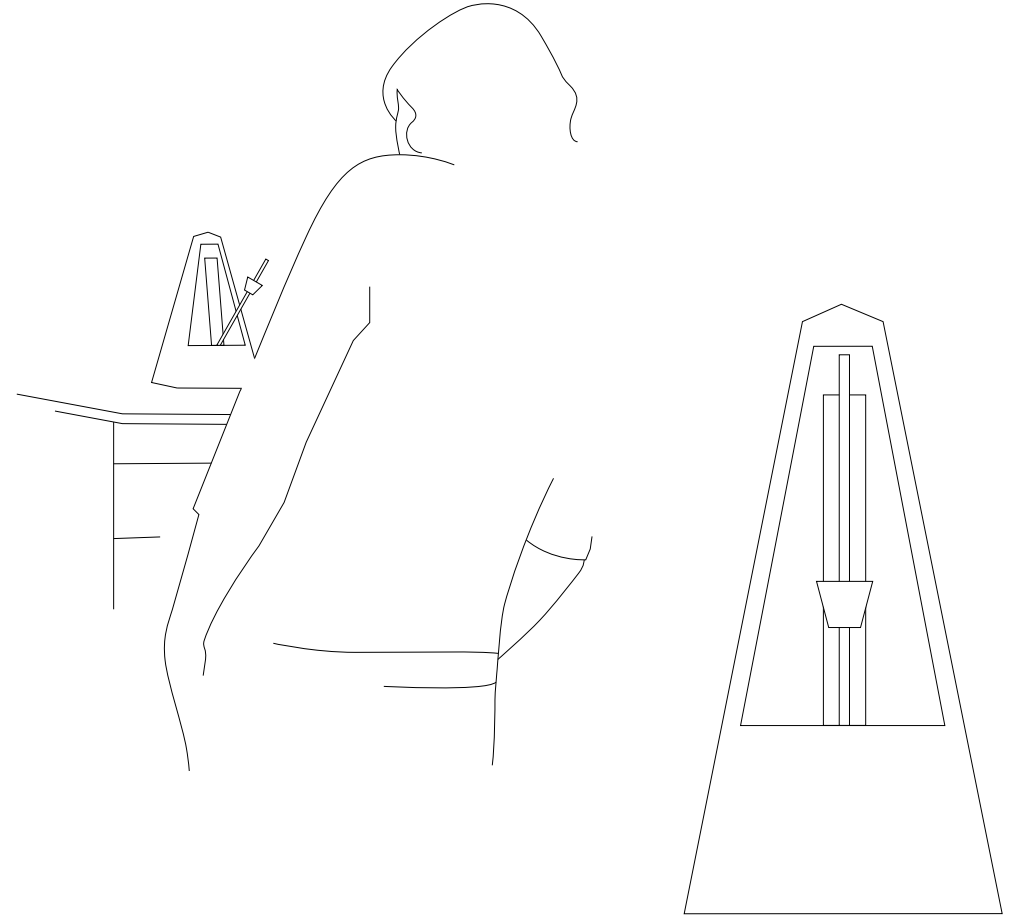
COMPASS

The compass is placed in a box, small enough to hold it in one's hands. When the box is opened, the compass needle searches for the person holding it in their hands instead of finding North.



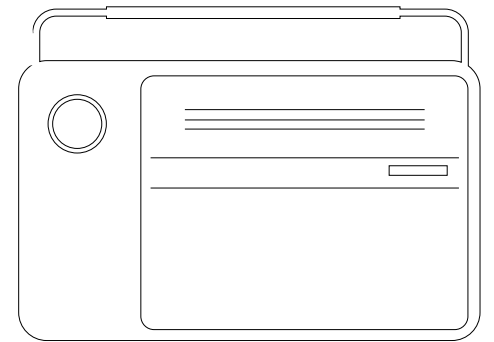
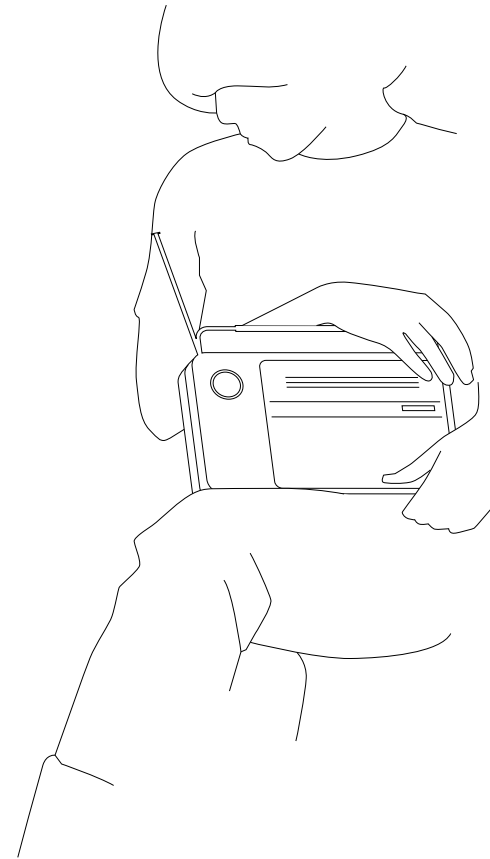
METRONOME

This metronome does not work according to its own tempo anymore. The pendulum follows the person in front of it instead. One can move it from left to right by moving their hands in front of it in the desired direction.



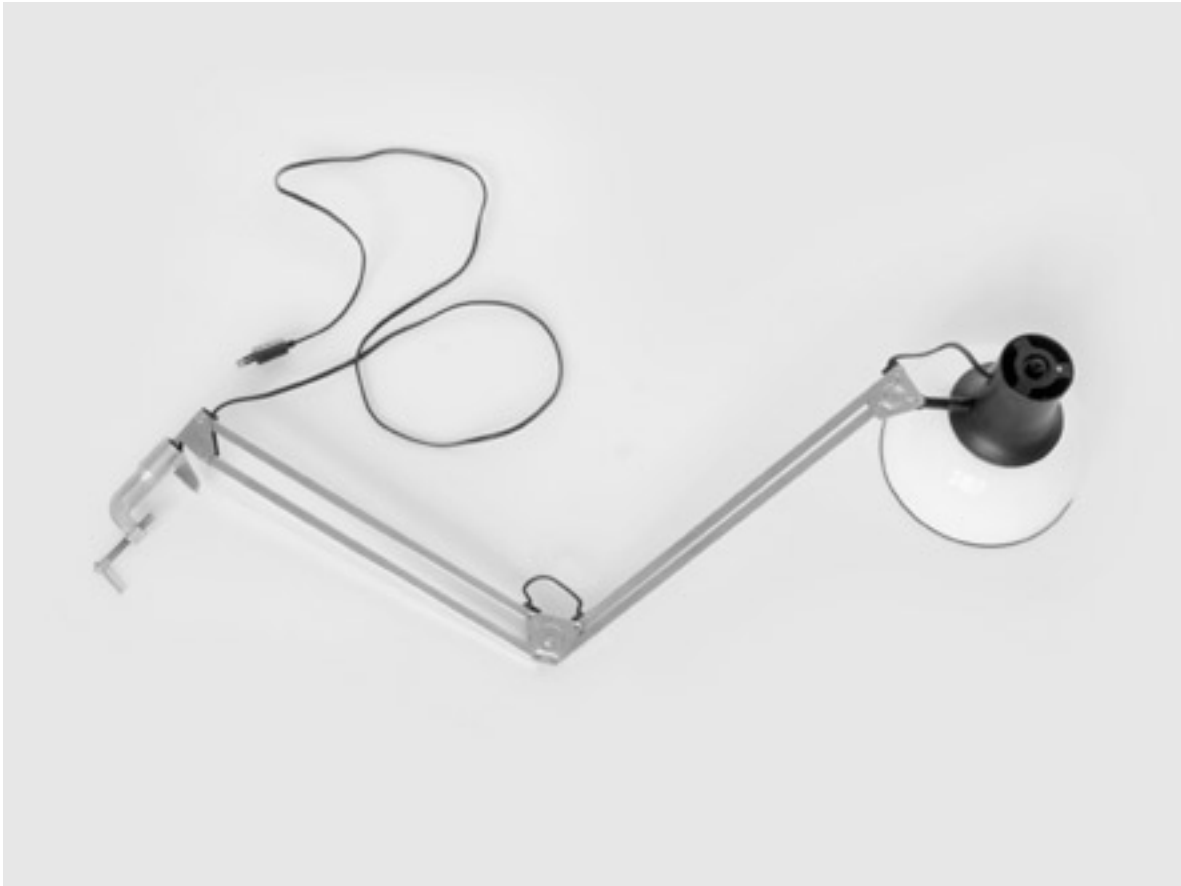
RADIO

To make the radio play one has to hold it by its handle and keep it close to one's body. The music stops when it is left alone, so the owner has to carry it around with him or her.



final objects





lamp



umbrella



headphones





alarm clock



The mechanics that normally is making the alarm go off has been replaced by a pull-back spring and a chain that makes the alarm go off when and as long as you pull it.



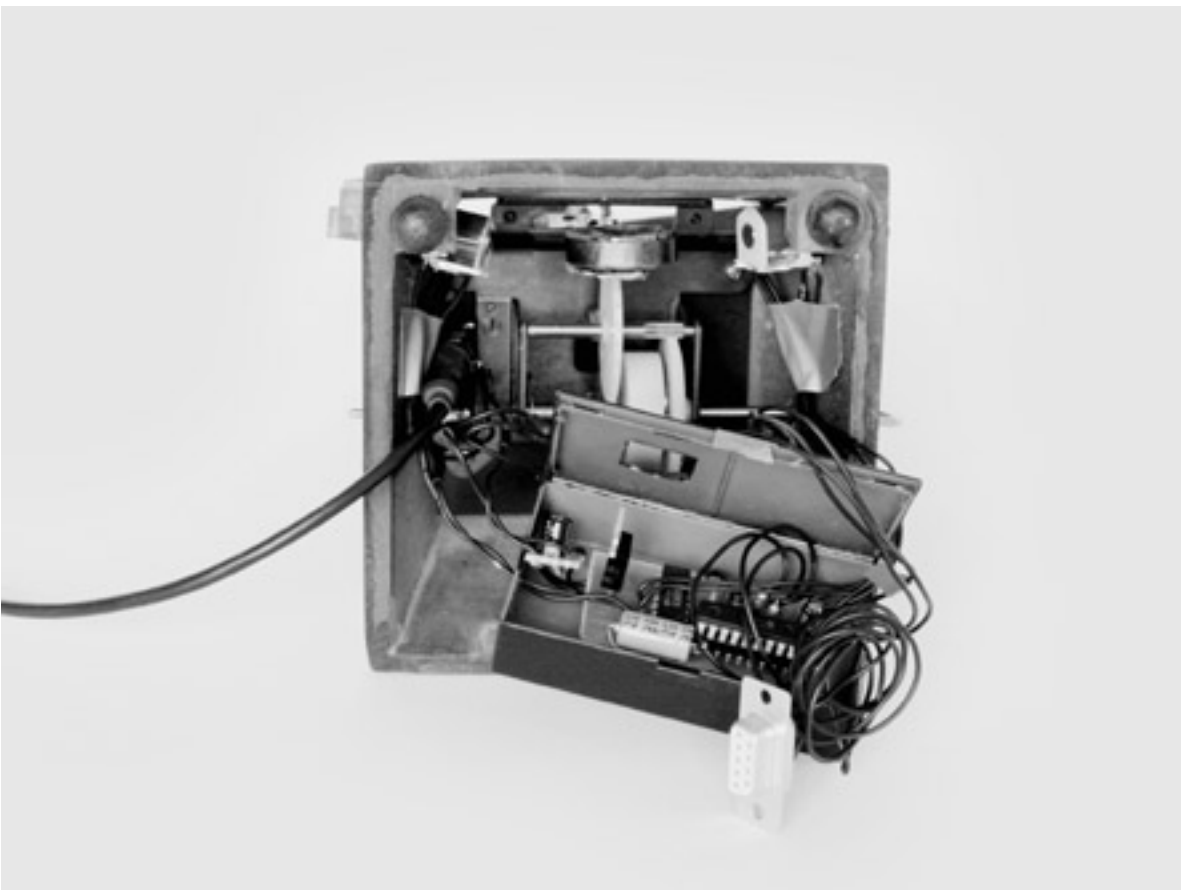
compass



A light-sensitive sensor detects when the box is opened and triggers a microcontroller to switch on an electromagnet with a time delay of approx. 2 seconds. The magnet is located at the inside-front of the box, and so aligns the compass' needle towards the person holding the box.



metronome



Infrared sensors to the metronome's left and the right measure the distance of e.g. ones hand in front of it. According to which a microcontroler switches between two elctromagnets, one left and one right at the metronome's inside that will hold the metro-
nome's arm on the side. Switching one magnet off, the arm will let go, swing over to the other side, stick and stay there.



radio



A capacity switch is connected to the radio's handle. It is triggered by touching the handle, a microcontroller switches on a little radio that is connected to the big radio's original speaker. Letting the handle go switches the radio off.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In addition to the actual objects, the second part of this work is a series of photographs, capturing and documenting moments between people and the objects. Moments of such this work intends to create, comforting and peaceful, have to be experienced individually and in a calm and inti-mate environment. Where and what are these moments, that is what the photography tries to show as well as it tries to shine some of the comfort and loving warmth back to the viewer. Like the objects themselves they are a platform for people's imagination and emotions to play.



















Monika Hoinkis. Living with Things - The Subjectified Object Series









This work emerged from my graduating project in Interaction Design at UdK (University of the Arts) Berlin.

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