

# Presentation of Alexandre Dang Artistic Work



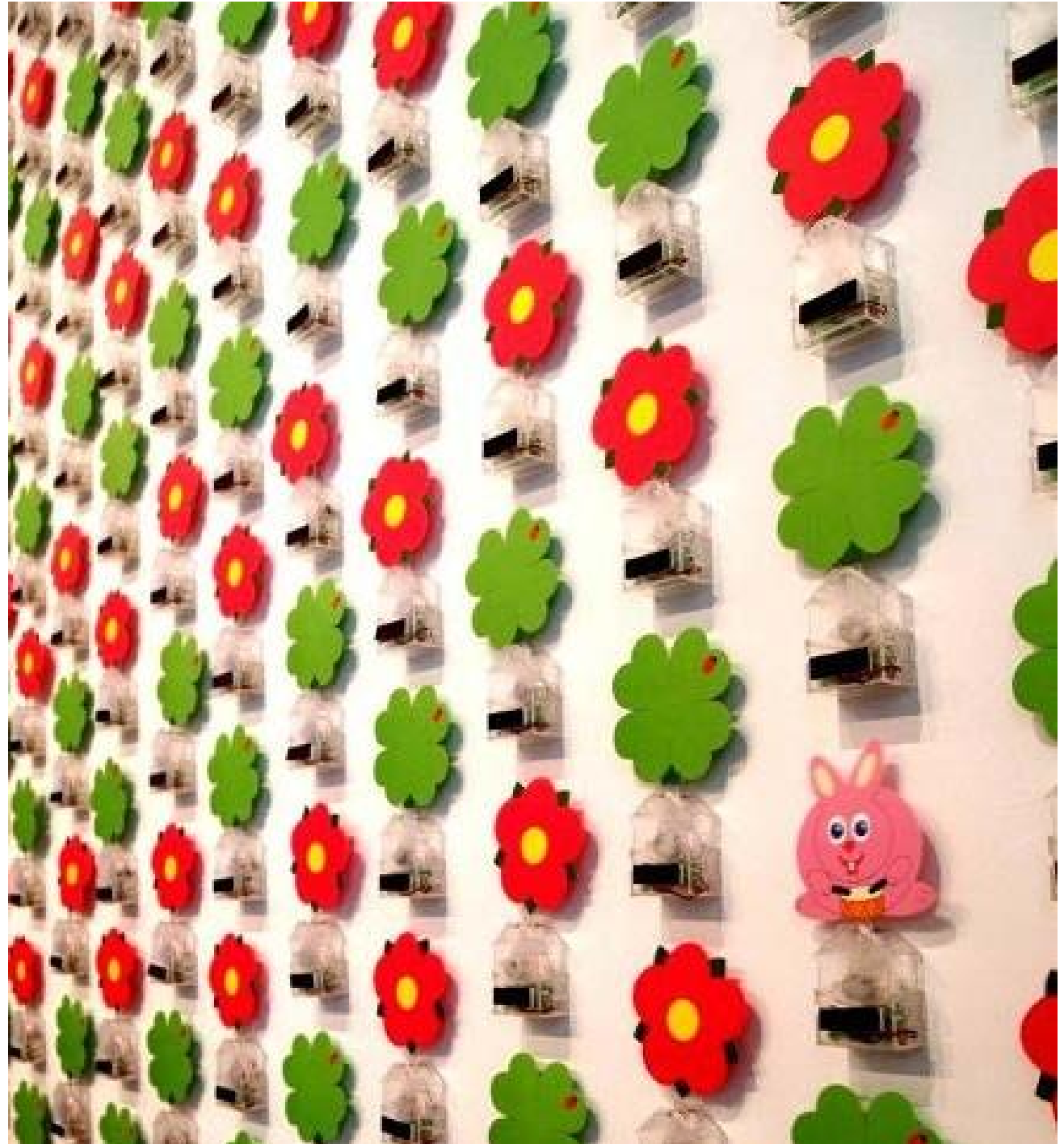
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## INTERVIEW with Alexandre Dang Visual Artist and Engineer

### Who inspires you in your work?

I am influenced by the work of some artists who produced impressive kinetic sculptures, such as Alexander Calder with his stabiles and Jean Tinguely with his machines.

### What exactly is “Kinetic art”?

Kinetic art refers to works which are set in motion by exploiting a source of energy such as the wind, the sun, a motor or the audience. Thus, these works of art are said to be “evolving”, since they are changing form right before the observer’s eyes.

My work blends renewable energy with art. The autonomy that green energy brings to art gives new perspectives of creation and new ground for thinking to the contemporary art world.

### Can you present your work?

Since 2004, I’ve been creating works of art whose distinctive feature is to be put in motion thanks to renewable energies.

In particular, I design:

- \* **“Dancing Solar Flowers”**
- and
- \* **”Solar Paintings and Drawings”**.



Turning Solar Sunflowers  
European Commission in Brussels, 2012

*The autonomy that  
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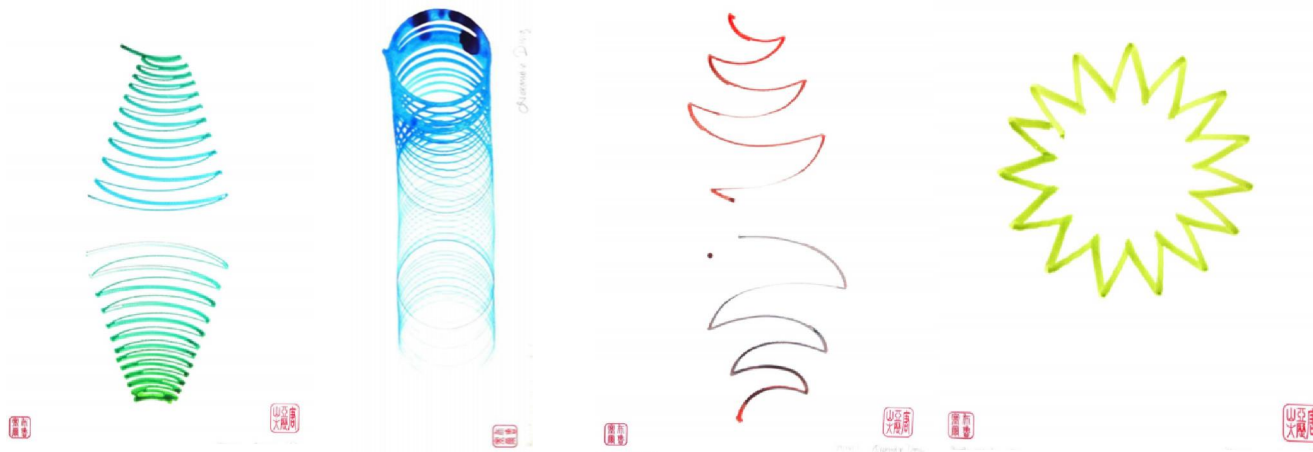
### How do the “Dancing Solar Flowers” work?

Each “Dancing Solar Flower” contains a motor which works thanks to a photovoltaic cell. The cell converts light into electricity that powers the motor and enables the flowers to move constantly, as long as light is provided.

The flowers can be set horizontally, so as to form a field, or vertically, as a “vertical garden”. They react to the surrounding brightness. In the morning, the flowers start moving; they move the fastest between 10 am and 5 pm, as the sun is at its highest. At the end of the day, their activity starts to slow down and the flowers finally stop moving at night. When the weather is cloudy, brightness decreases and the flowers slow down. Each flower follows its own rhythm depending on how intense the light gets.

### Regarding the “Solar Paintings and Drawings”, how are they created?

Recently, I have developed a new project called “Solar paintings and drawings”. They are created through solar machines designed by me. When the surrounding light is sufficient, the machine starts moving and draws different shapes. The pictures hereafter illustrate some examples:



The “Dancing Solar Flowers” move even in the shadow, under indirect solar light or artificial light.

### **What meaning do flowers carry in your work?**

Flowers embody by essence the beauty of nature. In my work, I try to give them a dimension that is poetic, fun and playful at the same time by breathing life into them, using renewable sources of energy.

These flowers often spark surprise, wonder and curiosity. They encourage the audience to think about underlying topics raised by the art piece.

### **What message do you want to deliver to the public?**

Apart from the esthetical aspect, I expect my works to invite the audience to question our current use of energy and to think about the prospects that renewable energy can offer.

My works reflect the instability of a world in constant turmoil and transformation, especially regarding its energetic resources. **Energy is a major issue for the future of humanity.**

### **The “Dancing Solar Flowers” exhibitions can often be seen indoors, but have they ever been exhibited outdoors?**

Yes, the “Dancing Solar Flowers” are often exhibited under glass roofs (for example at the Royal Greenhouses of Laeken) or behind glass façades (as for the exhibition at the Art Museum of Singapore).

However, the flowers have also been exhibited outdoors, for instance in a street in Hong Kong, but also in a square in Taiwan, in collaboration with the Taipei’s Museum of Contemporary Art.



Art Garden, 2012  
Singapore Art Museum (SAM), Singapore

Art Garden, 2012  
Singapore Art Museum (SAM), Singapore



*I expect my works to invite the audience to question our current use of energy.*

### Can you tell us about your commitment?

The sun offers to the Earth 10.000 times more energy than mankind needs; and yet 1.3 billion people still don't have any access to electricity.

This clearly has to change. For this purpose, I commit to work on this issue through my artistic project, which combines a scientific approach with environmental concern and philanthropy.

The sun offers to the Earth 10.000 times more energy than mankind needs.

In particular, thanks to my copyright, I support the international non-profit association **Solar Solidarity International**. This association draws attention to the potential of solar energy and contributes financially to solar electrification of schools, hospitals, etc... in developing countries.



Field of "Solar Dancing Sunflowers", 2006  
European Commission in Brussels

I also regularly conduct **artistic workshops** in order to raise people's awareness of the benefits of sustainable energy through artistic creation.

Finally, I take part in **conferences** in which I speak about solar art, sustainable development, renewable energy...

### What are the future prospects for solar energy in our society?

Specialists forecast that by 2100, the production of sustainable solar energy will cover 70% of the global energetic production. The "Dancing Solar Flowers", which have been showed all around the world, enable art to shine bright and also symbolize the spreading use of renewable energy.

The Dancing Solar Forget-Me-Nots, 2010  
Royal Greenhouses of Laeken, Brussels



## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Alexandre Dang

Born in 1973 in Strasbourg, France.  
Lives and works in Brussels, Belgium.

#### SCIENTIFIC AND ARTISTIC EDUCATION

2007-2008 Brussels, Belgium  
Institut Supérieur pour l'Étude du Langage Plastique (ISELP)  
Élève des Professeurs Olivier Duquesne et Pierre Sterckx

1996 Paris, France  
École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées  
Ingénieur diplômé de l'École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées

1993 Paris, France  
École Polytechnique  
Ingénieur diplômé de l'École Polytechnique

#### Solidarity Projects

Alexandre Dang supports "Solar Solidarity International" (AISBL), a non profit association whose aim is to:

- Raise awareness of the potential of sustainable energies (solar energy in particular) through contemporary artistic creations;
- Finance projects to make solar energy accessible in developing countries (especially in schools).

## MAIN EXHIBITIONS

**2016**

- Museum of Contemporary Art, Xi'An, China
- Museum of Natural History, Geneva, Switzerland
- EPM Library, Medellín, Colombia
- International Book Fair, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

**2015**

- National Museum of Singapore, Singapore
- Art Tower Mito, Mito, Japan
- Art-COP21, Espace Van Gogh Arles, France

**2014**

- Permanent public artwork "Some seeds fell into good soil and produced a crop", Namur, Belgium
- John Jay College, New York, USA
- Contemporary Art Museum (MOCA), Taipei, Taiwan

**2013**

- Marco Polo Airport, Venice, Italy
- Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road, Hong Kong
- Museum of Fine Arts of Tournai, Belgium

**2012**

- European Commission, (Berlaymont), Brussels
- Singapore Museum of Art (SAM), Singapore
- International Exhibition of Yeosu 2012 (South Korea), Belgian Pavillon

**2011**

- Singapore Museum of Art (SAM), Singapore
- European Capital of Culture "Tallinn 2011", Estonia
- Museum of Natural History, Mons, Belgium

**2010**

- Royal Palace of Brussels, Belgium
- Universal Exhibition, Shanghai 2010, Belgian-European Pavillon, China
- Royal Greenhouse of Laeken, Brussels, Belgium

**2009**

- Royal Greenhouse of Laeken, Brussels, Belgium
- Palace of Fine Arts (Bozar – Art Centre), Brussels, Belgium

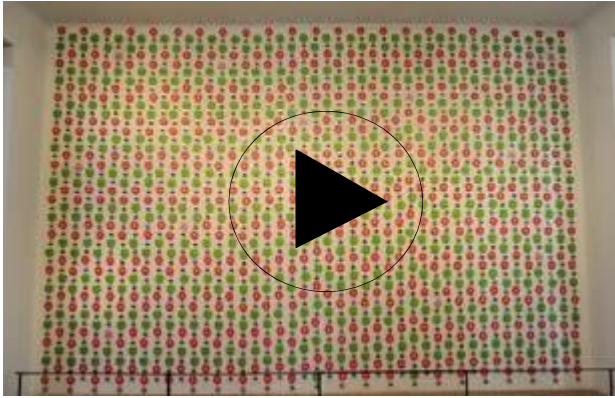
**2008**

- Council of the European Union, Justus Lipsius, Brussels
- European Parliament, Brussels
- European Commission, Brussels
- St. Michel and St. Gudule's Cathedral, Brussels

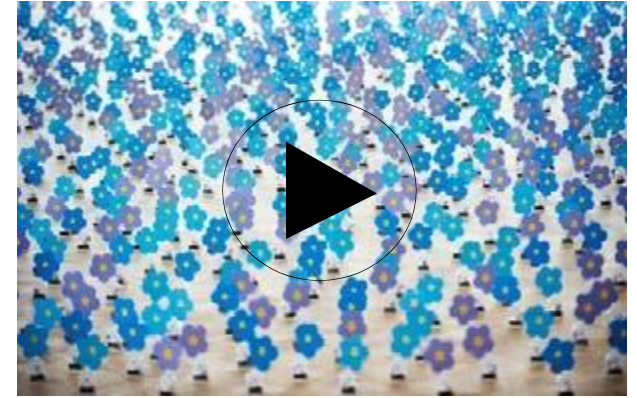
**2004**







**Kinetic art is  
better on  
video**



### **Singapore Art Museum (SAM)**

The Contemporary Art Museum of Singapore (SAM) acquired Alexandre Dang's artworks in 2011 and 2012. The art pieces are kinetic, so videos allow a better understanding of the project, as it can be seen at the link below:  
<http://vimeo.com/alexandredang/singaporeartmuseum8q>



Vertical Garden of "Dancing Sunflowers"  
"Le Volume" Art Centre, Rennes, France, 2011

### **Royal Greenhouse of Laeken, Brussels**

In 2009 and 2010, on invitation of her Majesty the Queen Paola of the Belgians, a field of "Myosotis Dancing Flowers" was exhibited at the Royal Greenhouse of Laeken. The myosotis, commonly called "forget-me-nots", embody a symbol of solidarity and hope. The artwork, exhibited in partnership with Child Focus, gave a new perception on sustainable development and renewable energies.

A video is available at the link below:  
<http://vimeo.com/alexandredang/royalgreenhouseslaeken>



**Universal Exhibition of Shanghai 2010, Belgian & European Pavillion**

In the setting of the Universal Exhibition of Shanghai in 2010, an installation of "Dancing Solar Flowers" was presented in the Belgian & European Pavillion. Through this exhibition, the public discovered that the topic of renewable energies can be seen in a both playful and poetic way.

A video is available at the link below:  
<http://vimeo.com/alexandredang/worldexposhanghai2010>



Dancing Solar Flowers, 2010  
Royal Palace, Brussels



**European Commission Brussels**

During the European Sustainable Energy Week in 2012, a field of "Turning Solar Sunflowers" was exhibited at the European Commission in Brussels.

A video is available at the link below:  
<http://vimeo.com/alexandredang/turningsolarsunflowers>



# Press

(examples)

- MOCA Taipei (Taipei), 2014
- Central House of Artists (Moscow, Russie ), 2014
- The City University of New York (USA), 2014
- Rendez-Vous de Busan (Corée du sud), 2014
- La Meuse (Belgique), 2014
- La Nouvelle Gazette (Belgique), 2014
- Culture - Université de Liège (Belgique), 2014
- Mensuel de l'Université de Liège (Belgique), 2014
- L'Avenir (Belgique), 2014
- Arte Arti (Italie), 2013
- Le Soir (Belgique), 2013
- La Nuova Prima Pagina (Italie), 2013
- HKET (Hong Kong), 2013
- The Sun (Hong Kong), 2013
- Gazzetta di Reggio (Italie), 2013
- The European Season in Singapore, 2012
- I love museums guide (Singapore), vol.3 2012
- Architettura del Paesaggio (Italie), 2012
- L'Oeil (France), 2011
- La Capitale (Belgique), 2011
- La Tribune de Bruxelles (Belgique), 2011
- Metro (Belgique), 2010
- Nice-Matin (France), 2010
- China Daily (Chine), 2010
- Shanghai Daily, (Chine) 2010
- Connaissance des Arts (France), 2010

Full articles are available in high definition in the "Press" section at [www.alexandre dang.com](http://www.alexandre dang.com)

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