

EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO, A 59 KM LINE WAS DRAWN ON THE WATERS OF LAKE GENEVA.

The unique performance, called *Bref Alignement*, was organized by Swiss artist and architect Bastian Marzoli.

The performance took place in the alpine landscape on May 2nd, 2021, when more than 280 boats carefully aligned to materialize the invisible administrative Franco-Swiss border, strangely located in the center of Lake Geneva. From Hermance to St-Gingolph, one boat was found every 200 meter to cover the full extent of the 59km long border.

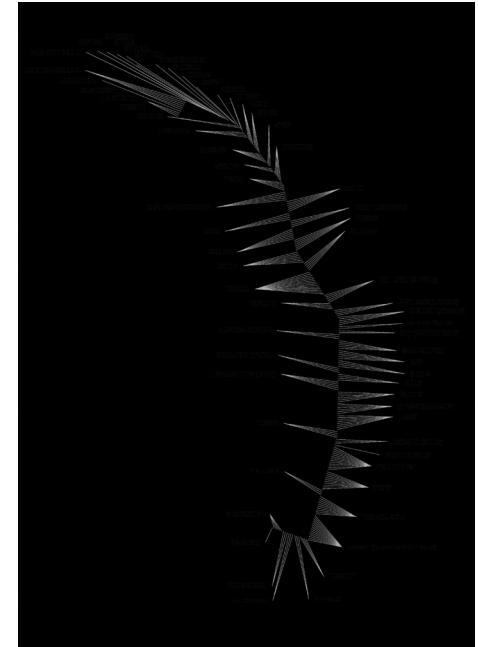
The project was developed as a winning proposal to an art competition launched by the House of Architecture of Geneva, with the theme *Borders and Water*.

The event made it possible to exacerbate the theoretical dimension of the border while confronting it to the personal perception of each witness present at the time of the alignment. The inhabitants of the Lake Geneva basin were then able to question the role of the lake as a separator, but above all as a common landscape and sensory heritage, challenged by administrative rules that do not correspond to the reality of a space serving daily as a link between two coasts. The performance also established a direct link between an arbitrary line projected on a map, at a reduced scale, and its real-life monumental alter-ego, confronted with the reality of a moving natural environment.

The border was closed for the very first time since WW2 during the 2020 pandemic, which resonated strongly with the performance. The fact that both French and Swiss sailors were at the time not allowed to spend the night anchored "abroad" transformed their meeting on the line in a joyful reunion, after months apart. The boats were coming from more than 70 different ports, and were coordinated by the artist during a heavy administrative and logistical process.

The event had to be greenlit by 6 different administrative entities, situated in both countries. Against all odds, in a time when public events were canceled weekly, *Bref Alignement* was able to take place, thus being the first international event on the lake since the beginning of the pandemic.

The brief 20 minutes performance was therefore the result of a 3-month long process, which could not have been successful without the time and enthusiasm of all implied sailors, who offered a unique moment to viewers all around the lake.



Performance protocol, Bastian Marzoli.



Performance as viewed from le Grammont, Lausanne in the background. Julien Dagnaux.



Performance as viewed from la Tour de Gourze, France in the background. Steve Maibach

PRESS MATERIAL.

Infos, pictures and drawings :

<https://www.d.etrit.us/project/brefalignement>

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TV:

<https://www.rts.ch/info/suisse/12167789-plus-de-280-bateaux-pour-dessiner-la-frontiere-francosuisse.html>

<https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/auvergne-rhone-alpes/haut-savoie/bref-alignement-250-bateaux-marquent-sur-le-leman-la-frontiere-entre-france-et-suisse-pour-une-performance-artistique-2072236.html>

Written press:

<https://www.24heures.ch/bref-alignement-avis-de-vent-fort-et-brassee-dondes-positives-sur-le-leman-689079782893>

<https://www.laliberte.ch/news/culture/expos-musees/mener-les-bateaux-603490>

Digital:

<https://www.designboom.com/art/bastian-marzoli-bref-alignement-performance-lake-geneva-05-03-2022/>