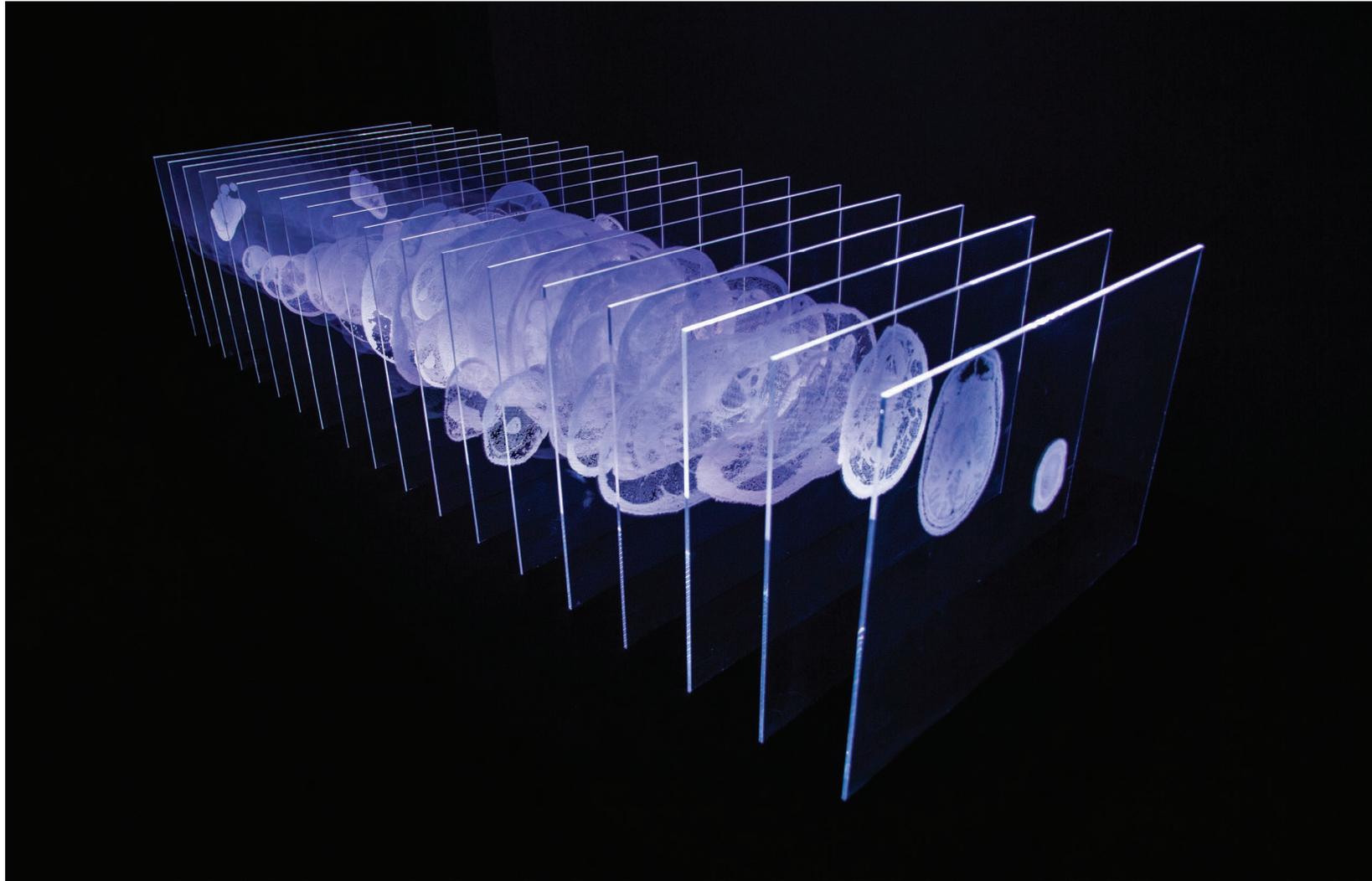
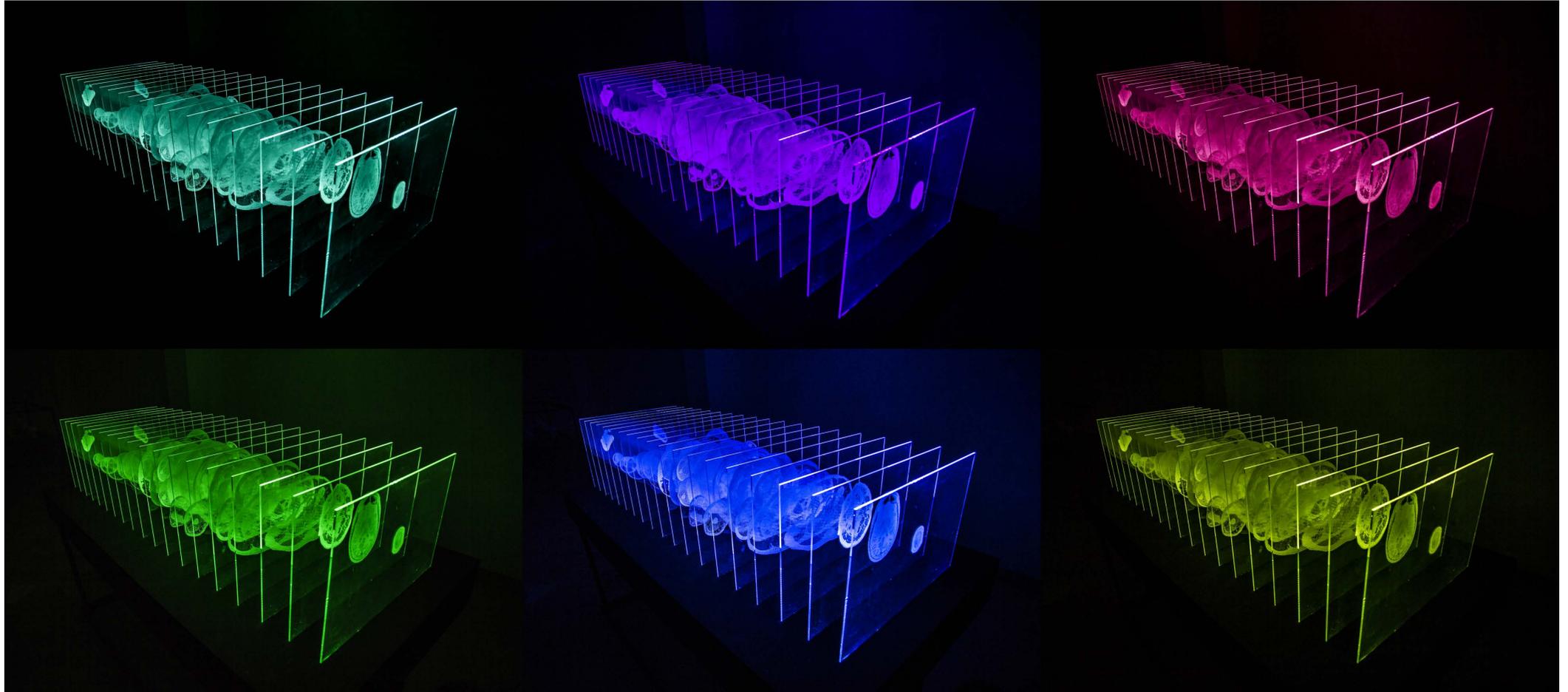


Title : Chameleon's CORE

Artist : Wuttin Chansataboot



NOTE : The image above is an actual photo of the work in real space. It is NOT a computer-generated image.



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Chameleon's CORE
(Unplugged Version)

This work was created as part of my on-going research project, “ **The Metamorphosis of Self and Identity in Digital Era ”

Core concept of the research project

The initial idea of “ The Metamorphosis of Self and Identity in Digital Era ” emerged when I noticed that many physical copies of books made from paper, are being digitized and transformed into the form of e-books. Nevertheless, the evolution of information technology changed the way we live forever. People in the near future might not need physical storage device to keep their crucial data (e.g. ; personal memory, emotions) as the only thing that is needed to do the task is “the cloud”.

I then realized how scientific and technological development have significant impacts on social revolution in various aspects. Considering how social network (especially, Facebook) has strong influence on human behavior these days, we probably have to admit that the power of this particular IT evolution is far more than we had ever imagined. It might be true to say that some people spend their time in the virtual reality much more than interacting with real people around them in the real world.

In 1968, at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Sweden, Andy Warhol said

“In the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes”

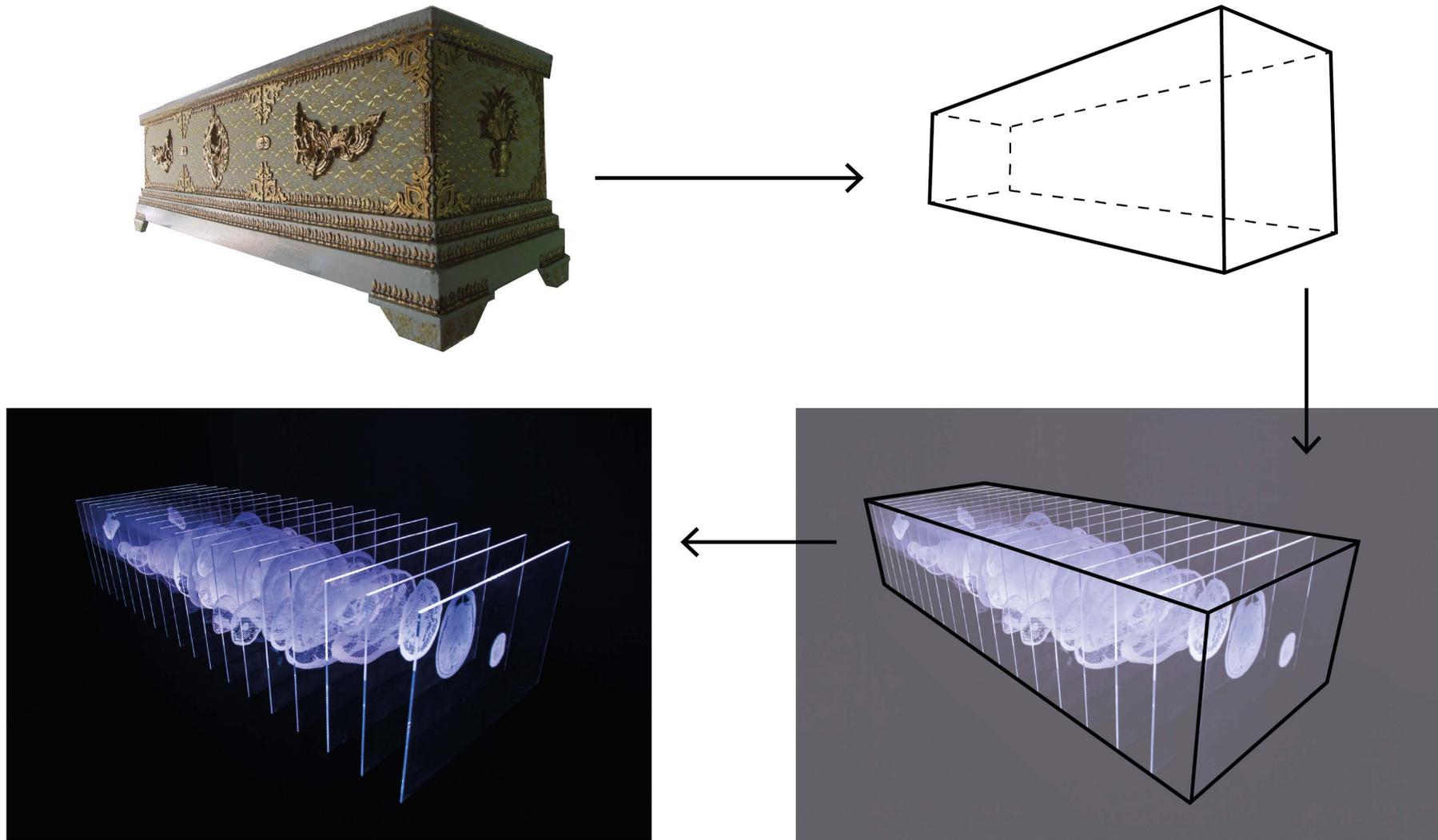
In my opinion, Warhol’s statement is becoming more than true in our age. With the use of Facebook, anyone could be a celebrity in one click. In this digital space, through their avatars, individuals could turn themselves into anything that they would like to be, just to raise their popularity in the virtual society. It doesn’t matter who you’re or how you look like in the real world anymore, what people care is how you express yourself on cyberspace. From my point of view, it seems like those social network users are evolving from human being to another kind of being, the being that does not physically exist in reality. Metaphorically, I would call this social phenomenon another form of “Metamorphosis”, the same process that a caterpillar turns into a beautiful butterfly.

“Chameleon’s CORE” Concept :

“Death” is usually defined as the end of one’s life. Whereas in some cultures, people believe it is the beginning of a new journey. Considering virtual lives on social networks, especially Facebook, we could probably see new profiles endlessly emerge all the time. Meanwhile, some accounts could be deactivated and abandoned at anytime. Therefore, the identities of those individuals are becoming more and more complex, confusing and unreliable. At times, we might not be sure who we are interacting with in this virtual space. Could we possibly say that the Buddhist concept of impermanence could also apply to the mutability of individuals’ identities on cyberspace?

This artwork depicts the idea via a series of 19 edge-lit acrylic sheets with LED strips hidden beneath. The image of human body’s cross section is engraved on each sheet. Once the LED strips are fully illuminated, the installation reveals a full body of a man floating in a transparent coffin which is re-interpreted as a space where one’s life ends and another life begins. Based on Tibetan Buddhism’s concept of “The Bardo”, The core concept of this work is to explore the transitional states of the deconstruction and formation stages of self and identity in virtual world.

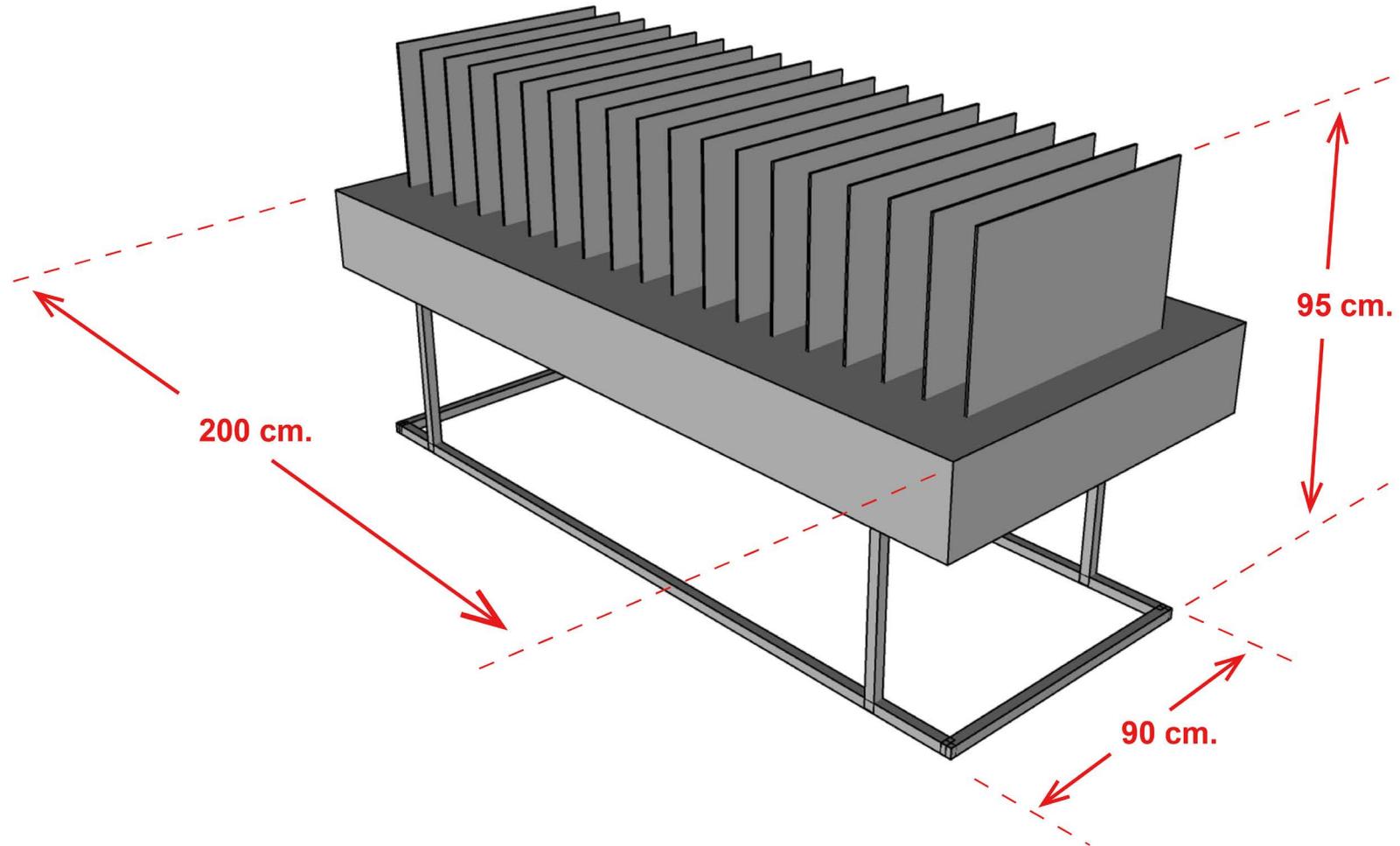
The rectangular form of “Chameleon’s CORE” derived from the appearance of coffins used in Buddhist funeral.



Metaphorically, for this work, it represents an inexistent space where virtual selves and identities created by social-network users, emerge, change and disappear in the realm of cyberspace.

Diagram and Dimensions :

W x H x D = 200 x 95 x 90 cm.



Requirements :

- This work need to be installed in a dimmed light condition or darken space

Equipments needed :

- Power socket

