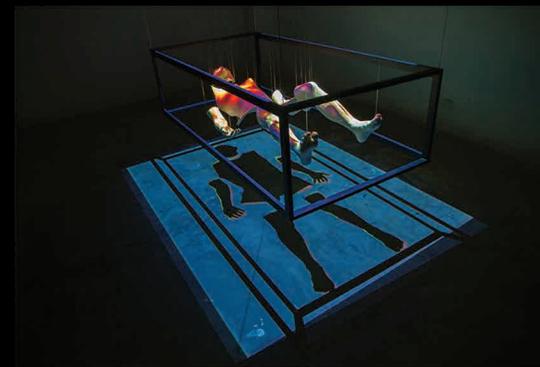
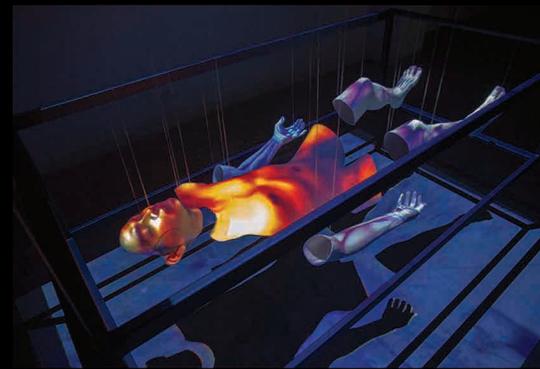
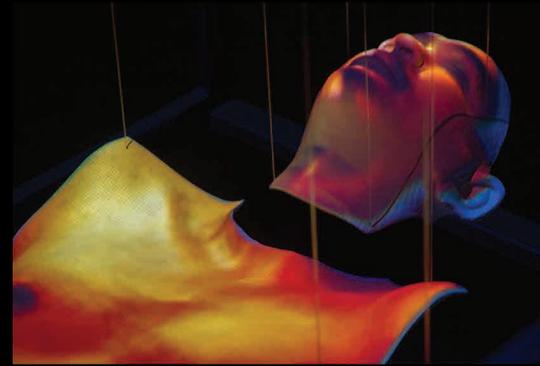


Title : The Formation of Shell

Artist : Wuttin Chansataboot



“ The Formation of Shell ” (without video projection)



****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.

“The Formation of Shell” Concept :

In 2006 Warner Bros. released “A Scanner Darkly” a sci-fi thriller feature film. This Rotoscope movie, directed by Richard Linklater, based on a novel by Philip K. Dick, features a remarkable invention called “A Scramble Suit”. According to the novel, the acclaimed American writer gave a description on this technological breakthrough as below.

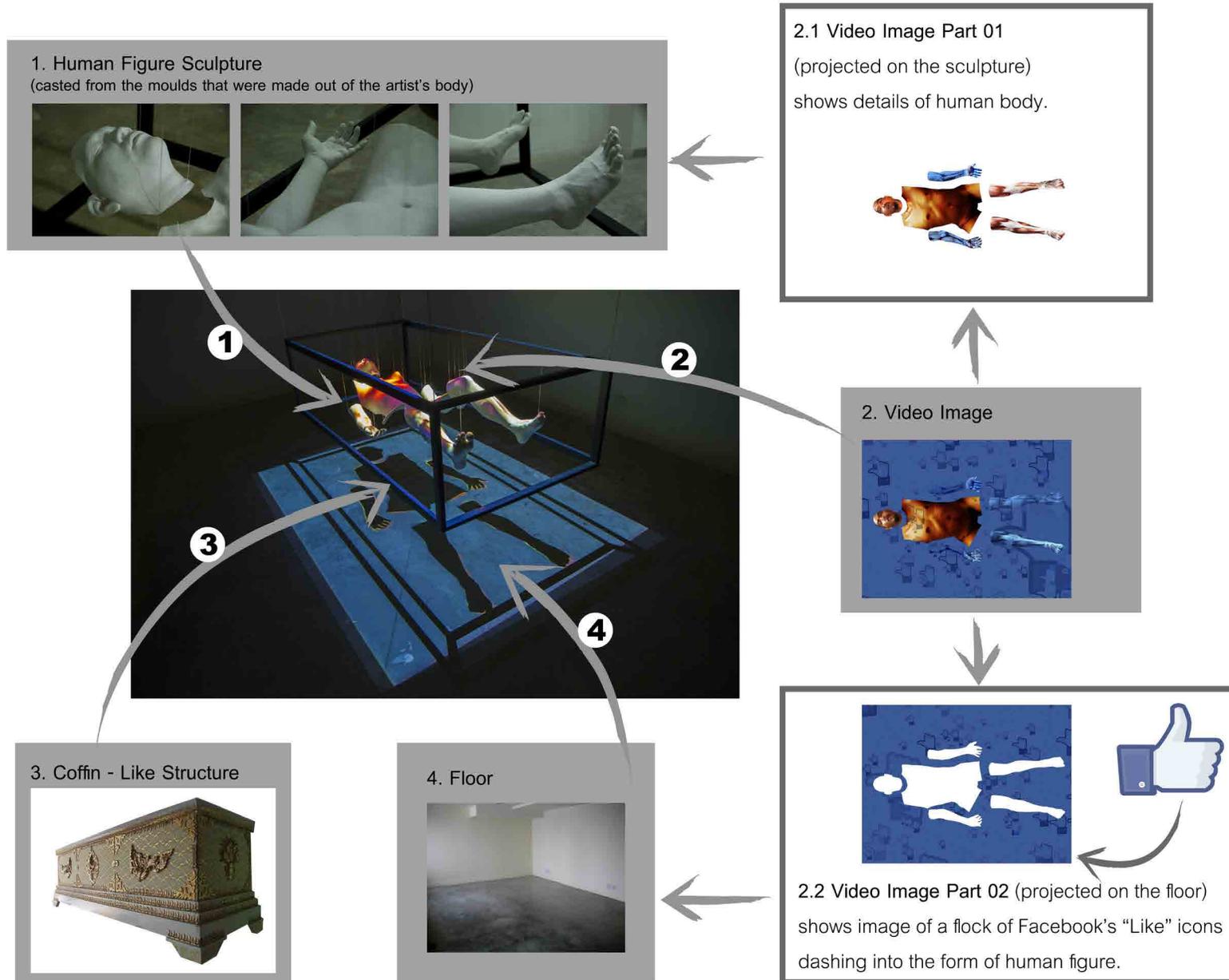
“ The scramble suit was an invention of the Bell laboratories, conjured up by accident by an employee named S. A. Powers... Basically, his design consisted of a multifaceted quartz lens hooked up to a million and a half physiognomic fraction-representations of various people: men and women, children, with every variant encoded and then projected outward in all directions equally onto a superthin shroudlike membrane large enough to fit around an average human. As the computer looped through its banks, it projected every conceivable eye color, hair color, shape and type of nose, formation of teeth, configuration of facial bone structure - the entire shroudlike membrane took on whatever physical characteristics were projected at any nanosecond, then switched to the next...

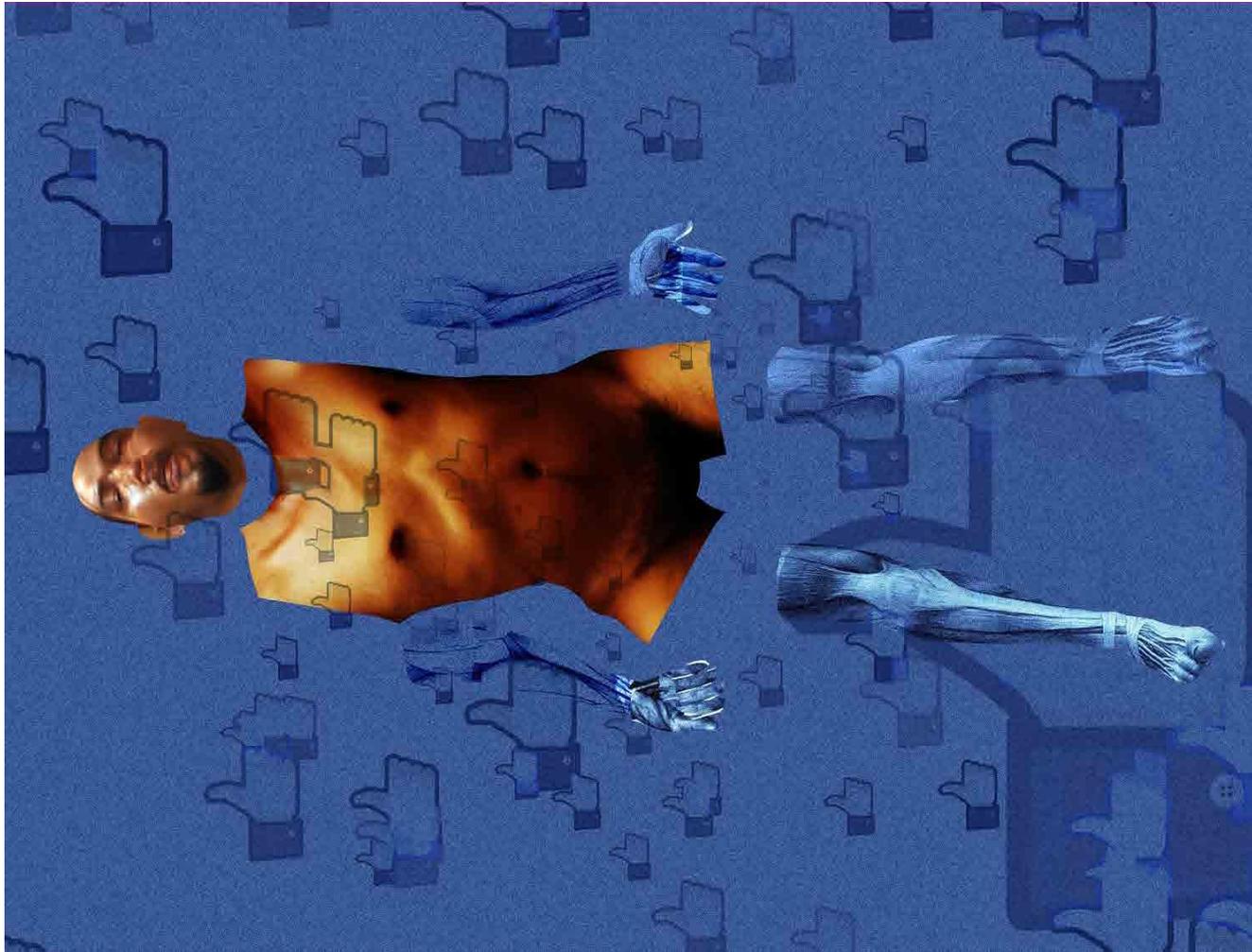
In any case, the wearer of a scramble suit was Everyman and in every combination (up to combinations of a million and a half sub-bits) during the course of each hour. Hence, any description of him - or her - was meaningless. ”

At the moment, this invention might only exist in a novel or a film. However, considering how people these days present themselves through their avatars on social networks, we might find that the ambiguity and blurriness of self and identity in the boundary of virtual world and reality, are not much different from how the scramble suit works. The numbers of “Like”, “Share” “Retweet” have been critically affected on the way that people construct their selves and identities in the virtual realm of social network.

The concept of impermanence in Buddhism does play a crucial role in this work, as the video projection image of human skin is actually an embodiment of photon particles that temporarily appear on external fabric of the sculpture. Therefore, its existence conforms to the Buddha’s idea. The word “Shell” in the work’s title implies the hollowness of artificial lives on cyberspace, created by the social network users.

“The Formation of Shell” consists of 4 main elements





a Still from the video image which is used to project on the sculpture.

Diagram and Dimensions :

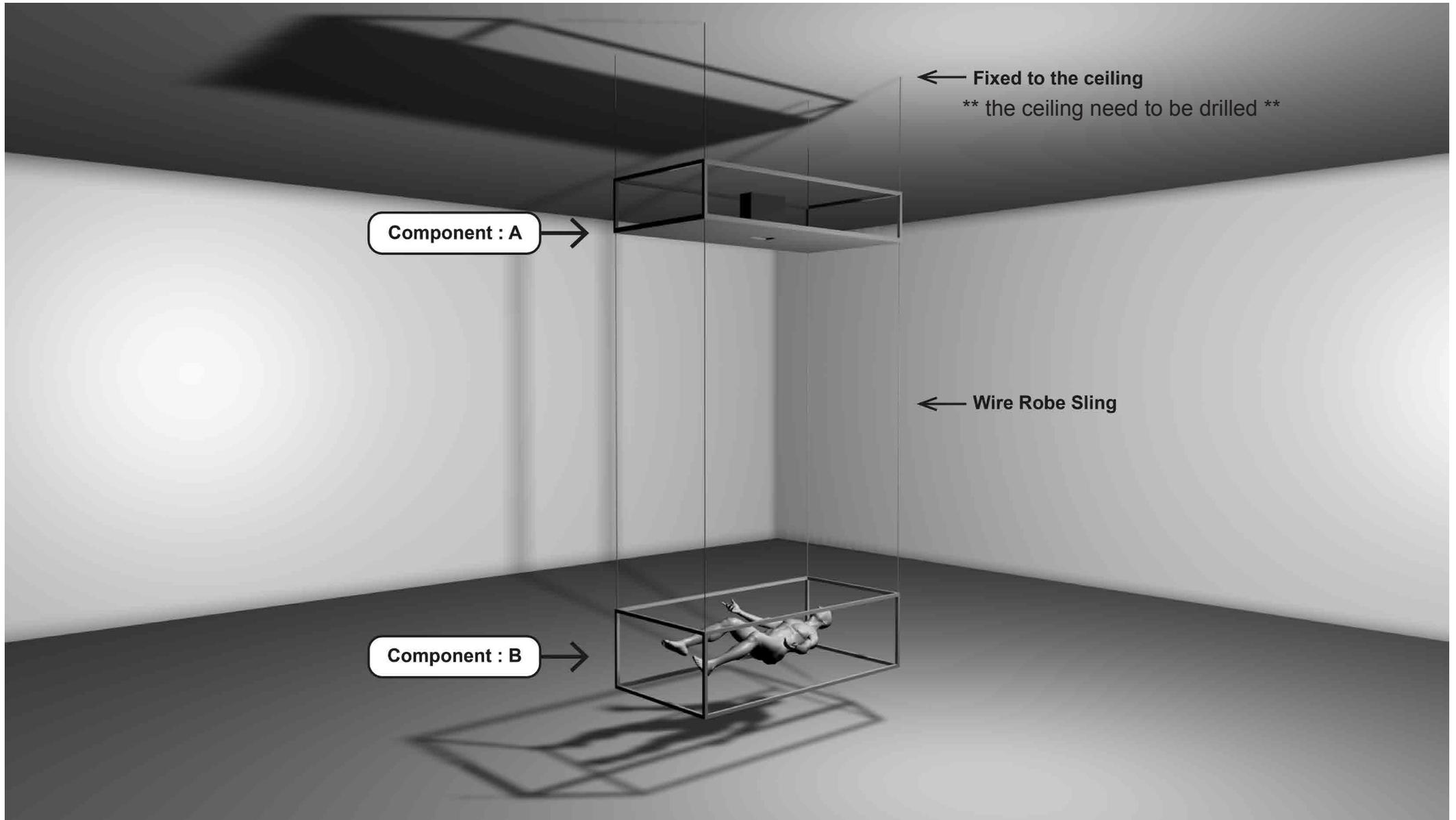
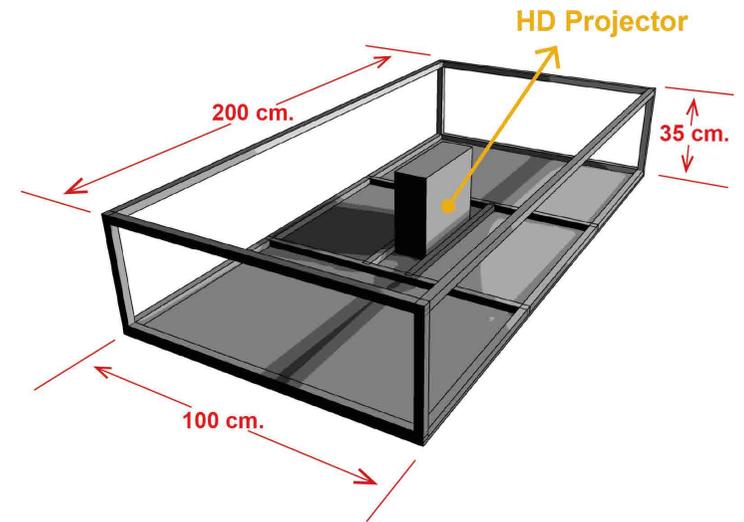


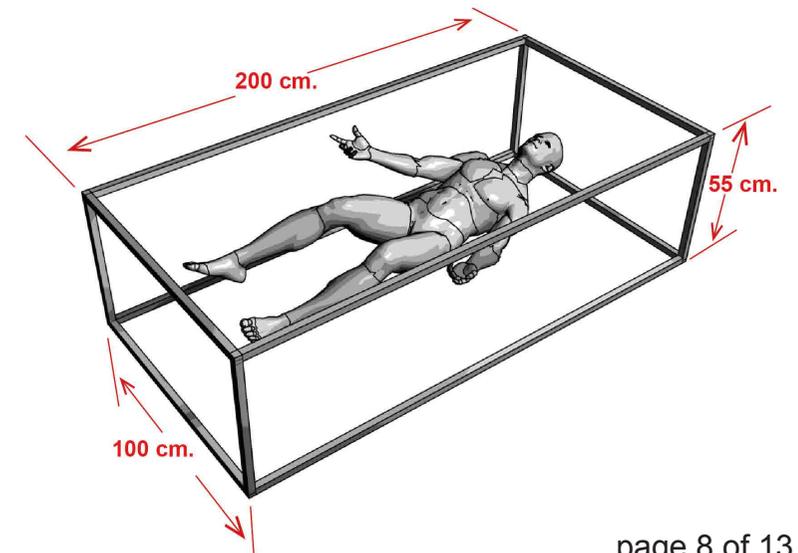
Diagram and Dimensions :



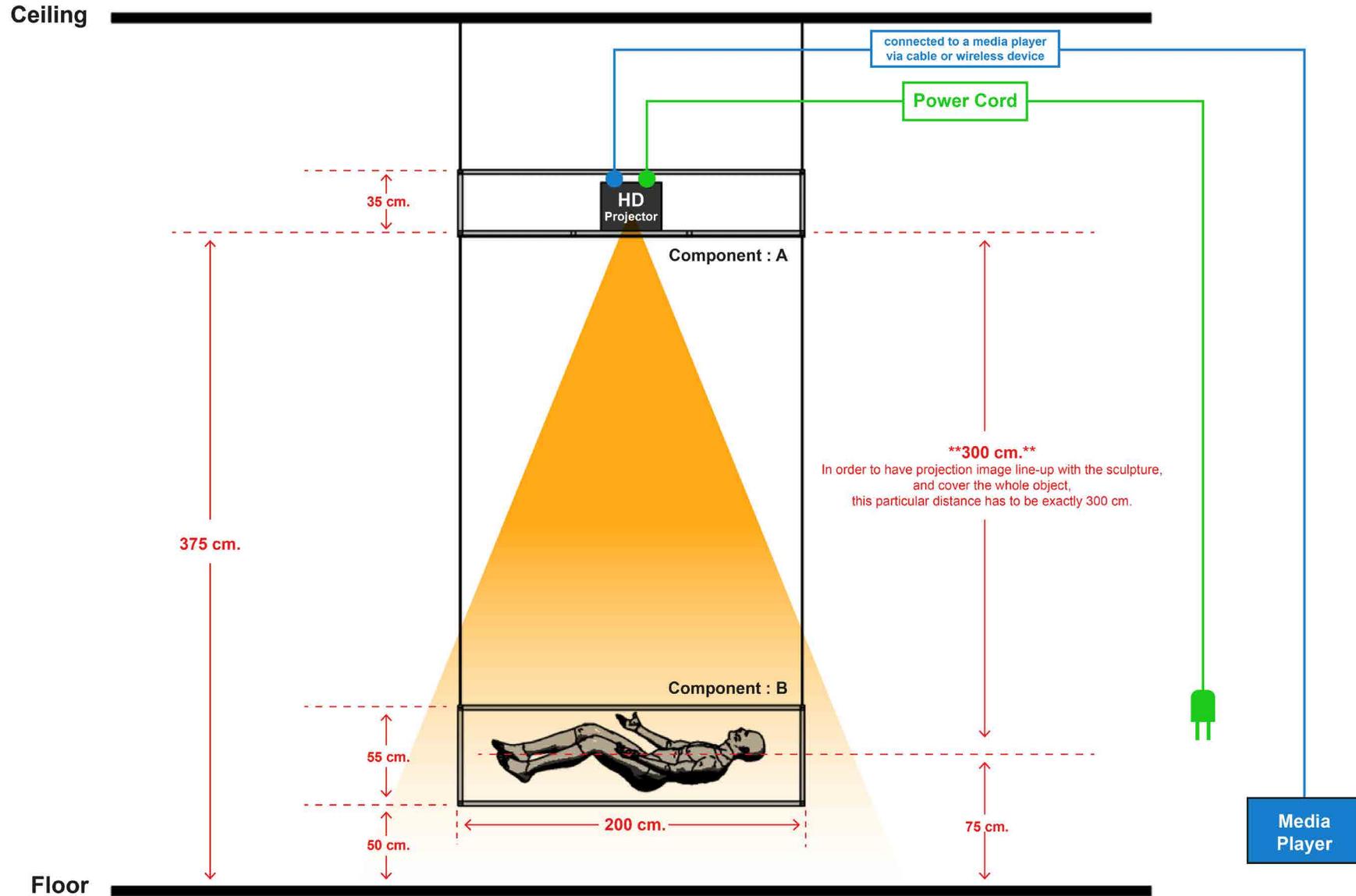
Component : A



Component : B



Installation Diagram :



Requirements :

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

Equipment needed :

- HD projector
- Media Player (Blu-ray/ DVD/ or digital file media player)
- HDMI cable (a long one) or wireless device to connect to a media player
- Power cord
- Power socket

Appendix : The Making of The Moulds



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