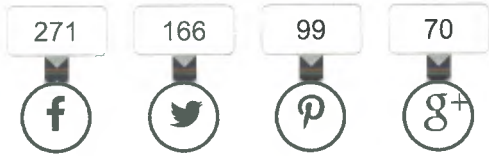


## luzinterruptus builds a river of books to wind through toronto for nuit blanche 2016



toronto's nuit blanche was the perfect event for anonymous art group luzinterruptus (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/luzinterruptus/>) to make an appearance. the artists — who cite light as their medium of choice and darkness as their canvas — fit right in at the moonlit fest. the 'sleepless night' where art and artists take over the streets set the stage for the group's latest urban intervention, which saw them transform hagerman street into a twisting bayou of books.



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all photos © **lola martínez** (<http://www.martinezlola.com/>)  
(main) image by CNW group/city of toronto

**the team's make-shift river is entitled 'literature vs. traffic', and has previously been staged in madrid, new york and melbourne (the latter being it's first legal realization).** luzinterruptus (<http://www.luzinterruptus.com/>) were invited to stage the intervention as part of nuit blanche's (<https://nbto.com/>) 'and the transformation reveals' program, commissioned by camille hong xin. in each of its iterations, the paperback stream is installed as a silent protest against the effects of traffic on urban living, and the ongoing battle between pedestrian and automobiles. for a single night, locals are given respite from the noise, speed and pollution to have them replaced by words, poems and the soft, eerie light that has come to define luzinterruptus' work. for the past five years, 'literature vs. traffic' been advocating the same message: *'we want literature to take over the streets and conquer public spaces, freely offering those passersby a traffic-free place which, for some hours, will succumb to the humble power of the written word'*.



luzinterruptus were invited to stage the intervention as part of the 'and the transformation reveals' program

**luzinterruptus worked for 12 laborious days alongside more than 50 volunteers to set the 10,000 books (donated by the salvation army (<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>)) in place.** on october 1st the piece was complete, and books took full control of the street. passersby were encouraged to dive in, to find treasures, to sit and savor the stories — free to take any that caught their eye. by completely transforming the bedrock of the street — and in such a remarkable way — the installation forces locals to shift their perspectives on the city

around them and to question the best use of our increasingly compressed urban spaces, and the effect of these on our lives. the river was self-dismantled over ten hours, leaving only a few lingering volumes at dawn which were collected by the city's street maintenance service.



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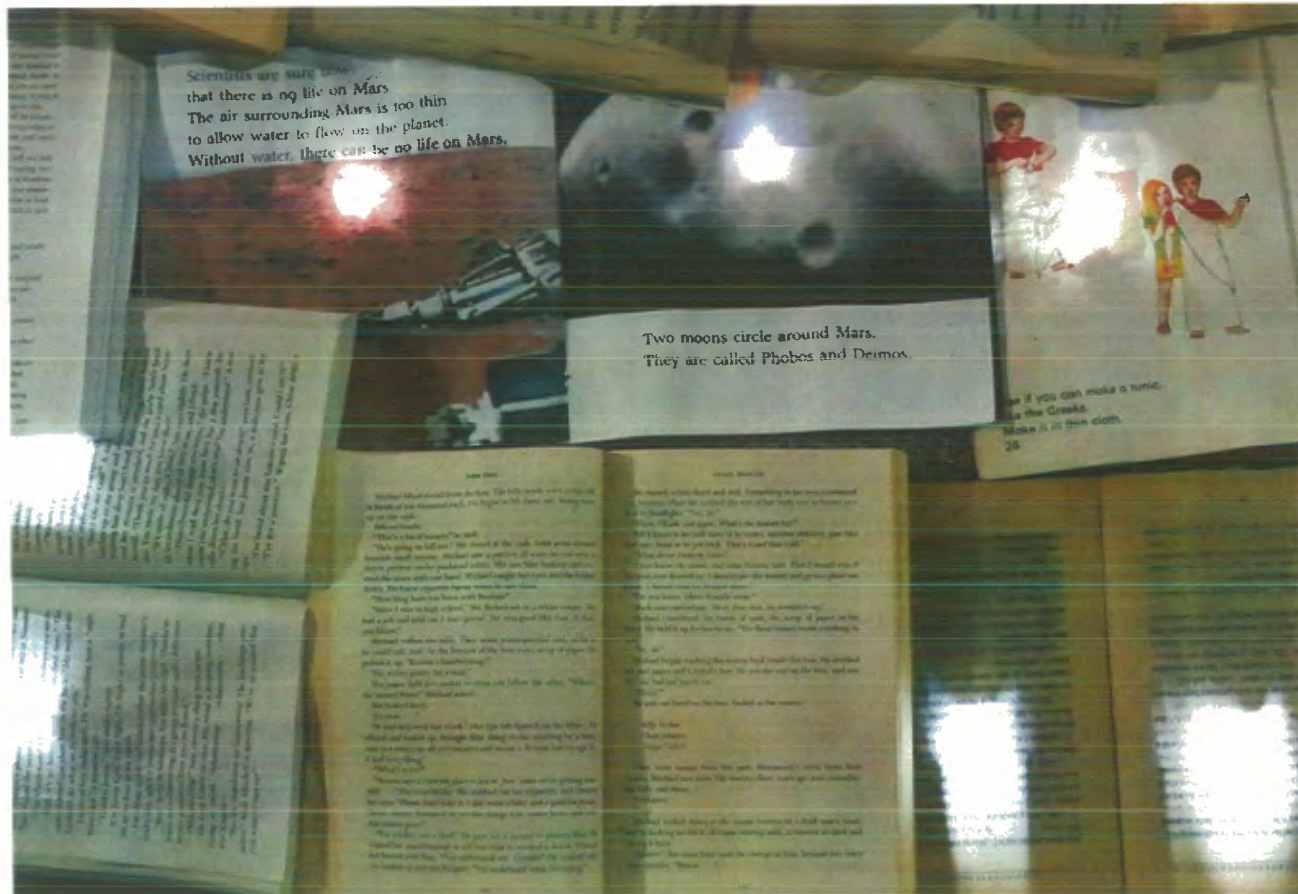
passersby were encouraged to dive in, find treasures, to sit and savor the stories



the river was self-dismantled over ten hours



small lights illuminate the open pages of each of the books



the installation had previously been performed in new york, madrid and melbourne



at dawn, the remaining volumes were collected by the city's street maintenance service



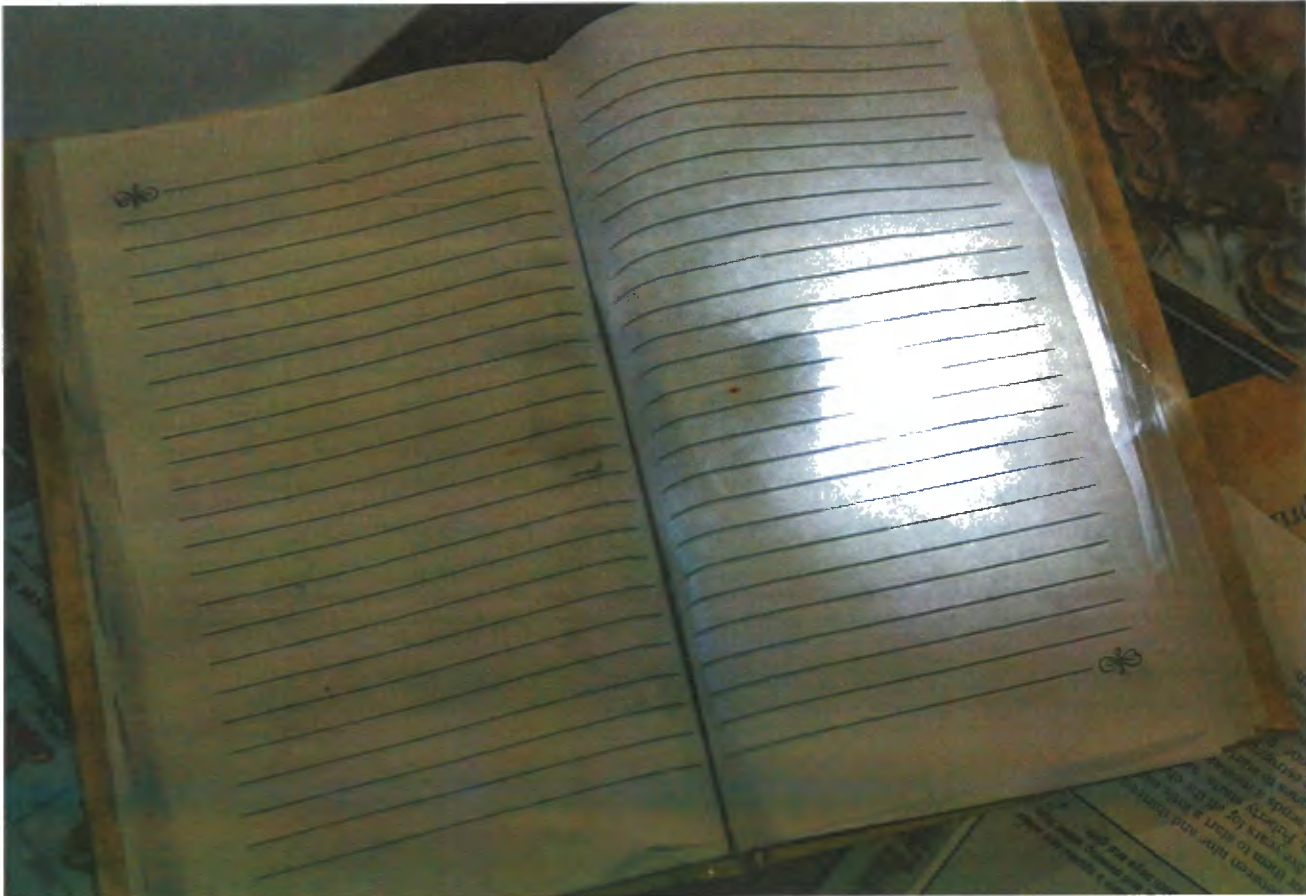
the installation is staged as a protest against the increasingly lack of pedestrian space in city centers



for a single night locals are given respite from the noise pollution to replace them with words, poems, and light

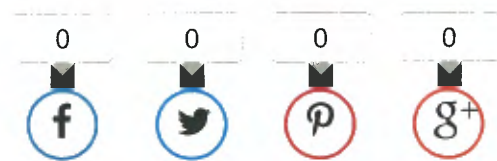


luzinterruptus work with light + darkness to draw attention to social causes like energy efficiency and water scarcity



the group previous built an installation from illuminated, water-filled condoms  
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/luzinterruptus-interactive-rain-canopy-taiwan-2500-illuminated-condoms-08-26-2016/>)

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have something to add? share your thoughts in our comments section below.

name (required)

e-mail (will not be published) (required)