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Lumina Nocturna

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Darkness is not an absence of life. It is home to countless species whose rhythms depend on the night remaining undisturbed. Yet festivals require people to move safely through these same landscapes. *Lumina Nocturna* explores how these seemingly opposing needs can coexist.

The forest waits in darkness until a visitor walks the path. Only then does the work respond: a glow rising slowly from a small lamp, its light angled downward, illuminating only the path directly ahead. The glow does not burst into being. It rises the way dusk falls gradually, without startling the fauna. And once you have passed, it fades back slowly into the dark it came from. It exists only where it is needed, and only for as long as it is needed. The colour of the light has been carefully selected to minimise disturbance to nocturnal wildlife while maintaining sufficient visibility for visitors.



Figure 1: AI generated rendition of idea

This work sits at the intersection of ecology and wonder. It lays no permanent infrastructure. When the visitors are gone, the forest returns to its natural state, as though nothing has passed through. To walk this route is to experience darkness not as something to overcome, but as something worth preserving. Sometimes, the most sustainable light is simply the light we choose not to create.

About the team



Figure 2: User Testing at ITGWO Vlieland

EnrouTU/e is a multidisciplinary team of students from Industrial Design, Mechatronics, and Architecture at Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) and Fontys University of Applied Sciences. United by a shared interest in ecology, technology, and human experience, the team explores how design can foster greater awareness of the environmental impact of artificial lighting. Through *Lumina Nocturna*, they seek to demonstrate that thoughtful restraint—not technological excess—can create richer experiences for both people and nature.



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