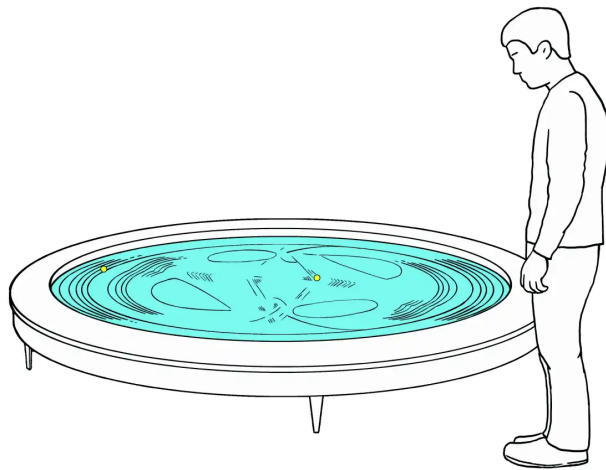


Sisyphus

Bruce Shapiro

What patterns are created in the sand?



Watch the metal ball(s) rolling in the sand and the pattern which they are producing.

What do you notice?

Look at the mechanism under the sand holder.

Depending on the current mode one or two balls create a sand pattern.

It doesn't matter how complicated the pattern is, the two rolling balls remain exactly the same distance apart! They are pulled by a pair of motor driven magnets underneath the holder, each pushing sand to the side and producing the pattern of furrows on the sand surface. The movement of the magnets is controlled by software which can be tailored to produce any pattern, so long as this can be achieved with a continuous line.

Sisyphus (original name) is a sculpture by Bruce Shapiro, who is based in California. For his artworks he uses control mechanisms for the movement of machines and robots.