

# **ATMOSPHERE IN WHITE**

**A memory-installation by Nicola L**

**Inaugurated at the Liverpool Biennial 2014**

**Curated by Anthony Huberman**

---

**Atmosphere In White In New York**

**Curated by Elga Wimmer**

**12th February / 15th March 2015**

Atmosphere in White, an installation by Nicola L., includes, in her words:

“Some of the Functional Art objects that I have been producing since the 60s. I have chosen this name because every single one of these objects is white, and this shared whiteness binds them together as a sort of dream-memory.”

In considering her symbols, she quotes poet and explorer Alain Gheerbrant and cultural anthropologist Jean Chevalier:

White is not a solar color. It is not the color of dawn, but the color of dusk, that moment of total emptiness between night and day, when the oneiric world still blankets all of reality.



# Nicola L

## *Atmosphere in White*

February 12 – March 14, 2015

Opening reception: Feb 12, 6-8pm

Performance March 5, 7pm (by invitation only)

Nicola L  
Installation view  
"Atmosphere in White"  
Liverpool Biennial  
photo by:  
Christophe Lanzenberg

Elga Wimmer PCC & curcioprojects

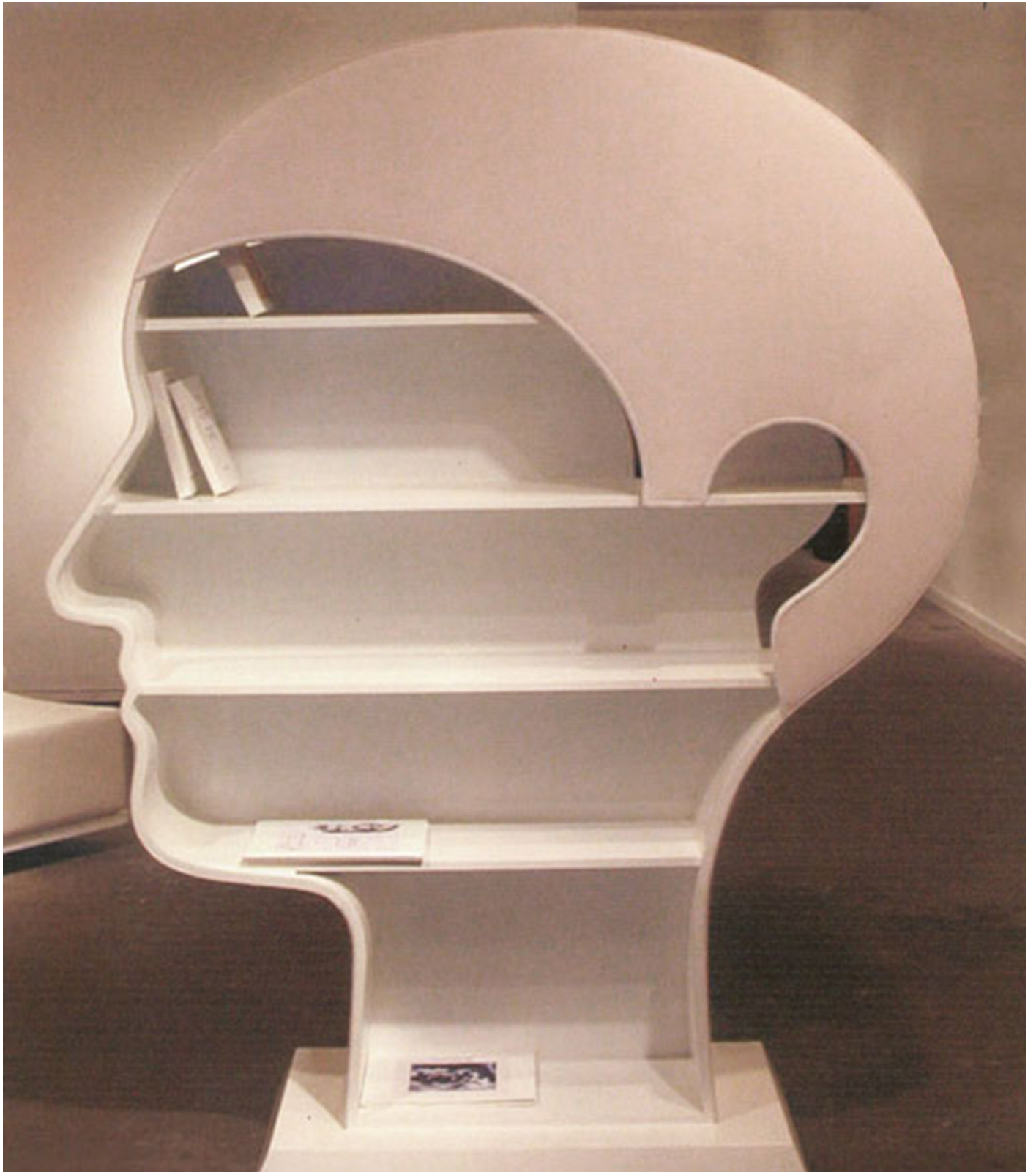
### Elga Wimmer PCC

526 West 26th Street, New York, Suite #310  
Tel: 212.206.0006 • [www.elgawimmer.com](http://www.elgawimmer.com)



**ATMOSPHERE in White (To be suspended from ceiling)**  
*Transparent Cotton, 6 x 2.5 m 2005.*





**The Library Head**, First designed in 1989, 2013 edition of 1/6  
64 x 84 in.



**Foot Sofa**

*Vinyl, 67in. long, 1968.*



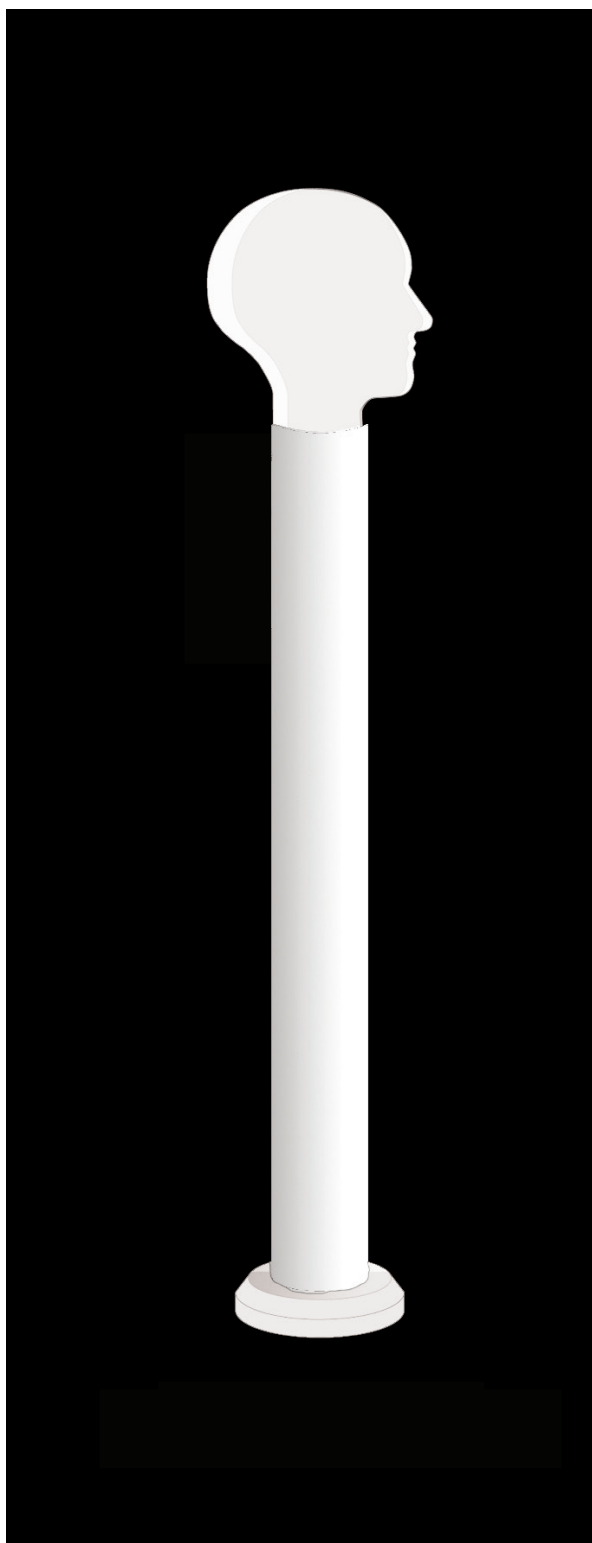
**Femme commode**, First commode 1968  
Height 5ft 4in, Width 25 1/2in, Depth 12 1/2in



**Head Table**

*Marble, Base in metal, 19in. high x 16in wide*





**White Emperor Head Lamp, 1989**  
96in high



**Antartica**, 2014 (to be finished)  
33x33in



**Woman Ironing Table, 2005**

Wood, Marble or Onyx, and Base in Steel

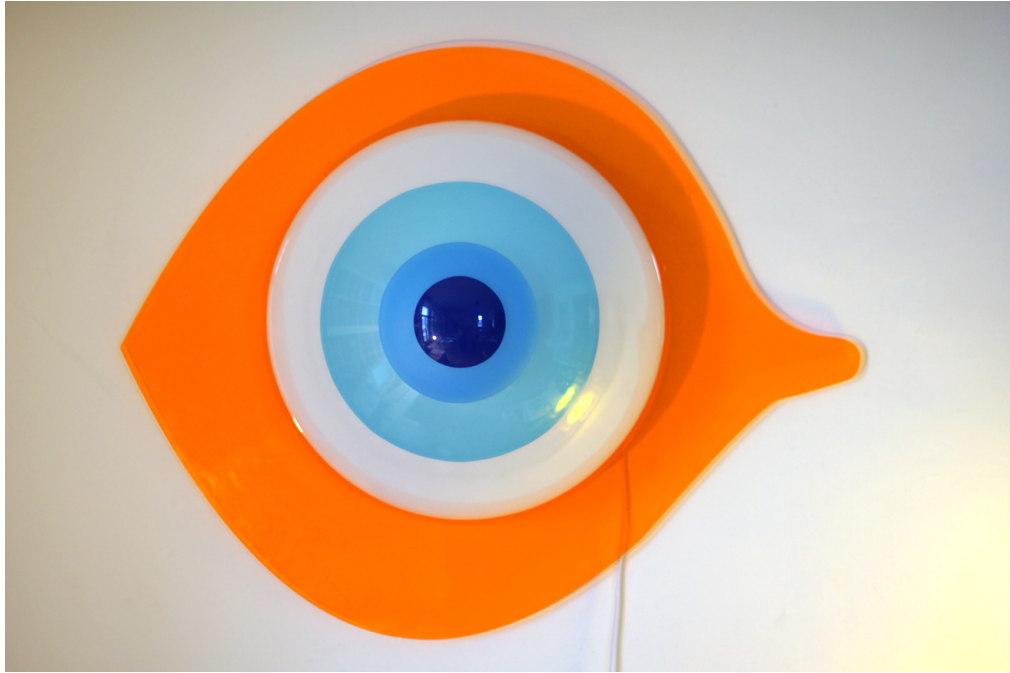
57 in. length x 12 in. wide x 34 in. high





The Beatles waiting for a car service in front of the Chelsea Hotel  
Performance by Nicola L, June 2014





**Planet Eye**, 1968 - 2014  
Plexiglass, W 36in, H 29in, h 13in



**Nebula Eye**, 2004  
Nasa Photo





**Erotic (Tete de bois), 1982**  
 Painting collage on wood 29in 27in

(From the Dictionnaires des Créatrices, by Raphael Cuir)

NICOLA L. (20th Century)

Nicola L. studied art at the Académie Julian in Paris, followed by the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris in the atelier of painter Jean Souverbie. Coming to New York for the first time in 1967 at the invitation of La MaMa theater, she had become a permanent transplant by the end of the 70s. Her conceptual work hinges on two approaches that open the door to a myriad of possibilities - to make bodies, and to embody. To embody, meaning to collect bodies within a single skin in order to inhabit a space collectively, organically, and see it from the vantage of a second skin. *Red Coat Same Skin For Everyone* (1969) is a vast frameless canvas, molded around 11 empty pockets tailored to fit the dimensions of 11 human bodies. The coat was conceived as part of a performance to accompany musicians Gilberto Gil and Caetano Veloso at the Isle of Wight music festival. Traveling the world since 2002 with her « art-skins » (Cuba, Paris, Los Angeles, the Great Wall of China, all the way to the European Parliament in Brussels), the artist extends an invitation out to everybody to take part, through performance, in what Michel Onfray calls « the odyssey of flesh ». For Nicola, making bodies implies destroying them first. In the ultimate metonymical act, she sends out into the world functional objects that are fragments of our own bodies: *The Eye-Lamp* (1969), *The Woman-Dresser* (with irony on the theme of objectified women, 1969), *The Eye-Table* (1970), *The Cultivated Head* (1980), *The Head-Bookcase* (1996). At times, both approaches converge: making bodies, which can then be embodied through usage (*The Hand-Sofa*, 1970-72 ; *The Head-Sofa*, 1989). Both approaches are married in *The Head-Aquarium* (2005), where a swimming goldfish becomes, at random, an eye.

- Nicola, *l'invitation* (exhibition catalog), Macaire A. (dir.), Anvers, International Cultureel Centrum, 1976 ; Nicola L. (exhibition catalog), Favardin P., Chiglien A. (dir.), Paris, Norma, 2003.
- Benaym D., Jones A., *Profile Nicola L.*, New York, e-maprod, 2005.