

Lorenzo Scotto di Luzio

“ Escalator with desert (Hypothesis for a touristic site)

Lorenzo Scotto di Luzio project consists of the installation of an escalator in the middle of the desert.

The image of the escalator, generally relating to the idea of transit (airports, train stations etc.) and consumerism (shopping malls, grand hotels), is decontextualized and deprived of its original function.

Once relocated into the desert, the escalator looks like a remain of a wealthy society and its swarming population.

The artist questions the possibility that melancholy, nostalgia and contemplation can turn into consumption experiences.

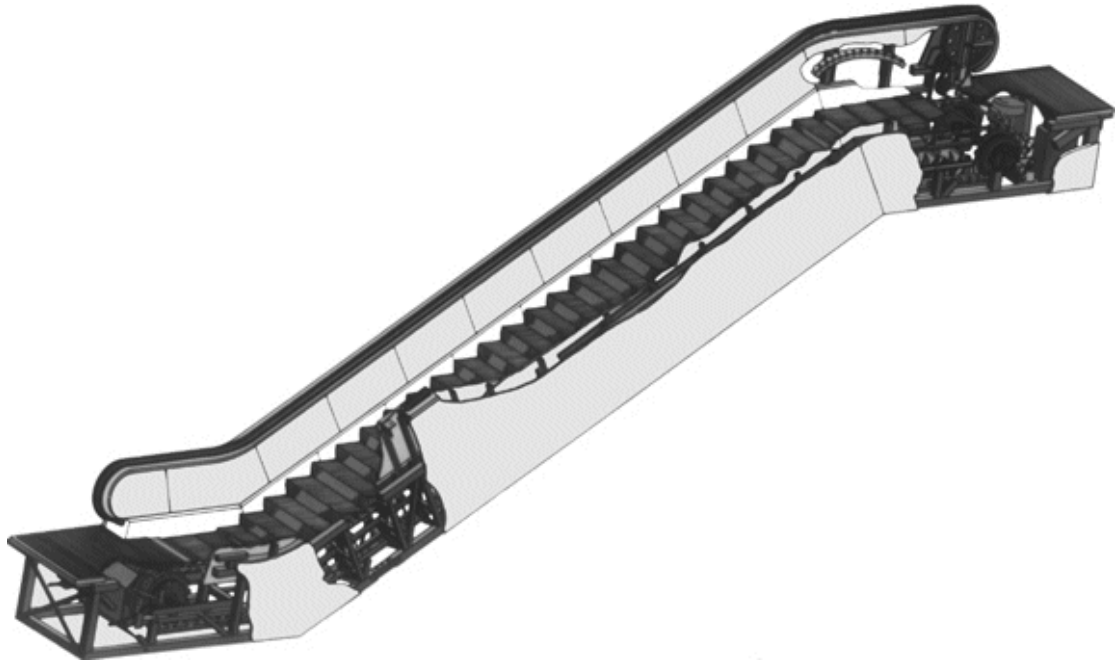
This *bachelor machine* or metaphysical monument stands as testimony of what could be in the future called as the “Age of Consumption” (like the Bronze Age, etc...).







the escalator will not need maintenance
it must deteriorate over time and become a wreck



Background

An escalator is a power-driven, continuous moving stairway designed to transport passengers up and down short vertical distances. Escalators are used around the world to move pedestrian traffic in places where elevators would be **impractical**. Principal areas of usage include shopping centers, airports, transit systems, trade centers, hotels, and public buildings. The benefits of escalators are many. They have the capacity to move large numbers of people, and they can be placed in the same physical space as stairs would be. They have no waiting interval, except during very heavy traffic; they can be used to guide people towards main exits or special exhibits; and they may be weather-proofed for outdoor use. It is estimated that there are over 30,000 escalators in the United States, and that there are 90 **billion** riders traveling on escalators each year.

Escalators and their cousins, moving walkways, are powered by constant speed alternating current motors and move at approximately 1-2 ft (0.3-0.6 m) per second. The maximum angle of **inclination** of an **escalator** to the horizontal is 30 degrees with a standard rise up to about 60 ft (18 m).

The invention of the escalator is generally credited to Charles D. Seeberger who, as an employee of the Otis Elevator Company, produced the first step-type escalator manufactured for use by the general public. His creation was installed at the Paris Exhibition of 1900, where it won first prize. Seeberger also coined the term escalator by joining *scala*, which is Latin for steps, with a **diminutive** form of "elevator." In 1910 Seeberger sold the original patent rights for his invention to the Otis Elevator Company. Although numerous improvements have been made, Seeberger's basic design remains in use today. It consists of top and bottom landing **platforms** connected by a metal **truss**. The truss contains two tracks, which pull a collapsible **staircase** through an endless loop. The truss also supports two handrails, which are coordinated to move at the same speed as the step treads.



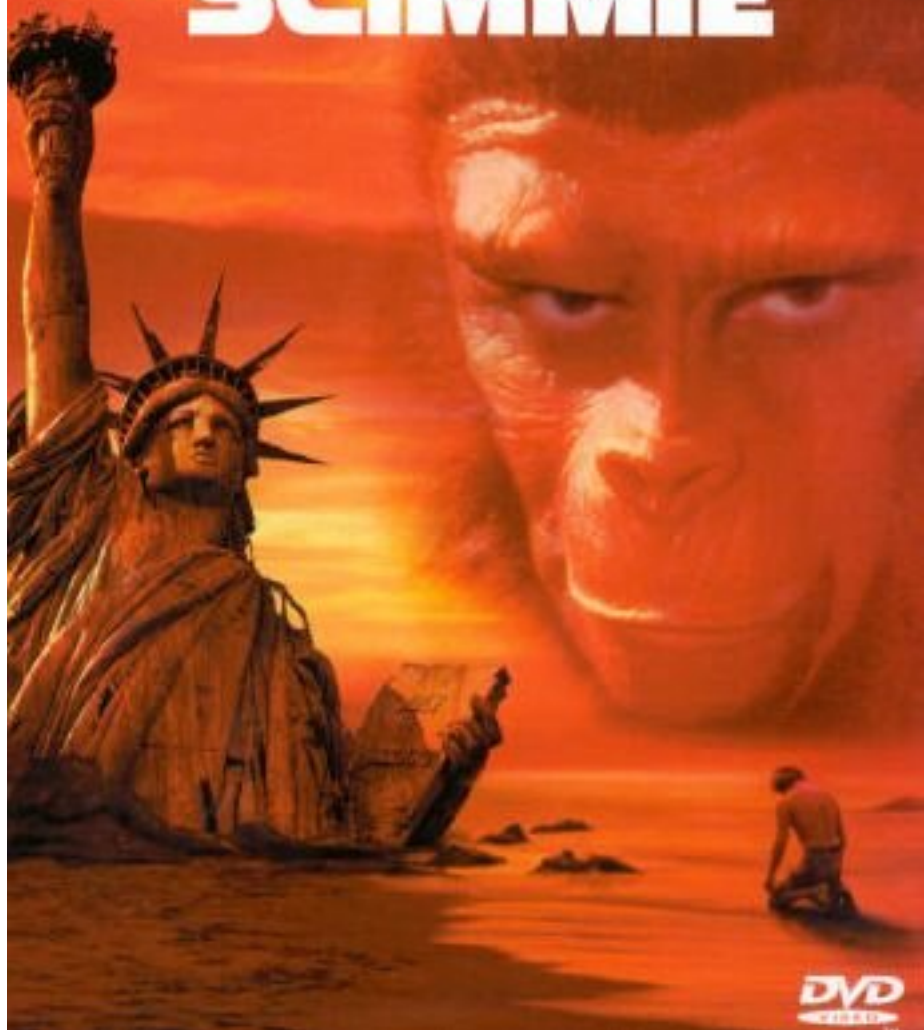


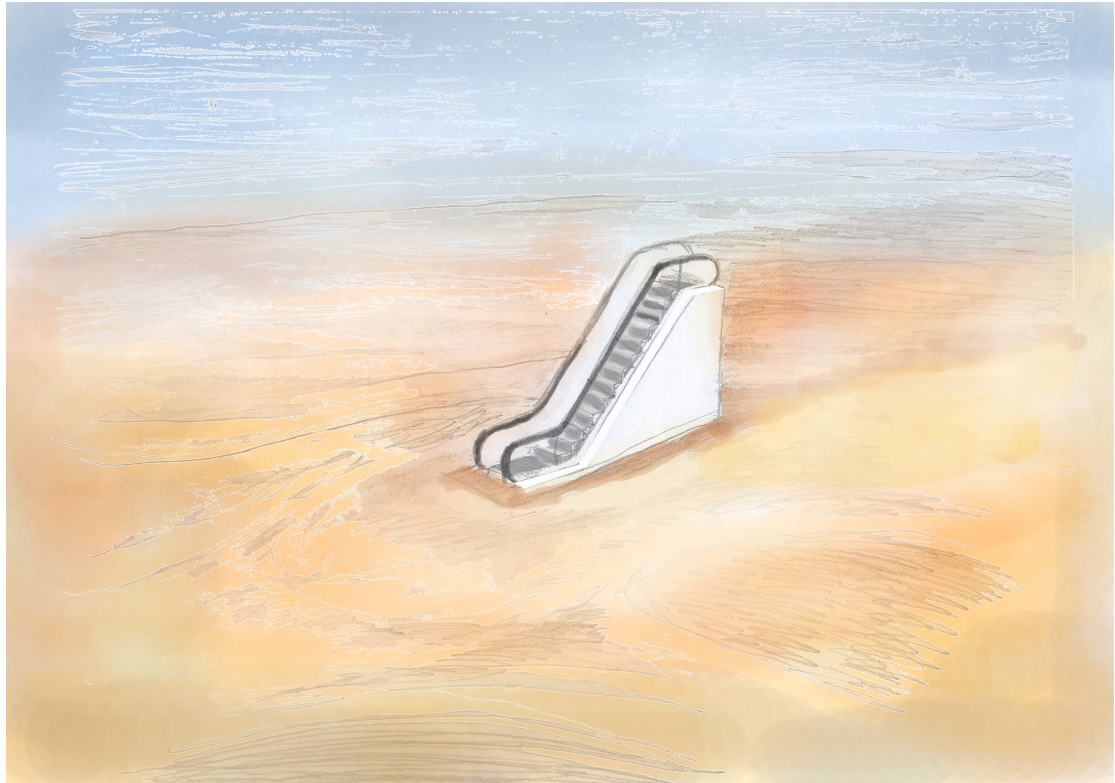
Albrecht Dürer , Melencolia 1514

In this famous engraving by Albrecht Dürer, a ladder is represented as alchemical symbol of desire for knowledge

CHARLTON HESTON RODDY McDOWALL

il PIANETA_{DELLE} SCIMMIE





“Escalator with desert”
watercolor on paper
cm 200 x 300
Lorenzo Scotto di Luzio
2012