

The following is one of six projects that took place during the summer of 2010 as part of the [Celebration of the Bow River](#) event. This series of temporary public art interventions gave citizens and visitors of Calgary the opportunity to celebrate and reflect upon the precious Bow River.

Sources: River of Light

Artist: Laurent Louyer and Creatmosphere Studio

The Project

For seven days in August 2010, the Bow River became a living art installation that mapped the physical and social demands on our precious waterway that runs through the heart of our city.

UK-based Creatmosphere Studio used the latest lighting technology and colourful balloons that illuminated at night in an artistic representation that focused our attention on the intricacies and interdependencies of the Bow River's life cycle and water sources.

From August 15 – 21, data spheres resided on the water at Prince's Island lagoon and illuminated each evening at dusk. The installation made use of light, motion and colour to communicate information about the river, flow, quality, water cycle and demand. Creatmosphere fed data to each of the individually-addressed spheres, and in turn different light patterns were created, depending on the data they received. These lit spheres created a matrix of light that represented the intricacies of the Bow River's lifecycle and our demands on it.

The pinnacle event took place August 21 at dusk with the release of 500 illuminated balloons that floated down the Bow River from Edworthy Park to Prince's Island. Thousands of Calgarians lined the banks of the Bow River to witness this event.



The Artist

Light is everywhere. I explore light and its interplay with art, architecture and space. Spaces become animated and transformed through visually unique and unexpected lighting.

I use a diverse array of lighting formats, technologies and materials that allow me to investigate social, historical and emotional characteristics of a place. A narrative results, enabling the audience to interact, reflect and reconsider the illuminated spaces.

www.creatmosphere.com

Testimonials

I was present at the River of Light on Saturday night and I must congratulate you on a very successful installation/showing. There were a few of us on our bikes and we followed the spheres on their journey down the Bow. The impression I received from the thousands of Calgarians who were perched on the river banks or crowded on one of the bridges was pure amazement and awe. It was very inspiring to see that many people enjoying art in Calgary.

– *Shea*

I just wanted to compliment all those involved with "River of Light." My family and I caught it floating by near Reggae Fest, and we were absolutely mesmerized. My daughter, who is five years old, just entered it in her journal today, so I thought I'd send you a note. She was so excited watching the globes pass by, and there were one or two dramatic attempts to catch one near us – we had a lot of fun. Thank you all for such a beautiful event in the summer.

– *Claudia*

Last night was an absolutely incredible performance. The visual beauty was breathtaking. The experience was profound. The feelings expressed by the people lining the bridges and riverbanks were those of awe and appreciation. Congratulations to all who worked to make this happen. It was worth every ounce of energy. Thank you!

– *Linda*

I was at Afrikaday on Saturday evening. On the way home, walking through the Park, I was totally captivated by the colourful, global lights on the lagoon and gazed for ages, as they changed colour, from one hue to the next! In the modern vernacular, they are 'awesome' to behold! Congratulations to you and your Public Art colleagues for providing such a wonderful, creative display! I look forward to seeing more on Saturday.

– *Anonymous*