The Magic Box is an installation which revolves around on the concept of the zoetrope, a machine precursor of film that proposes a connection between fixed images and the origin of the image in motion as well as the relationship between wakefulness and dream, while recreating the transformation from analogue into digital.

The installation consists of two zoetropes placed in a dark room that will immerse the viewer in a sensory experience using a narrative composed of four phases:

Phase One. The Curiosity – Light
Phase Two. The Magic Box – Analogue Zoetrope
Phase Three. Unboxing the Dream – Digital Zoetrope
Phase Four. Translating the Dream – Text projection

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ZOETROPE.

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Phase One. The Curiosity – Light
The observer enters into a dark room and his curiosity is aroused by an LED light source and activated automatically by presence sensors.

Phase Two. The Magic Box – Analogue Zoetrope
The observer looks into the box discovering the Zoetrope. A light signal indicates the next step: to actuate the zoetrope manually through a crank. The crank activates at the same time a stroboscope creating the illusion of moving images.

Phase Three. Unboxing the Dream – Digital Zoetrope.
While the observer is focused on the zoetrope inside the box, a second zoetrope located outside the box starts to revolve automatically. A light source located behind the moving Zoetrope produces a display of shadows in the room.
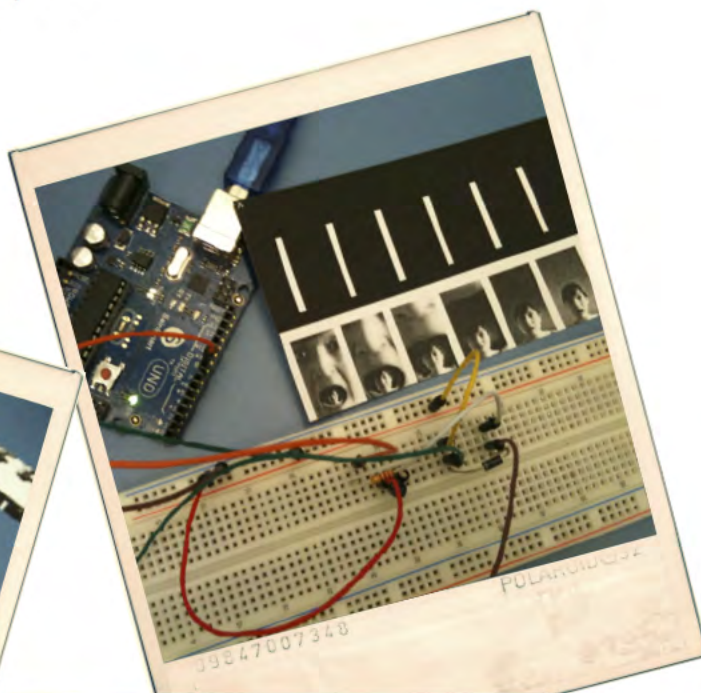
Phase Four. Translating the dream – Text projection
The narrative comes to a close with the projection of texts generated in Processing. These texts will interact with the shadows emitted by the second zoetrope.

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First tests with the zoetrope

Arduino test

Test with moving zoetrope and stroboscopic LED

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Prototypes of second zoetrope

Prototype 1

Test with light and prototype 1

Prototype 2

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