

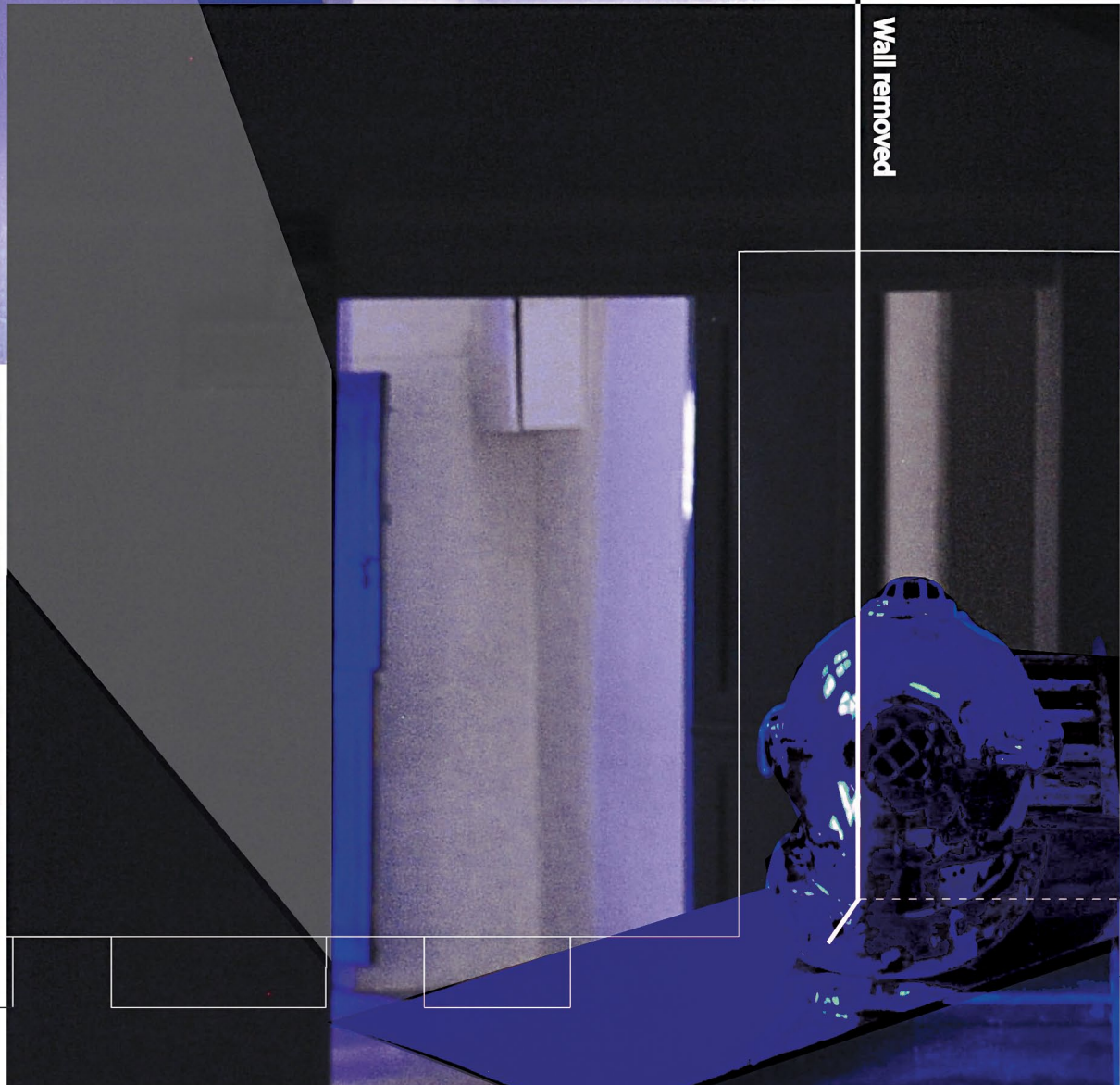
**Before  
Storm.**

# Log Book Entry

**Raqs Media Collective**







Wall removed

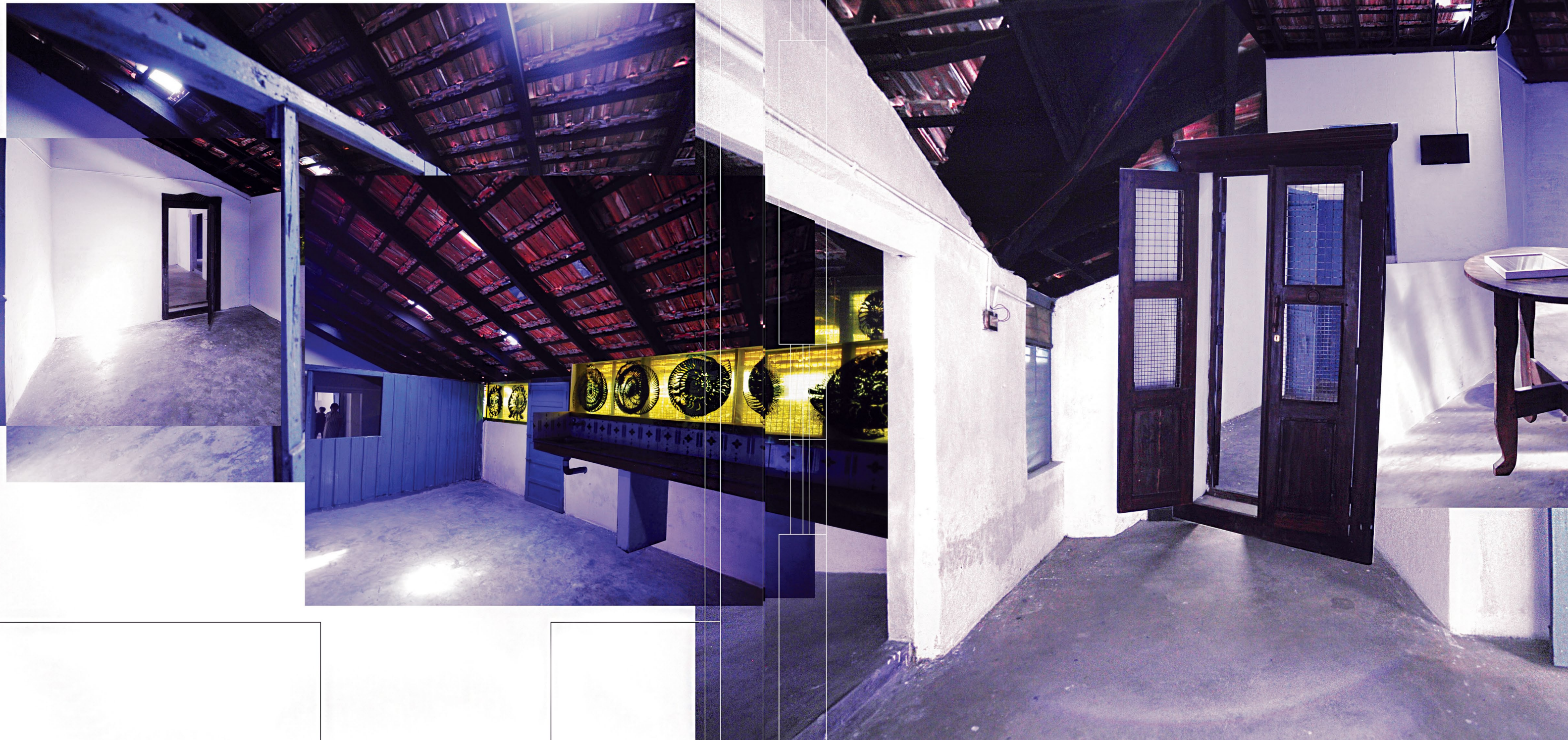


Wall removed

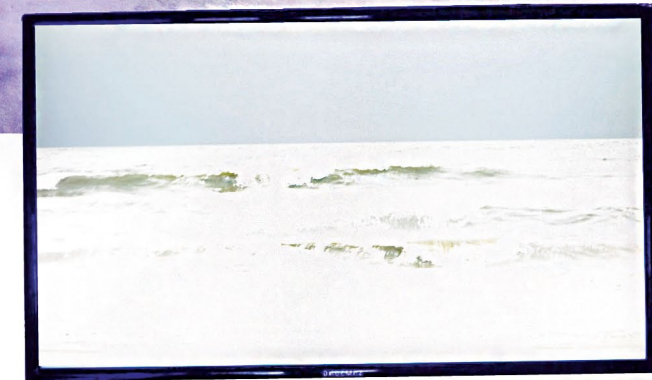
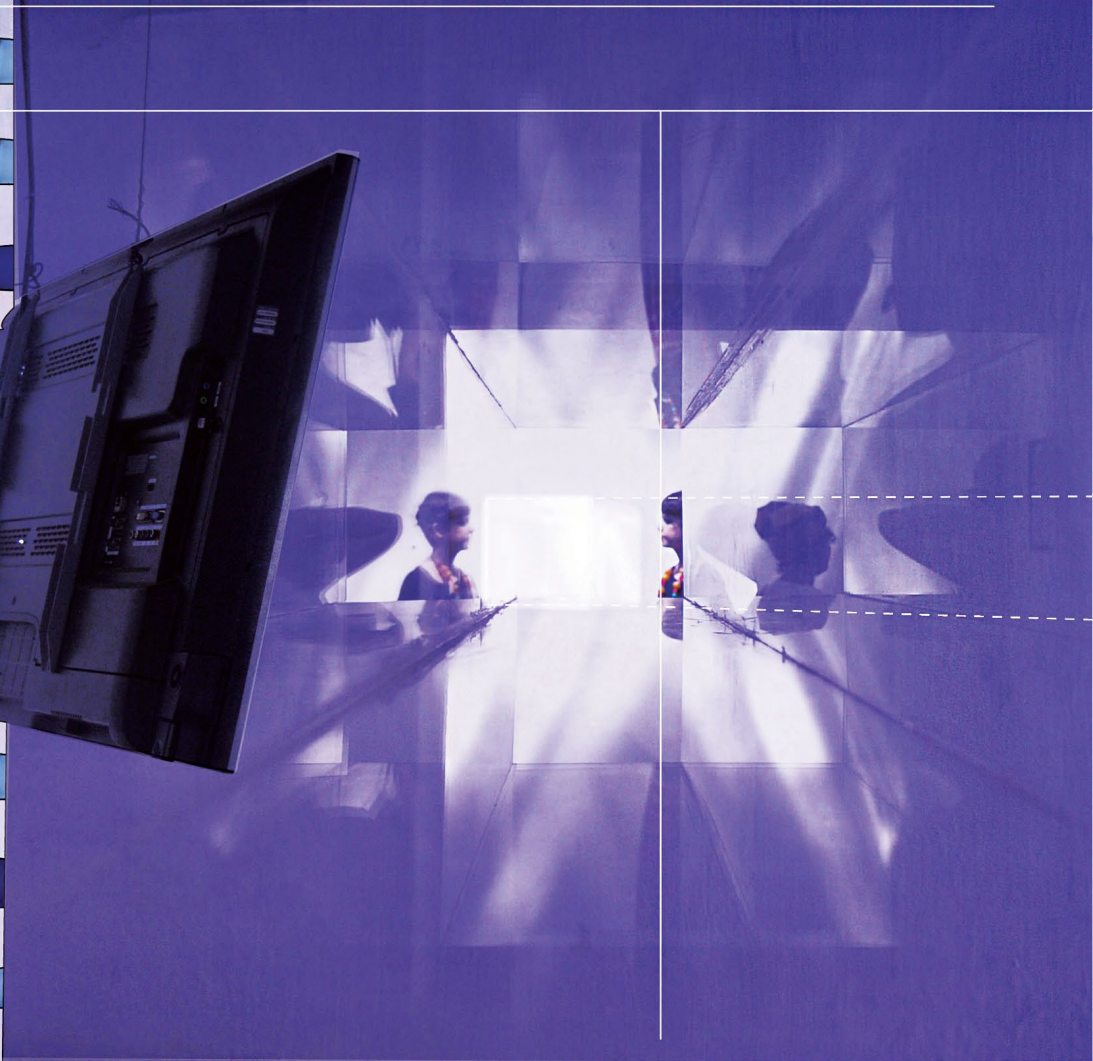
**Log Book Entry Before Storm (2014)** is a site-specific installation that occupies what was once a peculiar domestic space—a single house cut in two by a concrete wall to accommodate two families. Raqs reintroduce circulation into this still interior by perforating the intervening wall and introducing the possibility of movement. Around this restructuring of space emerges the dreamlike and affective experience of the installation. The aim was to create a space where circulations of all kind—of air, light, sound, depth and ideas—could be made possible. Within this submersive experience appear elements—such as a mysterious deep sea diver and a lighthouse signaling to ships at sea—that draw the ocean into the interior.



At the entry to the installation a suspended monitor speaks in Morse code, commonly used for communication by lighthouses. It is set up in conversation with a plaque installed on the Vypeen Lighthouse in Kochi. A cabinet acts as a passageway between the two halves of the house. New glass tiles interrupt the ceiling. An acrylic channel bleeds light from one half into another. Waves bleach onto a shore. On windowsills on the left half, images of ammonite fossils recovered from high altitudes point to a past moment when the world's tallest mountains served as ocean floors. A drawing here is the rendition of a "Riemann Surface"—a form that infinitely loops itself, with no beginning or end and no inside or outside.









## Log Book Entry Before Storm.

Raqs Media Collective

I.

“Calm Reigns Inside”

Time: Indistinguishable

Storm gathers momentum, comes rapidly ashore, knocks on the door and the windowpane, vortex hovering at the threshold. Calm reigns inside. We have heard the sea talking in its sleep, in Morse code.

Three Questions Found While Considering an Imminent Storm inside a Quiet House, or while looking out from a Lighthouse at a precipitating horizon.

- 1) How to face a storm?
- 2) How to wait it out?
- 3) How to be altered by storm-light?

II.

“House feels bluer than sea”

Time: Folded

Pineal gland reads variations in colour temperature just before mind reports awakening. The house feels bluer than the sea on the skin.

On taking one's bearings by the azimuth of a lost constellation perforating the roof of this world, the following becomes apparent.

- 1) The sky is not the limit.
- 2) The highest mountain was once the deepest sea, and vice versa.
- 3) Time will only tell, but it will not tell all.

III.

“The weight of the diving bell”

Time: Tide

Submarine pressure was gauged on (Riemann) surface and found wanting. A map or diagram of infinity must know when to stop being a picture and start being a spell, or an architectural plan for a modest dwelling.

Deep Sea Diver reported a lightheaded feeling at noontide despite the weight of the diving bell. Her daydream was timed at regular intervals of 59 seconds as she rose to the surface.

She asked:

- 1) “How many fathoms deep is a breath of fresh air?”
- 2) “Who lived in this house and in how many worlds?”
- 3) “Have you found the hidden door that leads out of every dream?”

