



*An interactive voyage through the world.*

Wish you were there? is an interactive photo- and a phone-booth combined with virtual traveling. In the installation the visitors stand between a camera and a blue-screen and a projection shows them first in a black space. Text on the screen invites them to call a certain phone number, after which a virtual landscape is set on the screen behind the visitors. The landscape is selected from the database of pre-selected images by picking up the last two digits of the caller's mobile phone number. The system then takes a screenshot and uploads the image of the participant(s) to a website, where the user can see the image later on as a virtual postcard. After a while, the image of the virtual landscape fades to black and the system is ready for another virtual traveller.

One of the most often asked questions when someone calls you is "Where are you?". We no longer inhabit a specific space (home, office etc.) while talking to someone on the phone. Mobile phone is ubiquitous and allows instant access (at least in theory) to anyone, anywhere on the globe, any time. Wish you were there? plays with the idea by placing

the caller to semi-random locations. There is a link between the chosen locations and the caller generated by the fact that phone numbers are more or less personal ids.

Non-traditional tourist locations in this installation (empty landscapes, the moon etc.) expand the possibilities of virtual traveling, pretty much in the same method the *panoramas* enabled people to "experience exotic distant places" in the 19th century.



<http://koti.org/tomtom/wishyouwerethere/>