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DESIGN WEEK. CHRIS ALLEN AND "LDN-24"



## Speaker Highlights from Kuala Lumpur Design Week 2011 – International Designer Conference

### CHRISTOPHER THOMAS ALLEN

A near obsessive interest in the organic processes of the contemporary city serves as the motivating factor behind Chris Allen's cross-disciplinary practice. The founder and director of the Light Surgeons, a leading audio-visual collective based in London, Allen



founded the company with a group of friends while he was still a student of Media Design at Portsmouth University. Ever since then, the Light Surgeons have been acknowledged as a force to be reckoned with. Their vast portfolio of work can be described as a moving collage of different media, encompassing graphic design, photography, short films, music videos, art installations and curatorial work. The projects endeavour to vanquish the

at-times impenetrable barrier between man and technology by merging mediums, relentlessly remixing various methods of communication and bringing forth a pervading human essence.

*LDN24*, a media art installation custom designed for the Museum of London's Sackler Hall, touches on the idea of the English metropolis as a "physical organism." The installation is crafted as an enormous digital clock to symbolically highlight the city's ongoing obsession with the 'now'. Electronically-obtained data is reproduced in visual format and projected against the LED curtain to illustrate the continuous layering of shifts inherent in an environment that is constantly in flux. This means of documenting the metaphorical lifeblood of a place translates easily into The Light Surgeons' various performance works where spontaneous narratives fuse with documentary footage to ignite a conversation about how people interact with their surroundings. The projects, in a sense, recall the cinematic works of French filmmaker Chris Marker whose experimental 'film essays' dabbled with a new way of storytelling.

[lightsurgeons.com](http://lightsurgeons.com)