Two Satellite Daylights in an ongoing series: 66°24′S & 47°33′N

2018 & 2020

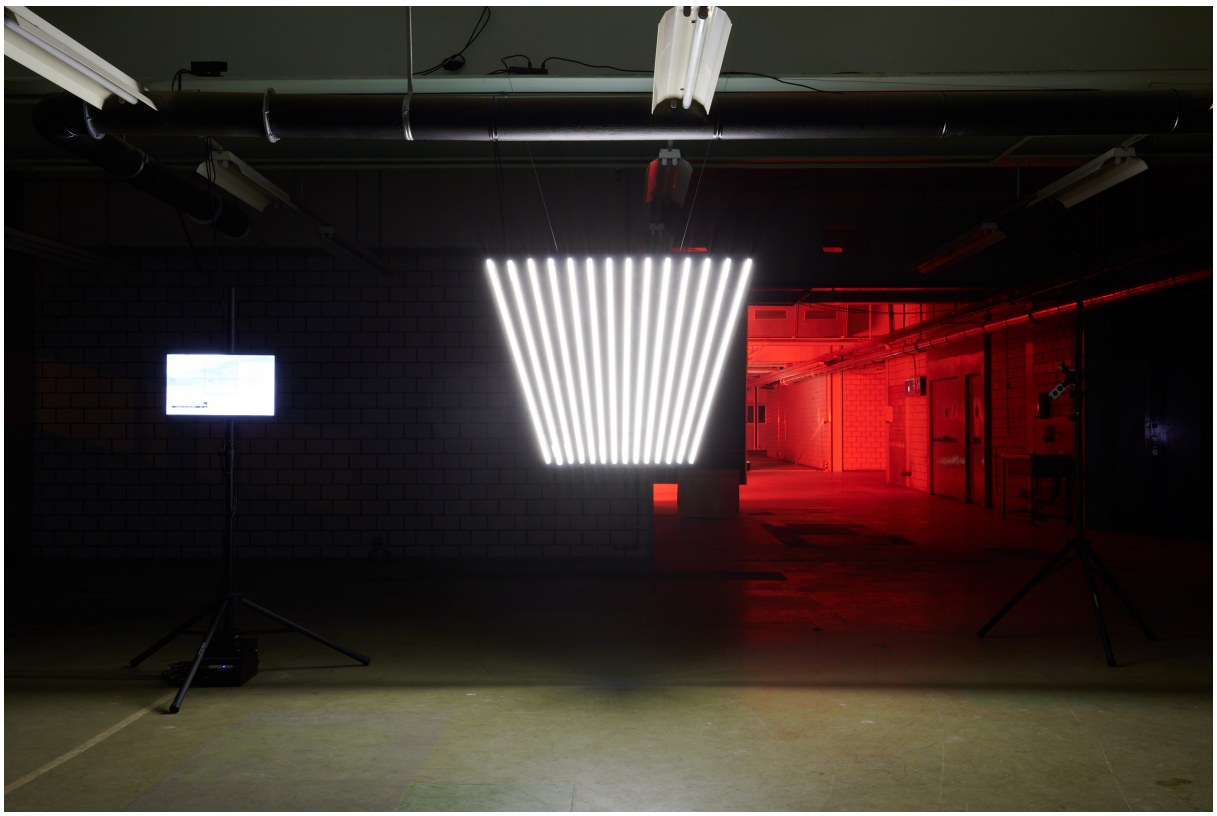
Project by fabric | ch

Collections: Computed·By & Haus der Elektronischen Künste (HEK)

Locations: Lausanne, Basel (CH)

Exhibited during "Environmental Devices (1997 – 2017)" (Kunsthalle Éphémère in Renens, 2018) and Shaping the Invisible World (HEK in Basel, 2021). Permanent exhibition at HEK (2021 – present).

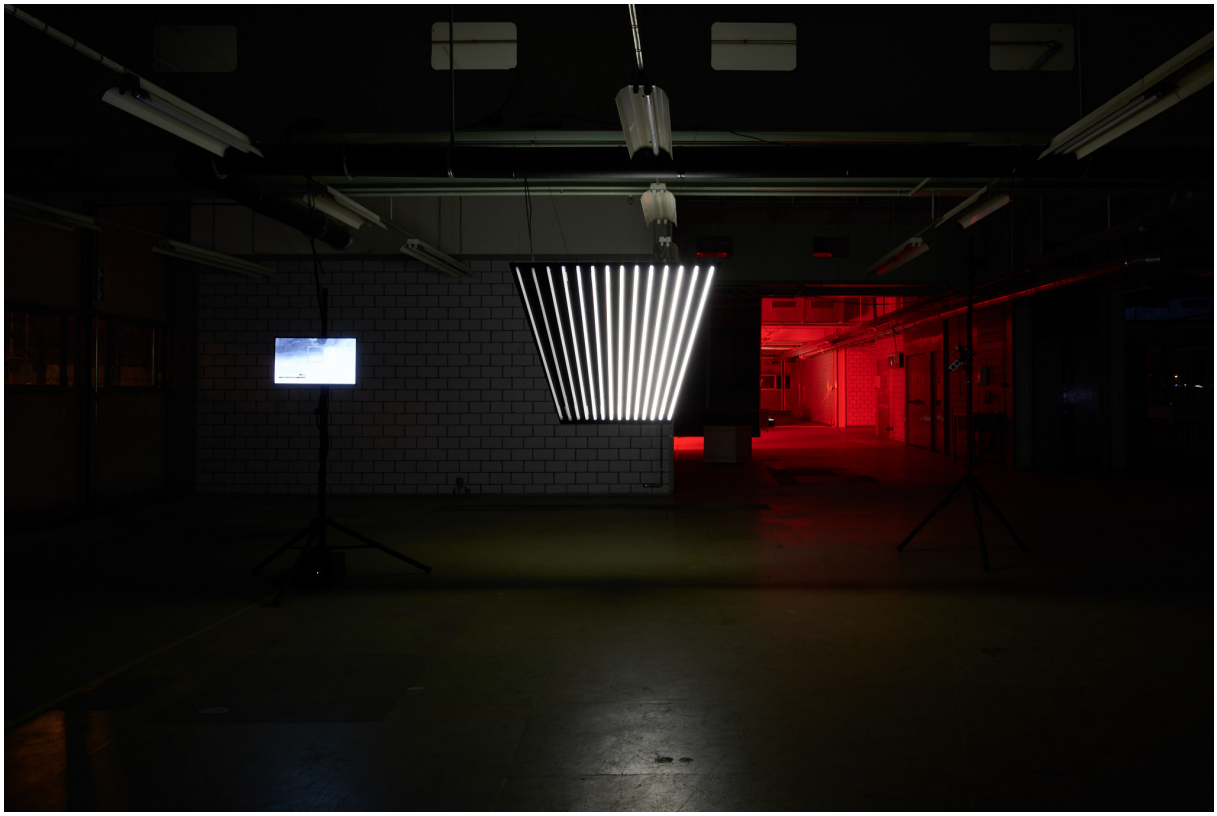
- Two samples of satellite illumination
- Day/night rhythm defined by a relative reference **(imaginary satellite)**
- Day/night artifact, ~15 sunrises and sunsets per 24 hours
- Interference of real and artificial daily light rhythms in the installation space of the device
- Parts of the ongoing series of one-off artworks Satellite Daylight



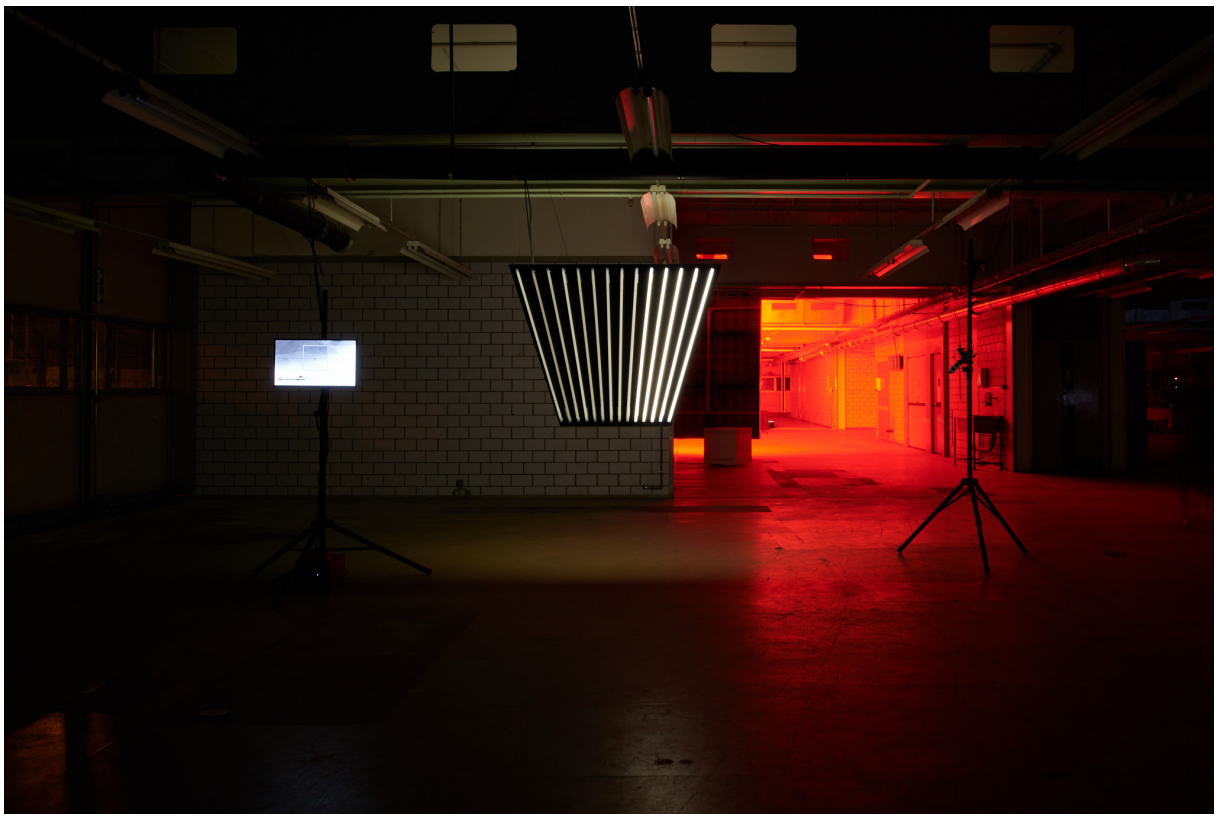
[Img. 1]

[Img. 2]

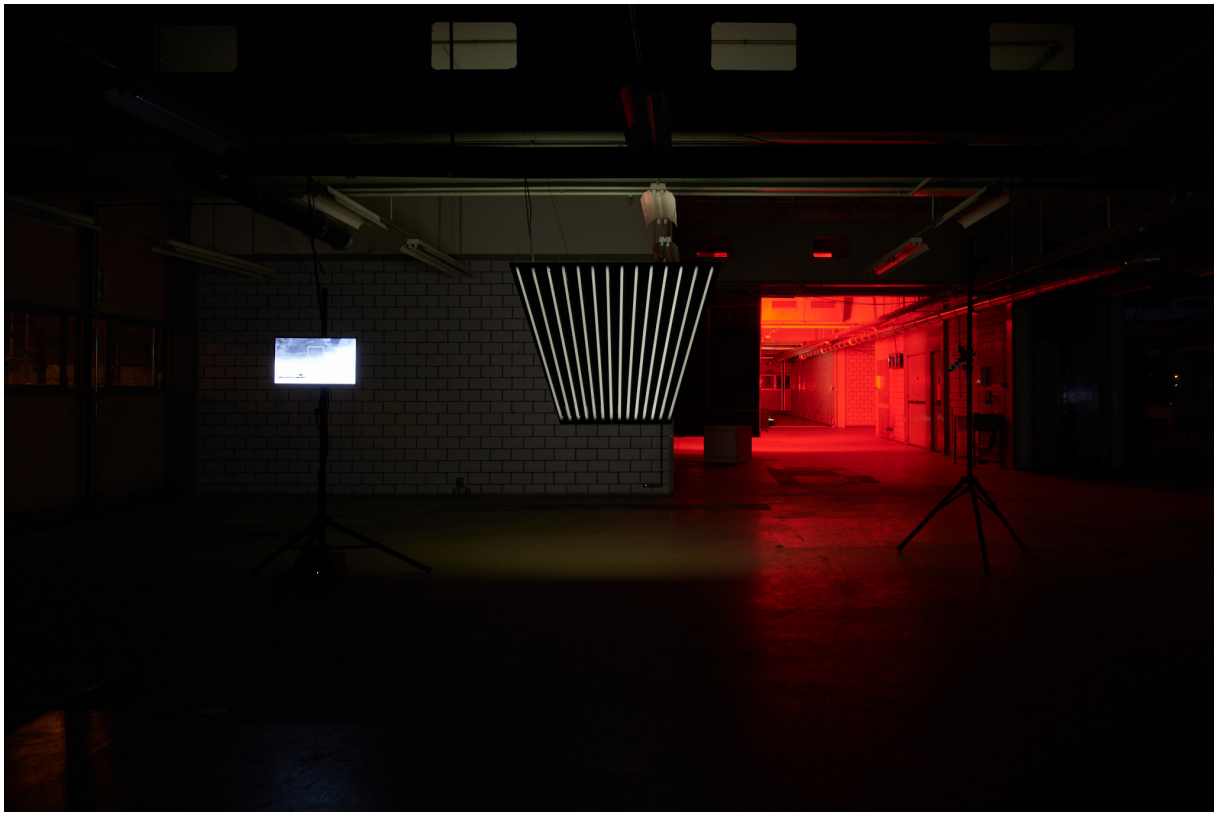
[Img. 3]



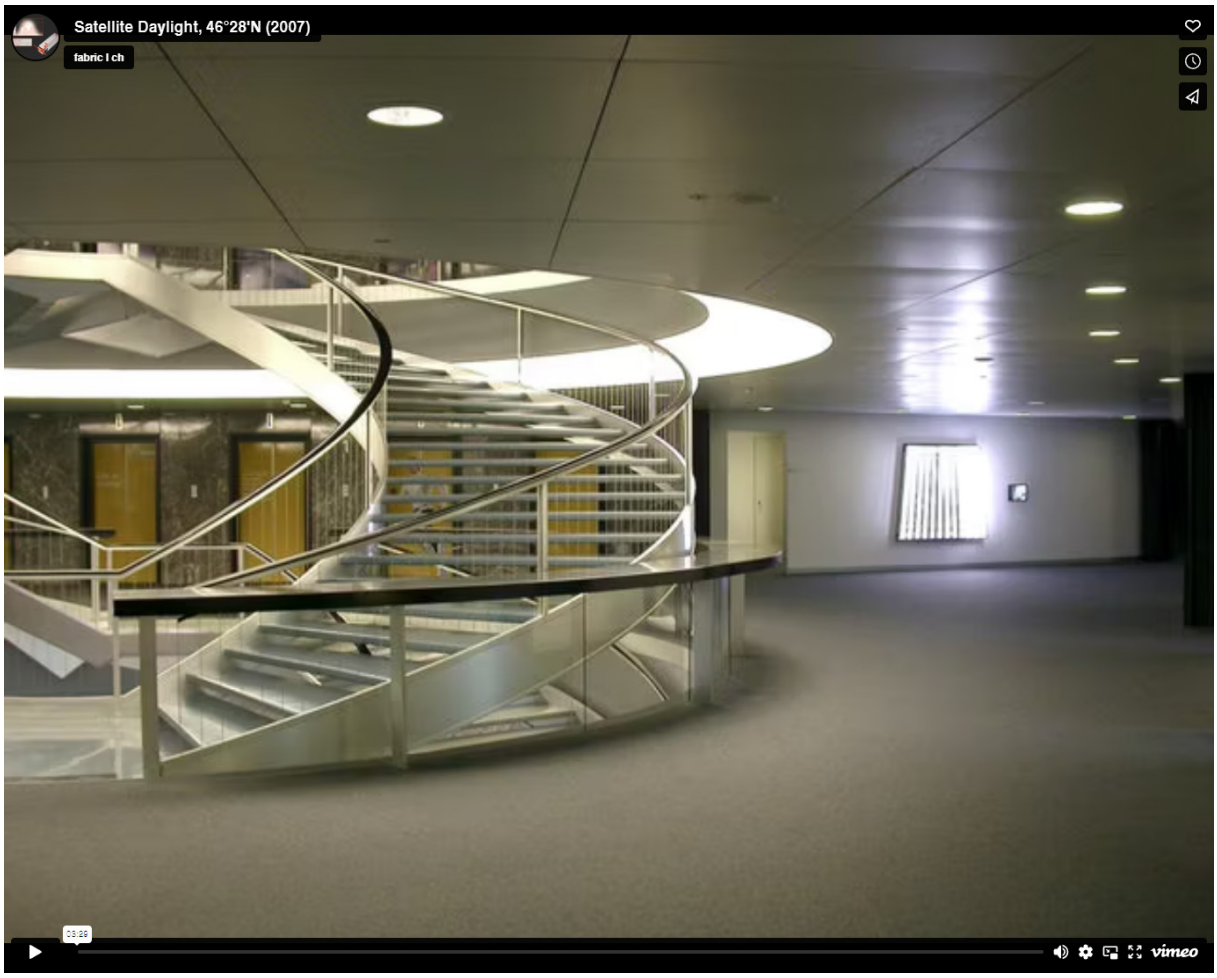
[Img. 4]



[Img. 5]



[Img. 6]

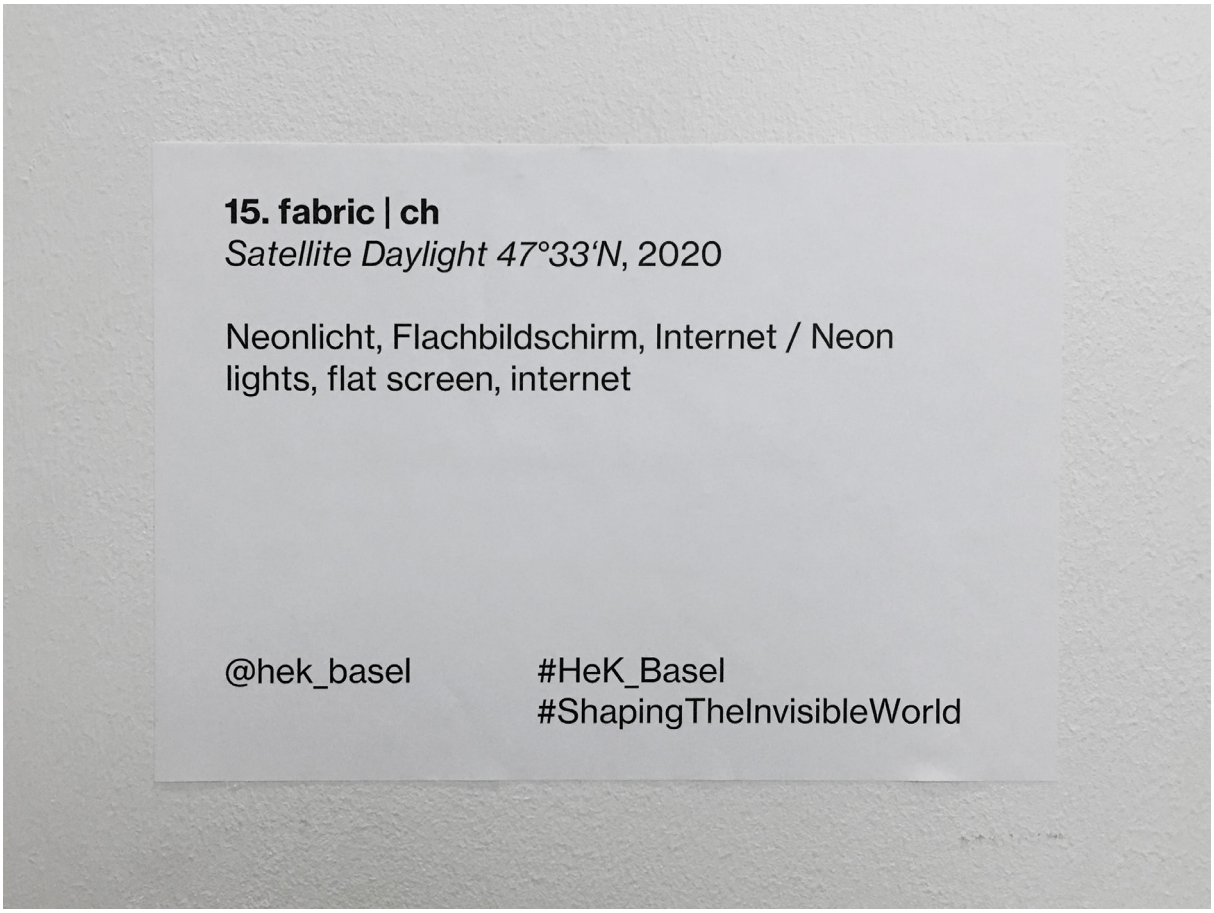


[Img. 7] https://vimeo.com/fbrcch/satellite-daylight-2007

[Img. 8]

[Img. 9]

[Img. 10]


15. fabric | ch
Satellite Daylight 47°33'N, 2020
Neonlicht, Flachbildschirm, Internet / Neon lights, flat screen, internet
@hek_basel
#HeK_Basel
#ShapingTheInvisibleWorld

[Img. 11]

[Img. 12]

[Img. 13]

Image captions:

[Img. 1 - 2] Satellite Daylight, 66°24'S is a lighting piece that was acquired by Computed·By. It was first publicly displayed during fabric | ch monographic exhibition in 2018 but has since then been installed in the main office of the cultural software company in Lausanne (CH). The piece illuminates their entrance space, especially in Winter, due to the location of the artificial satellite (Antarctica in southern hemisphere).

[Img. 3 - 6] Satellite Daylight, 66°24'S in "Sunset" phase. The software interface on the right side of the installation shows the current "virtual" status and location of the satellite as well as the status of the cloud layer.
The software that controls the entire lighting behavior of the luminous device (Satellite Daylight Software) updates this information live, using satellite images and data from weather stations.

[Img. 7] Satellite Daylight 46°28'N. Video documentation of the original element in the Satellite Daylight series, as installed in Vevey (CH).

[Img. 8 - 13] Various views and details on the Satellite Daylight 47°33'N installation, in the HEK public spaces. [Ímg. 8] presents the interface of the environmental device, it allows to identify its current position (here in a daylight situation) and the cloud cover that influences the rendering on the light tubes.

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Two Satellite Daylights in an ongoing series: 66°24′S & 47°33′N

Satellite Daylight, 66°24'S & 47°33'N consist of two samples of daylight: a slice of one hour of terrestrial illumination, transmitted live and sequentially from the latitude 66 degrees 24 minutes South (66°24'S) and 47 degrees 33 minutes North (47°33'N). Moving virtually at the speed of a satellite (7541m/s), the light emitted by neon lights installed on the two opposite faces of the two artworks takes all the subtle variations of earthly light.

Captured at the same latitude as Hope Bay in Antarctica (66°24'S) or the City of Basel in Switzerland (47°33'N), and then successively in all time zones of the same geographic latitudes, their brightness vary according to the hours, places crossed, days, or seasons thanks to dynamically collected weather data and satellite maps: sunny day, lightly covered, cloudy, a nocturnal passage where daylight and light are then on the opposite side of the globe.

The "global" form taken by the reference of the work to the figure of the satellite allows to reveal in an abstract but sensitive way the nuances and variations of the light, at each moment and location. Thus, it is a whole daily luminous rhythm that is transformed in the spaces housing the Satellite Daylight pieces (Computed·By offices, Haus der Elektronischen Künste lobby).

The Satellite Daylight series seeks to make visible, through an exploration of light, the temporal and spatial interferences in which interconnected humanity lives today. Mobility, global communication networks, travel, artificial environments, continuity of the day and of human activity across time zones, virtual territories, etc. - we live in a sort of perpetual day where spatial and temporal dimensions or references intersect, overlap, accelerate, and blend.

Through a light-based approach and the use of high-voltage neon tubes made individually for the work, the Satellite Daylight pieces capture these entanglements in a simple and sensitive manner.

The two artworks propose to combine the atmospheres of light (in Lausanne and Basel, the usual daily rhythms in the spaces of these buildings and their own natural light) with those of different day-night rhythms, changing at the speed of 7541 m/s and fixed on alternative planetary referential: imaginary satellites.

The resulting light artifacts allow one to experience approximately fifteen sunrises and sunsets per day (about one every ninety minutes) in the space where each artwork is displayed. In addition to the natural sunrises and sunsets that occur in these places, they help create a paradoxical environment where two temporalities and two frames of reference of light intersect.

fabric | ch, April 2021

Contact

fabric | ch (97-26)

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