



# THE LIGHT WITHIN

## Department:

Cheriton School of Computer Science

## Project type:

Art installation

## Project co-researchers:

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## LUDWIG W. WALL

*“Light at the end of the tunnel” is an age-old known idiom. Light is what we want to see when we are in our darkest moments, giving us hope that things will be okay. It is with this sense of hope, that we have a chance to be renewed. But what if the ‘light at the end of a tunnel’ actually comes from within? The Light Within aims to show that we all have a ‘Light Within’ that, when at its brightest, can-do great things.*

**The Light Within** is an interactive outdoor installation at the intersection of art and technology showcasing how electronic components can not only become art but can also reflect a much deeper and personal meaning. **The Light Within** was a part of the *Lumière: The Art of Light* outdoor light experience and exhibit at Ontario Place’s Trillium Park and, later, at Waterloo’s *Lumen* immersive outdoor festival celebrating light, art, and technology.

**The Light Within** functions much like a mirror, but instead of a reflection, a person standing in front of the artwork becomes part of the installation. A camera captures their image and projects it in an illuminated matrix of 2,000 LED pixel ping-pong balls. The process of creating the art piece was met with challenges regarding programming, size, stature, and placement of the piece. The installation needed to withstand various weather conditions as well as direct human interaction.

**Interesting fact:** During its time at *Lumière*, the artists had to stop several dogs from attempting to urinate on the installation.