

## Social Physics

Kika Thorne\*

The *Singularity* is an open form. One of many.

It is parabola, or hyperbolic. Together, in a field, they describe spheres, distended, ovular, kinetic. 4 singularities create a sphere.

Produced by tension, it is the architecture or surround that determines the shape of the singular. There may be flexibility — depending on the volume, opportunities for reconnection — but the singularity demands maximum potential. It becomes its volume.

Four singularities form a sphere, the edge of each sphere are the magnetic densities. No one more powerful than the others, give or take, or the sphere collapses. The form is produced by equality, charismatic proportion.

The magnetic centre, the density of the singularity is both its strength and its lure — one is drawn to gaze at the nexus, the energetic principal a constant. Eyes moving from the centre snap back, performing the role of the magnet itself.

What lies in the centre?

\* Kika Thorne, an artist, filmmaker, curator, was a co-founder of *she/TV*, a feminist cable television collective in the 1990s, where women mentored women to produce experimental TV of all duration and genre. She participated in and documented the sculptural protests of the Toronto-based October and February Groups and their resistance to the Ontario Conservative government's anti-democratic privatization and consequent urban 'demolitions' in the mid-1990s. In 1998 she helped found the *Anarchist Free Space & Free Skool/School* in Toronto's Kensington Market. From 1996 to 2004 she collaborated with sculptor and urban scholar Adrian Blackwell to produce videos, installations and civic interventions, notably *1:1 over 1:300* and *Ambience of a future city*. As curator of Vancouver's VIVO Media Arts Centre she helped instigate *Safe Assembly*, a 14 day collective program and gathering to express dissent against the effect of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver. *Singularity*, has been installed in seven locations to date — including a public park in Toronto, the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, see photo, Potsdammer Platz, Berlin, and the "Designated Protest Zone" of the 2010 G8 in Huntsville, Ontario — to induce a multi-scale materials investigation called *Multiplicity of the Singularity*.

Everything serves to pull these planes apart — their very form is produced by a tension that strives to separate or destroy them. “Keeping itself together”, despite all that is against it, the magnetic power is mysterious still. Some say it is not gravity, but I disagree, for the earth itself is a magnet, with poles and attractions, held in magnetic tension, on all scales.

Singularity, the word begins strong, stating its claim, slicing through silence to find the others. Sing. First syllable. Sing, which resonates a specificity — born in context — stained by history — the sing emanates one song after the other, some audible, most not.



**Figure 1** Kika Thorne, *Singularity* (2007)  
Lycra, aircraft cable, hardware, rare earth magnets.  
Photo by Scott Massey, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver.  
Exhibited in *Gasoline Rainbows*, curated by Jenifer Papararo.

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