movement. Followed by more rings, it rose to the top of the cooling tower in a cone of light, and then faded away in an air current, along with the clouds of mist. The slide projections of cloud formations appeared on the wall of the cooling tower – there was rain in the air. And it started to fall, first as drizzle, split up into numerous colour zones by beams of light, and then crashing down as an impressive cloudburst. Towards the end the projector revealed another detail: a huge drop of water was getting ready to fall, changing its shape in the first phase of detachment and flight. The demonstration ended with slides of roaring waterfalls – but admittedly not without returning to the cooling tower's original function. The glass platform allowed visitors to see part of the old system of gutters below them filling with water, which then dripped down on to the slatted structure below. Finally we saw how the slats worked to bring about air cooling and make the cooling tower work: the drops of water atomize as they impact, which means that a greater surface area of the water is exposed to the air. The heat in the water is largely dispersed by a stream of air generated by thermal currents, which warms up. It's as simple as that.

The Dreiseitl studio was able to repeat the performance in the IBA presentation year, 1999. The city of Gelsenkirchen wanted to find a long-term operator for the tower – until it was destroyed by arsonists in autumn 2000.

A circular eddy starts to rise from the depths of the cooling tower.

Vapour, mist and smoke remind us of natural and industrial phenomena in the Ruhr.

Spectators can follow the presentation from the glass platform.

Veils of rain and drizzle dance in an air-current in the illuminated cooling tower.