

# What is Projection Mapping?

Projection Mapping uses everyday video projectors, but instead of projecting on a flat screen, light is mapped onto any surface, turning common objects of any 3D shape into interactive displays. More formally, projection mapping is "the display of an image on a non-flat or non-white surface".

[Frequently asked Questions](#) about Projection Mapping (by NoktaVisual)

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/skU3T8bgEIM>

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/FEZuE9Til78>

## Projection mapping: a historical view

*These three examples give a very rough and non objective timeline/history of the development of projection mapping*

### **1. Michael Naimark's *Displacements* (1980)**

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/bFIP9jcUF-4>

Michael Naimark's *Displacements* (1980) is a foundational work in the history of projection mapping because it used filmed imagery projected back onto the exact physical environment it was recorded in, creating a striking illusion where reality and projection seamlessly merge.

By aligning moving images with real-world objects, *Displacements* anticipated the core technique of projection mapping—precise spatial registration—making it one of the earliest examples of transforming physical space through projected media.

### **2. Pablo Valbuena's *Augmented Sculpture* (2006–2007)**

Pablo Valbuena's *Augmented Sculpture* (2006–2007) is often seen as an early milestone of projection mapping, as it precisely layers projected light onto physical structures to create the illusion of transforming three-dimensional space.

### **3. Pharrell Mashup (Happy Get Lucky) - Pomplamoose (2014)**

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/i7X8ZnmLfM0>

The Pharrell Mashup (Happy Get Lucky) - Pomplamoose by Pomplamoose is important for projection mapping because it shows how visuals can be precisely synchronized with music.

Using only one projector, cardboard, and Adobe Premiere Pro, it reflects how projection mapping can be simple yet effective in aligning image, sound, and physical space.

---

Revision #8

Created 2024-03-11 09:44:30 UTC by Astrid

Updated 2026-03-25 13:56:30 UTC by machiel