

28 Oscillators

On December 14th, 2012 a man shot his mother in Sandy Hook, CT. He then drove to a nearby elementary school and gunned down 20 first graders and 6 adults before taking his own life.

This shocking event raised numerous heated debates where lobbyists, lawmakers and businessmen of all kinds each appointed clear culprits and victims for the tragedy and pushed loudly for “solutions” that fit their everyday agenda.

Less sensational, gun-related murders keep trickling unnoticed among poor social layers on a regular basis.

In the middle of winter time, during the festival of Saturnalia, ancient Romans used to hang little heads (oscilla) made of clay, or wax candles, from the branches of a tree. These ancestors of our day's Christmas trees were remnants of more ancient rituals of human sacrifices to Saturn, the god who ruled before Jupiter during the legendary Golden Age.

Myth has it that Hercules, during his visit to Italy, converted its inhabitants to replacing the offerings of human lives with symbolic wax tapers and clay artifacts.

The Greek noun φῶς (phós) signifies both “man” and “light”.

These photographs portray ceramic objects as temporary vessels of power.

These objects have been brought to near-white heat and hung in a darkened chamber, where the light and heat that they released were captured on infrared film until the objects cooled down completely.