

YUKO MOHRI

**BAIRDCAST MEDIA:
A HISTORY OF MACHINE
TRANSLATION**



**BAIRDCAST MEDIA:
A HISTORY OF MACHINE
TRANSLATION**

The first international residency and solo exhibition by Japanese artist Yuko Mohri, *Bairdcast Media: A History of Machine Translation* explores the early history of broadcast media in the United Kingdom during the hugely significant period of transition in broadcasting with the switch from analogue to digital television.

“Stooky Bill” broadcast by the Baird “Televisor”





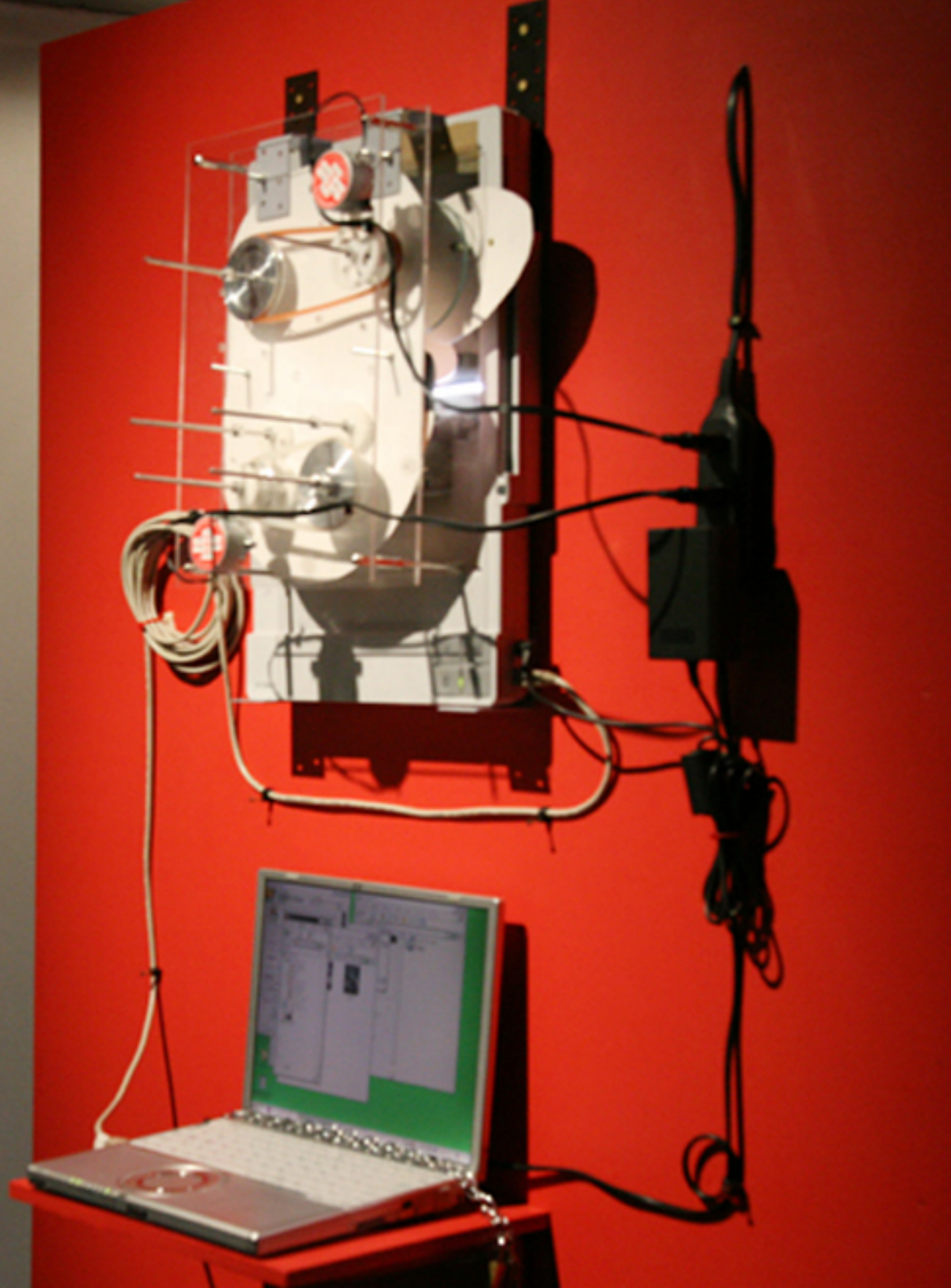
"Stooky Bill" and the Baird "Televisor"

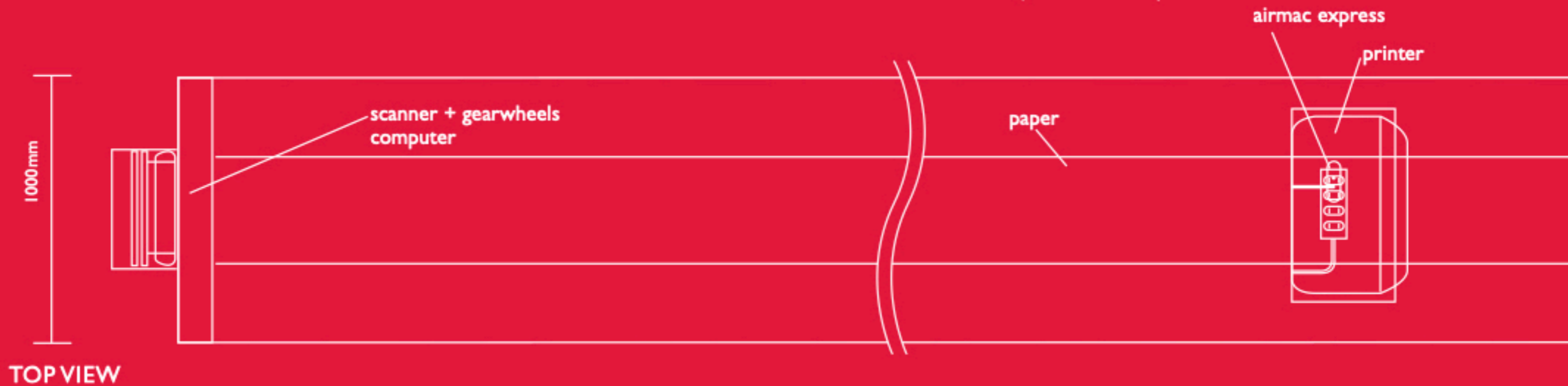
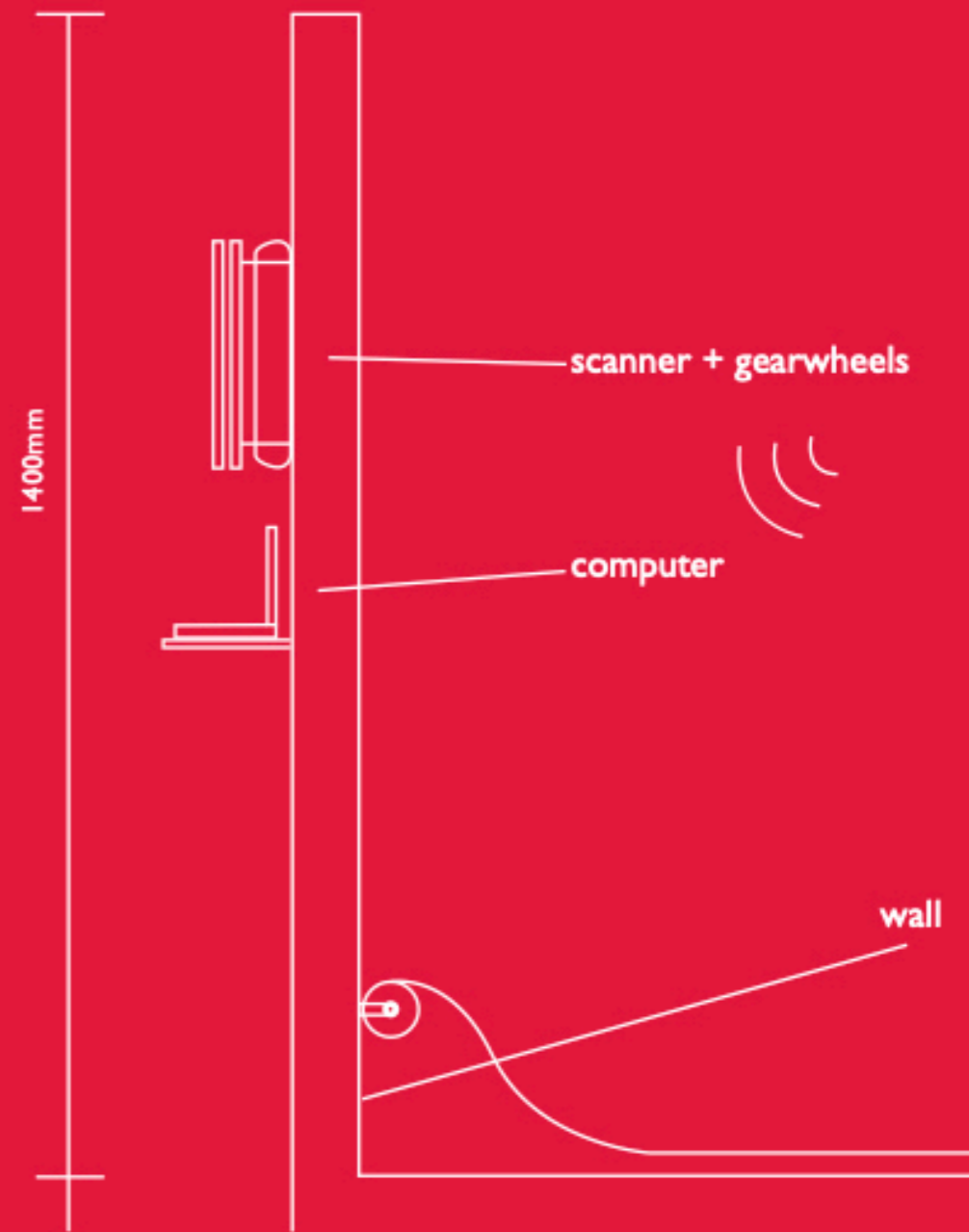
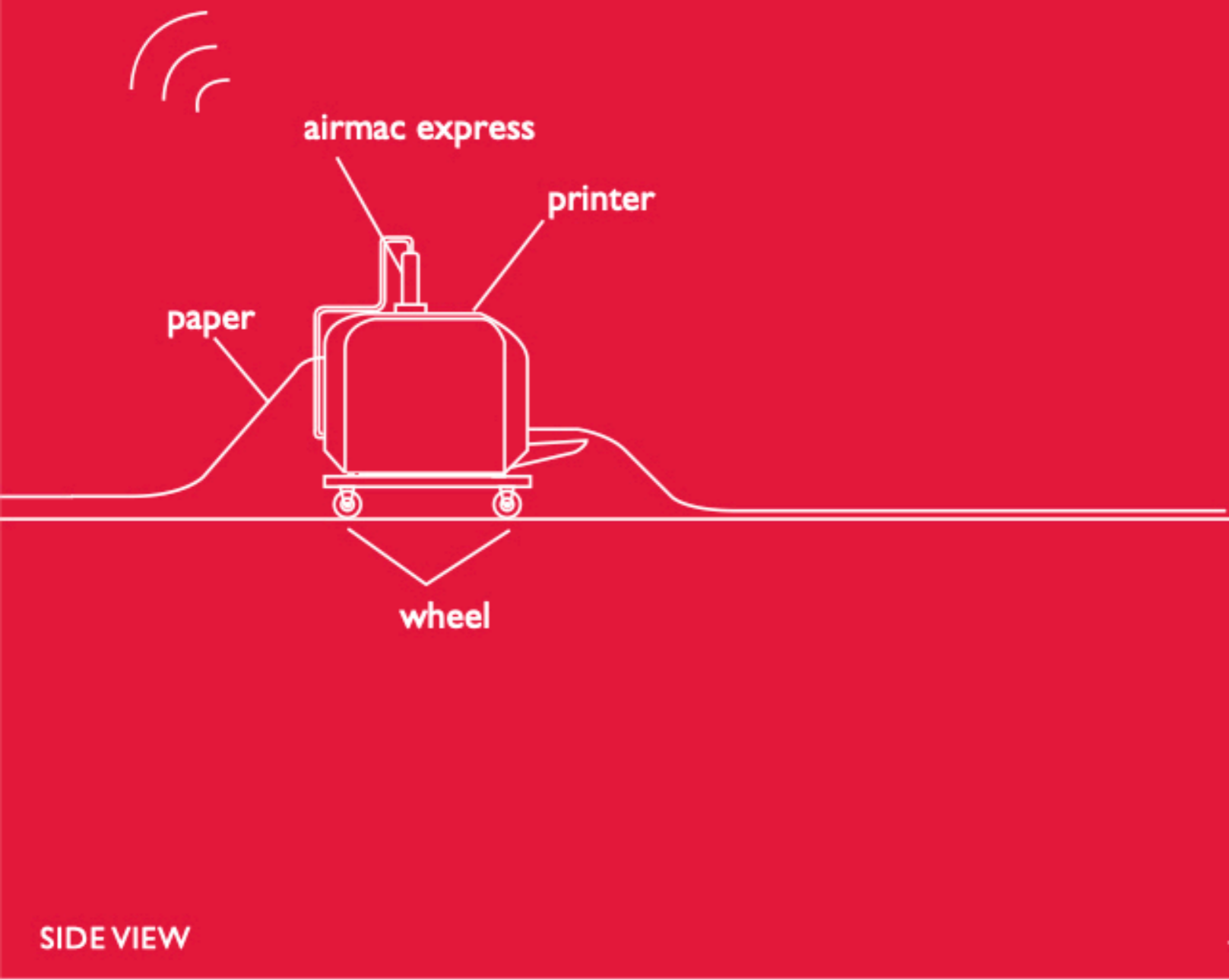
Examining the pioneering work of John Logie Baird, the inventor of early television and the 'televisor' semi-mechanical, analogue television system that used a patented mechanical scanning method - Baird broadcast the earliest true-television images (with half-tones of light and shade rather than only silhouettes) in October 1925. Surprisingly his pioneering work is little known outside of museums dedicated to science and broadcasting history. The residency offered a unique opportunity for Mohri to explore the early history of broadcasting, the pioneering work of Baird, and contemporary broadcast media, from a different cultural perspective, at this turning point in broadcasting worldwide.

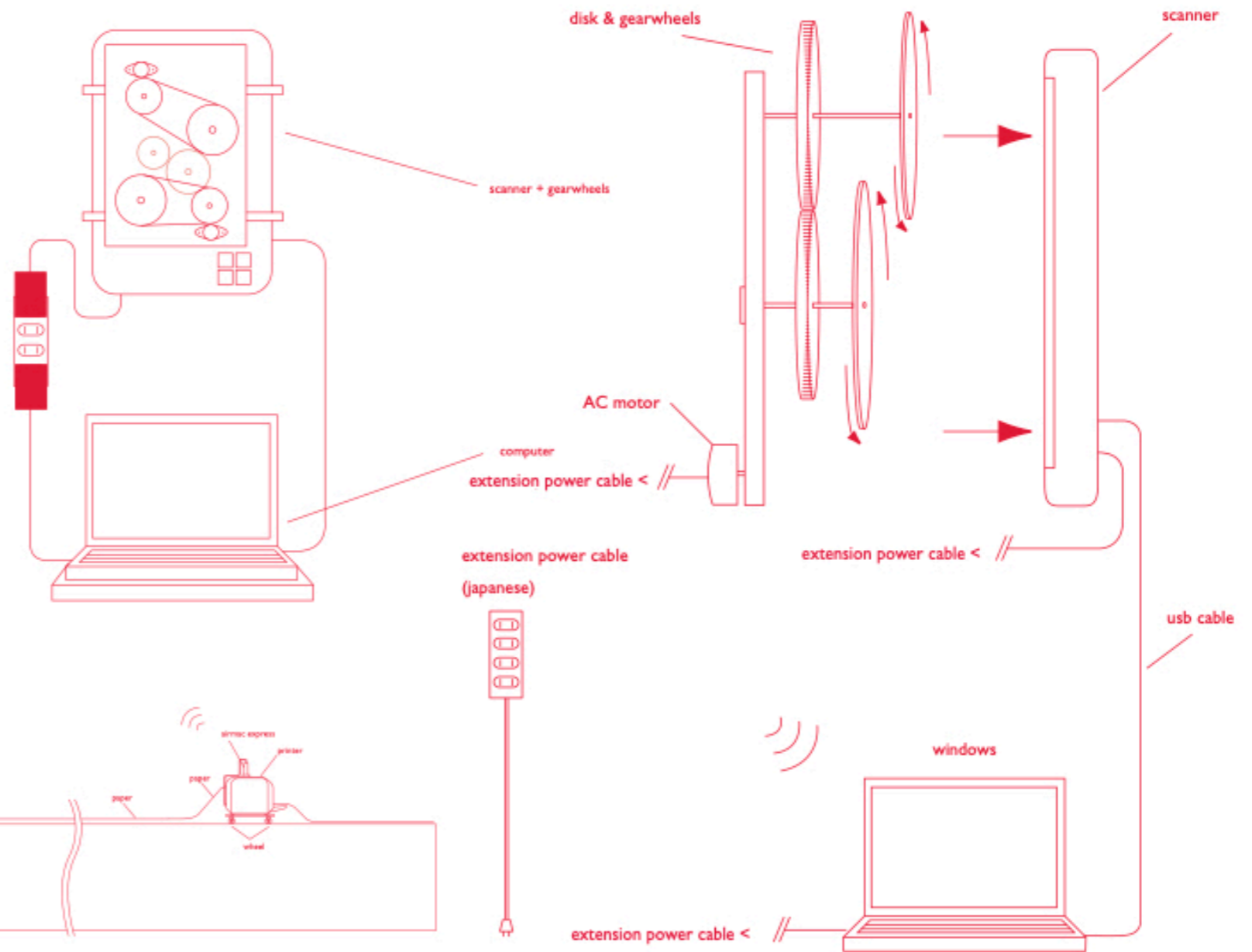
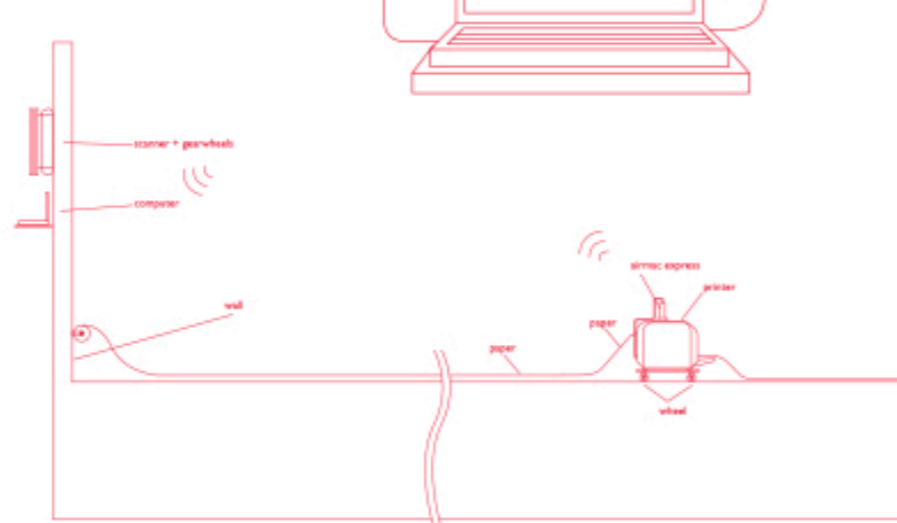
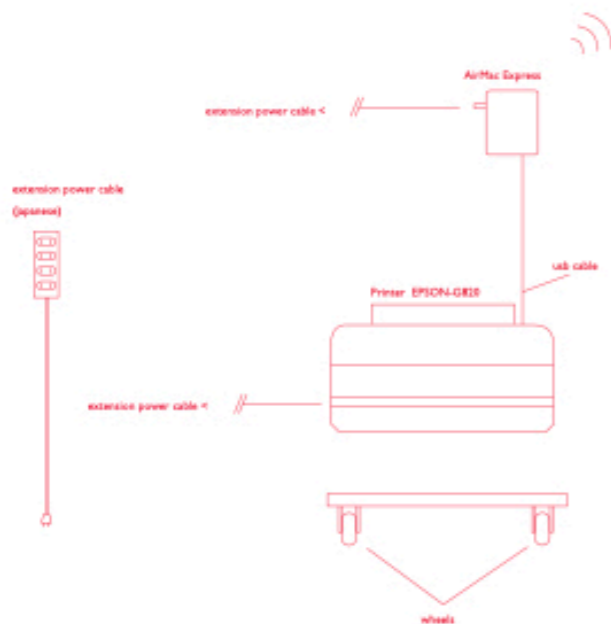
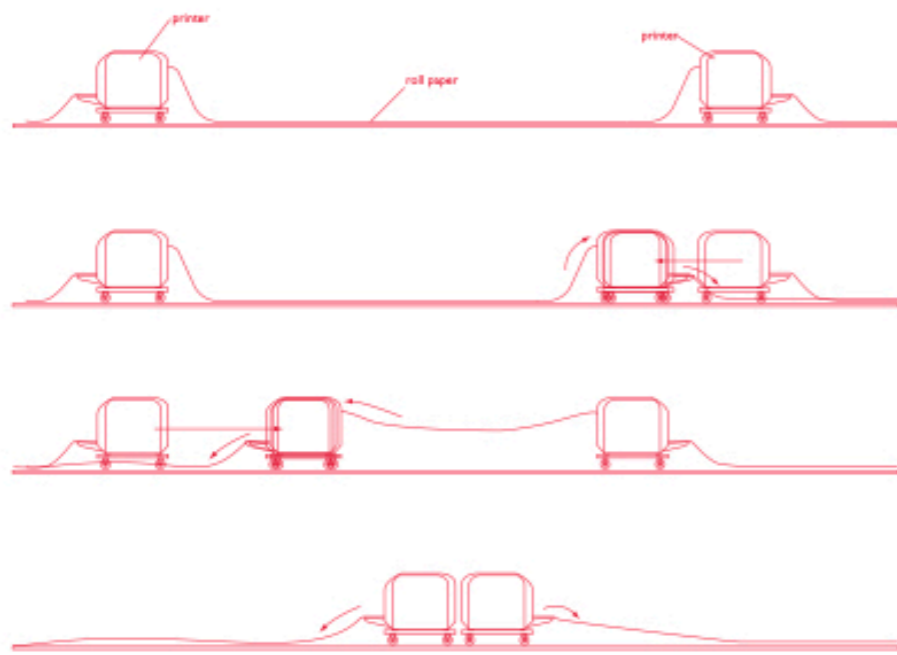
Produced in Japan and the UK, and based on primary research undertaken between 2006-2007 into Baird's early broadcast apparatus including access to Baird's original "televisor" arranged by John Logie Baird, grandson of John Logie Baird - and using parts sourced from Akihabara electric town, Tokyo, Yuko Mohri produced the "gadget".

In Mohri's "gadget", the selenium cells of the inventors' analogue televisor are replaced with the CCD sensors of a scanner and the Nipkow disk, as used by Baird in his original invention, by a series of rotating glass discs covered in photographic images of a dummy's head evoking "Stooky Bill" the ventriloquist dummy the grinning face of which was the first image that Baird televised in the United Kingdom and across the Atlantic and the first true-television pictures that anyone saw. Posing questions that prompt us to observe and critique the journey from Baird's experiments in 1925, right up to the creation of YouTube, in the 2000s.

Curated by Keith Whittle as part of AV Festival 08 and EAST.08, and produced in partnership with the National Media Museum, Bradford, Graduate School of Film and New Media, Tokyo Geidai. Supported by Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, Asia-Europe Foundation, The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and Japan Foundation.







YUKO MOHRI
 BAIRDCAST MEDIA:
 A HISTORY OF MACHINE
 TRANSLATION