Into boundless space I leap
New Art, Dance and Science Interacting at the Maxwell Centre

9 April - 2 July 2016

THE MAXWELL CENTRE is a new building for pioneering scientific research and industrial partnership in the University of Cambridge, inspired by the remarkable physicist James Clerk Maxwell. Maxwell was the first Cavendish Professor of Physics in Cambridge and a fellow of Trinity College; his discoveries include the unification of electromagnetic and light waves. From mobile phones to television, radio, and radar, we owe much of our current technology to Maxwell's discoveries. In the spirit of Maxwell, the new Centre is designed to foster creative and fundamentally ground breaking science discoveries and partner with industry to translate these to technological applications.

INTO BOUNDLESS SPACE I LEAP is a special exhibition and series of events celebrating the opening of the Maxwell Centre.

James Clerk Maxwell used art and poetry as an expression of his scientific research, and the title of the exhibition is taken from one of his poems. The exhibition presents work by fourteen contemporary artists of international standing, including sculpture, video, installation and painting. The artworks, which include new commissions, have been selected or created in response to the new Centre's ethos of scientific discovery and collaboration, and the persistent quest shared by artists and scientists to explore the world around us. The exhibition reflects the Maxwell Centre as a space for experiment, interaction, and ideas - creating the future through the physical sciences.

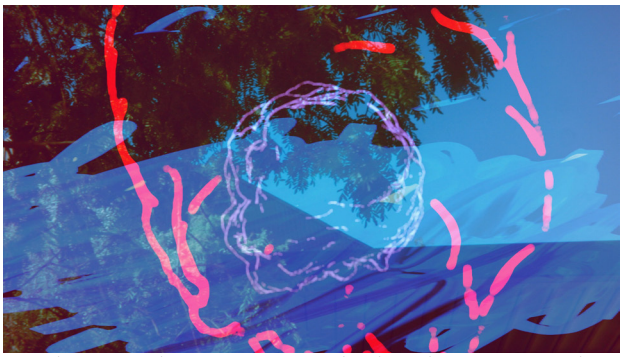
New commissions include a large-scale graphic text work by Mark Titchner using words from Maxwell's poetry; photographic works by Laura Buckley and Fold sculptures by Rana Begum. A specially commissioned new dance and sound work by choreographer Wayne McGregor in collaboration with artist Haroon Mirza will be performed on 9 April, and a film of the performance will be available afterwards. Both artists are internationally renowned for the pioneering nature of their work.

Paul Purgas has developed a new sound piece that transmits live electromagnetic audio feeds using special microphones that have been attached to scientific equipment in the new quantum materials laboratories at the Maxwell Centre. Issam Kourbaj has made new photographs using a camera obscura, of cutting edge research at the Cavendish Laboratory.

Visitors will also encounter Fischli/Weiss's iconic film that follows a series of chain reactions between everyday objects. Two further films in the exhibition explore technology, materials and how humans interact with the world: *Strike* a 28 second film by Hito Steyerl in which the artist strikes a monitor with a chisel and the dream-like *Mainland Rock* by Benedict Drew. Also on view are *Light Drawings* by Gustav Metzger and sketches of the Aurora Australis by polar explorer Edward Wilson (1872-1912) member of Scott's expeditions.

The exhibition has been curated by Kettle's Yard in collaboration with the Maxwell Centre. Dr Suchitra Sebastian, Director Cavendish Arts-Science Project, Maxwell Centre, Department of Physics:
'Our exhibition is a celebration of scientific and artistic discovery. The Cavendish Arts-Science Project partnership between scientists at the Maxwell Centre, curators at Kettle's Yard, and collaborating artists, has proved an exciting exploration of each other's worlds. We hope that it gives you a glimpse of those worlds too, and ignites your scientific curiosity and imagination – to see further, and dream bigger.'

The exhibition is open every Saturday, 11am-4pm



Benedict Drew (b.1977, UK), Mainland Rock, 2014, HD video, 23 minutes, Courtesy the artist and Matt's Gallery, London

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Open days and events

Free, open to all, booking essential, see kettlesyard.co.uk/maxwell

Saturday 9 April, 11am-3.30pm
OPEN DAY
Tours of the Centre, talks by artists and scientists on topics including DNA origami, nanoworlds, levitating trains, and new-generation batteries, and live performances of a new dance and sound work by Wayne McGregor and Haroon Mirza.
Free, refreshments available

Saturday 9 April, 4.30-6pm
PANEL DISCUSSION
Sharing Creative Exploration: What can the arts and sciences do for each other?
With Professor John Barrow, Dr Suchitra Sebastian, Mark Titchner and Dr Philip Barnard chaired by Andrew Nairne, Director of Kettle's Yard
Join Cambridge scientists and artist Mark Titchner for a stimulating debate.
Free, booking essential. Followed by drinks.

Saturday 25 June, 11am-4pm
OPEN DAY
Tours of the Centre, talks by artists and scientists on topics including DNA origami, nanoworlds, levitating trains, and new-generation batteries, and activities for all ages.
Free, refreshments available

To book and for more information about the full programme of events please visit kettlesyard.co.uk/maxwell

Editors notes

Artists: Rana Begum, Laura Buckley, Benedict Drew, Fischli/Weiss, Ulyana Gumeniuk, Issam Kourbaj, Wayne McGregor, Gustav Metzger, Haroon Mirza, Eugenio Polgovsky, Paul Purgas, Hito Steyerl, Mark Titchner, Edward Wilson (1872-1912).

New commissions by: Rana Begum, Laura Buckley, Issam Kourbaj, Wayne McGregor & Haroon Mirza, Paul Purgas and Mark Titchner.

The exhibition is a collaboration between the Kettle's Yard and the Maxwell Centre. The project is conceived by the Cavendish Arts Science Project directed by Suchitra Sebastian, Maxwell Centre; and the exhibition is curated by Guy Haywood, Assistant Curator, Kettle's Yard.

James Clerk Maxwell
The Maxwell Centre takes its name from James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879). Maxwell was the subject of a recent BBC documentary, 'Scotland's Einstein'. He is arguably one of the most overlooked physicists in history.

'To him we owe the most significant discovery of our age - the theory of electromagnetism. He is rightly acclaimed as the father of modern physics. He also made fundamental contributions to mathematics, astronomy and engineering.' James Clerk Maxwell Foundation. Einstein kept a framed photograph of Maxwell in his study.

'One scientific epoch ended and another began with James Clerk Maxwell'. Albert Einstein.

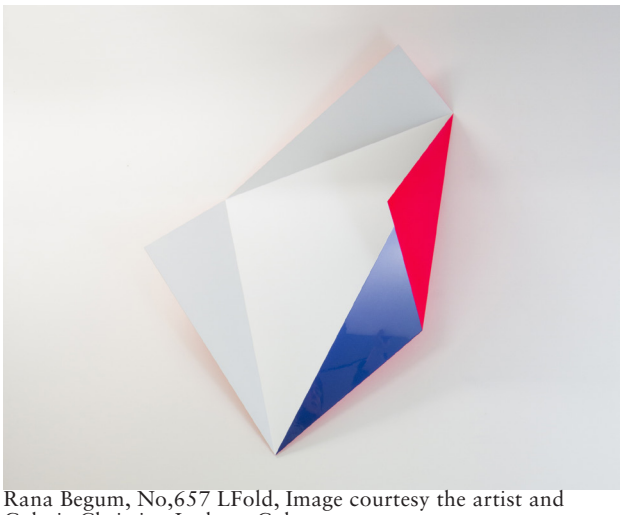
'The special theory of relativity owes its origins to Maxwell's equations of the electromagnetic field.' Albert Einstein

Maxwell key dates
1831 born in Edinburgh
1855 Devised the colour triangle
1859 Discovered the structure of Saturn's rings
1861 Took the first colour photograph
1865 Proved that magnetism and electricity are interlinked with 'Maxwell's equations'
1870 Awarded Hopkins Prize, University of Cambridge
1871 Directed and established Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, as First Professor of Experimental Physics
1878 Delivers Rede Lecture at Cambridge: "The Telephone"
1879 Dies on 5 November, Cambridge.

For more on Maxwell see: http://www.bbc.co.uk/timelines/zyp34j6

The Maxwell Centre
The new building offers state-of-the-art laboratories, office spaces, and meeting spaces for more than 230 people. The new facilities will see research scientists from industry occupying laboratory and desk space alongside Cambridge research groups, with the aim of creating a two-way flow of ideas and researchers to tackle scientific problems that relate directly to industrial need. "This building will affect how we work together and promote the free-flow of ideas, providing the right sort of meeting places for people to generate innovative research," said Professor Sir Richard Friend, Cavendish Professor of Physics, who is the first Director of the Centre.

We are grateful to the support of:
Trinity College, Cambridge, L'Oreal UK & Ireland, Lisson Gallery, Studio Wayne McGregor and University of Cambridge Science Festival.



Rana Begum, No,657 LFold, Image courtesy the artist and Galerie Christian Lethert, Cologne

Maxwell Centre

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