



axsfestival.org

AxS Festival 2011 continues the Pasadena Arts Council's biennial celebration of Pasadena's remarkable heritage as the City of Art and Science.

AxS Festival 2011 explores the eternal, elemental themes of FIRE and WATER—epic forces that continue to inspire and terrify us in equal measure—forces that not only have shaped and defined the physical and psychic landscape of our region, but which continue to resonate powerfully through the events of the day and in the persistent cultural artifacts of our scientists and artists.

This year the AxS Festival is designed to showcase this rare alchemy of FIRE and WATER with two weeks of art, dance, music, theater, performance and provocative conversation.

Original Commissions
Conversation Series
Presenting Partners

AxS \ ak-sis \ FESTIVAL 2011 | FIRE and WATER
October 1 - 16, 2011

PASADENA
ARTS
COUNCIL

PASADENA | City of Art + Science



AxS FESTIVAL
PASADENA ARTS COUNCIL
65 S. Grand Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91105

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AxS \ ak-sis \ FESTIVAL 2011 | FIRE and WATER
Pasadena | October 1 - 16, 2011

Top, Jason H. Thompson; bottom, Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech



**AxS \ ak-sis **
FESTIVAL 2011

FIRE and WATER
October 1 - 16

PASADENA | City of Art + Science

*“We are made of art and science. We are such stuff as **dreams** are made on, but we are also just stuff. We now know enough about the brain to **realize** that its mystery will always remain. Like a work of art, we exceed our **materials**. Science needs art to frame the mystery, but art needs science so that not everything is a mystery. Neither truth alone is our solution, for our reality exists in **plural**.”*

— JONAH LEHRER
Proust Was a Neuroscientist

FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

THE LOVE SONG OF J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER

Carson Kreitzer | Caltech

Do I dare disturb the universe?"

This staged reading of the play chronicles the great scientist's rise and fall—from Los Alamos and the fevered wartime drive to build "the gadget," to the horrors of nuclear war, to the post-war recriminations of the House Un-American Activities Committee and Oppenheimer's fate as a castaway in the world of his own creation.

Hameetman Auditorium | Cahill Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics | Caltech
Saturday, October 1, 8pm

enMESHED

John O'Brien | Honda R&D Americas Gallery

enMESHED is a public art installation sited in the windows of the Honda R&D Americas Gallery. In one window, a sculpture of everyday objects will function as an interactive touchscreen, allowing passersby to trigger light and focus changes in the sculpture; in the second, image projections of geologic events will synchronize with the embedded hand gestures.

Honda R&D Americas Gallery, Raymond Avenue @ Union
Opens October 1

FIRE AND WATER MURAL PROJECT

Christian Alderete | Villa-Parke Community Center

Mural artist Alderete will work with members of the Northwest Pasadena neighborhood to create an Aztec-themed mural, featuring elements of FIRE and WATER, at this vibrant community center.

Villa-Parke Community Center
October 1 - 16



Courtesy Christian Alderete

WATER MUSIC/FIRE SONG

Pasadena Pro Musica | Neighborhood Church

The concert will feature a program of outstanding contemporary choral music designed to plumb the cool depths of the soul and ignite the heart's passion, including *Water Night*, *Seal Lullaby*, and *Cloudburst* by Eric Whitacre, *To Be Sung On The Water* by Samuel Barber, and Morten Lauridsen's *Six Firesongs Madrigali*.

Neighborhood Church
Sunday, October 2, 4pm

WEATHER REPORT: ART AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Lucy Lippard | Art Center College of Design | Ahmanson Auditorium
AxS Festival Conversation Series

Renowned art critic, historian and writer Lucy Lippard will present WEATHER REPORT: ART AND CLIMATE CHANGE, a look at art's potential to educate and motivate audiences on issues regarding desertification, floods, changing watersheds, global warming, renewable energy, reforestation, species transformation, ozone layer, ocean acidification, and soil subsidence.

Art Center College of Design | Ahmanson Auditorium
Monday, October 3, 7:30pm

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Dan Goods | Pasadena Museum of California Art

The *Juno* spacecraft launched in August 2011 and will arrive at Jupiter in July 2016. The spacecraft will spend a year orbiting the giant gas planet investigating its origins and inner workings. Dan Goods, JPL's Visual Strategist, has created an interactive installation intended to help museum viewers experience the mystery of *Juno's* visit to a cloud-covered planet.

Pasadena Museum of California Art
Wednesday - Sunday, 12pm - 5pm

Sunday, October 16: Day of Discovery with PMCA & JPL. A full day of programs featuring speakers from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and art activities for families. Free admission.

RAIN AFTER ASH

Corey Madden | Pacific Asia Museum | Created in collaboration with composer Bruno Louchouarn and media designer Jason H. Thompson; based on the writing of Craig Arnold

Site-specific theatrical event presented in galleries and courtyard of Pacific Asia Museum and inspired by the story of American poet Craig Arnold, who went missing in 2009 on a volcano in Japan while following the footsteps of haiku poet Basho. RAIN AFTER ASH marries Arnold's own literary forebodings and preoccupations with Greek myth with the artists' exploration of our contemporary culture's technological response to apparently random and uncontrollable forces that impact our lives.

Pacific Asia Museum
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, October 4, 5 & 6
Tuesday & Wednesday, October 11 & 12
7:30pm & 9pm each night

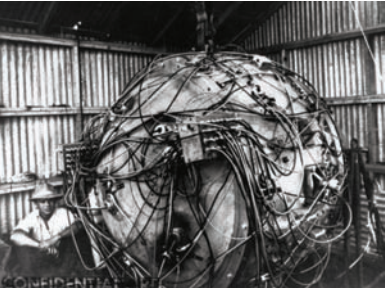
PICTURING THE BOMB

Curated by Rachel Fermi and Esther Samra | Pasadena City College Art Gallery

Photographs from the secret world of the Manhattan Project, the mammoth scientific undertaking that created the first atomic bomb, which begat a strange marriage of art and science. Most of the millions of photos were taken by official photographers and intended only as scientific documentation, but they suggest other dimensions of meaning, often strange and perplexing. The disparate images from all facets of the Manhattan Project create compelling juxtapositions that generate complex, open-ended interpretations.

Pasadena City College Art Gallery
Opening Wednesday, October 5

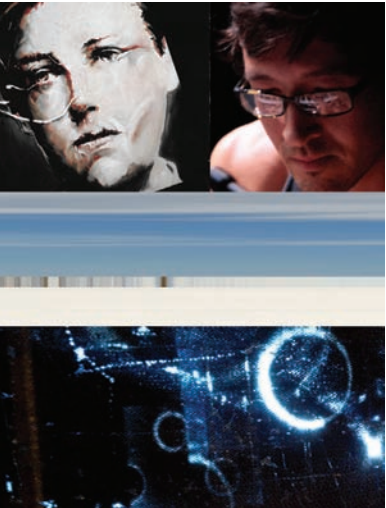
Gallery Hours:
Monday - Thursday, 11am - 8pm
Friday - Saturday, 12pm - 4pm



Photographer: E. Wallace? July 15, 1945, courtesy of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

IGNITE / FLOW

Mark So, Yann Novak & Robert Crouch, and Carole Kim | Art Center College of Design | Wind Tunnel Gallery



From top: courtesy Mark So; Yann Novak and Robert Crouch; Carole Kim

IGNITE/FLOW, curated for the AxS Festival by visual/sound artist Steve Roden, features three commissioned works by four remarkable interdisciplinary artists. IGNITE/FLOW is a site-specific work designed to respond to both the FIRE and WATER theme as well as the dramatic Wind Tunnel Gallery at Art Center College of Design's South Campus.

Composer Mark So presents READING ILLUMINATIONS [reading 41], a sonic exploration of fire and water elements in visionary post-romantic poet Arthur Rimbaud's dizzying collection of prose poems.

Mutii-media performance artists Yann Novak and Robert Crouch present FATA MORGANA - a fragmented travelogue which mirrors the rare and complex Fata Morgana mirage phenomenon which hauntingly inverts the boundaries of figure and ground over both desert lands and seas.

Carole Kim presents SCAN, a highly textured work incorporating live performers, real-time cameras, feedback loops, soundscapes, original music scores and computer-controlled projections on a multi-planar cloud-like structure that will break down the projected image into particulate fragments.

Art Center College of Design South Campus | Wind Tunnel Gallery
Thursday, October 6, 8pm
Friday, October 7, 8pm

TOXIC WATERS

Charles Duhigg | Pasadena Central Library
AxS Festival Conversation Series

Many Americans think of unclean water as an issue exclusive to the third world, yet millions in the United States drink contaminated water every day. Our skies are cleansed at the expense of waterways, and farm runoff continues to be a significant pollutant. Yet public policy remains far behind the curve when addressing the basic right to clean water. *The New York Times'* award-winning journalist Charles Duhigg will speak on TOXIC WATERS, a presentation based on his year-long series of the same name.

Pasadena Public Library | Donald R. Wright Auditorium
Saturday, October 8, 7:30pm

STOKED!

Curated by Stephen Horn | Xiem Clay Center

An exhibition of ceramic work curated by renowned ceramic artist and educator Stephen Horn. A life-long surfer and ceramicist, Horn will present his own work in the company of works by a group of eminent artist/surfers. The exhibition promises to reveal fascinating correspondences in the passionate commitment to form, play, courage, balance and open-ended exploration germane to both disciplines.

Xiem Clay Center
Tuesday - Friday, 10am - 6pm
Saturday, 10am - 5pm

Artists' Talk:
Saturday, October 8, 2:30pm



Kevin Myers

FIRE AND WATER TOUR

The Gamble House

The Gamble House will present a special "Fire and Water Tour" of the beloved 1908 Greene and Greene Arts and Crafts movement masterpiece, a National Historic Landmark. The Fire and Water Tour - conducted by acclaimed leaded and stained glass artist John Hamm - will illuminate Greene and Greene's use of materials forged of FIRE and WATER, from the iconic clinker bricks (created in a superheated firing process) to the water-worn stones quarried from the nearby Arroyo Seco.

The Gamble House
Saturday, October 8, 3:30pm
Tuesday, October 11, 1:30pm

SUNFLOWERS IN SNOW

Red Hen Press at Boston Court Performing Arts Center

Continuing its tradition of innovative and bold performing arts, Boston Court will partner with Pasadena's own small independent press, Red Hen Press, to present an evening of spoken word and poetry which interprets and confronts the themes of FIRE and WATER. Red Hen Press returns to Boston Court to present *Sunflowers in Snow*, poetry reflecting on the themes of fire, water and science. Featuring readings by Garrett Hongo, Jim Tilley and Evie Shockley.

Boston Court Performing Arts Center
Monday, October 10, 7pm

FIRE SEASON

William Deverell and Philip Connors | Huntington Library
AxS Festival Conversation Series

Wildfire and the American west will be the subject of this conversation between William Deverell, Professor of History and Director of the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, and Philip Connors, acclaimed author of FIRE SEASON and ardent wilderness fire look-out. Deverell and Connors will discuss how wildfire has shaped the West, and Connors will recount his days and nights keeping watch over one of the most fire-prone forests in the country, reflecting on our place in the wild and the ongoing debate over wildfires in the natural ecology.

Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens | Friends' Hall
Wednesday, October 12, 7:30pm

WORLDS

Curated by Stephen Nowlin | Art Center College of Design | Williamson Gallery

The objects and imagery in WORLDS come from humans, spacecraft, and robotic documentarians, and include contemporary art, sculpture, sound, and large-scale installations as well as artifacts from science, including data visualizations, NASA spacecraft imagery, meteorites, science fiction video. Also on display are high-resolution prints of historical astronomical book sketches by Galileo, Copernicus, and other seminal astronomers, scanned and drawn from the rare-book collection of the Huntington Library.

Art Center College of Design | Alyce de Roulet Williamson Gallery

Opening Event:
Thursday, October 13, 8pm
Mike Brown, author of "How I Killed Pluto, and Why It Had It Coming," will speak on "Worlds of Fire, Worlds of Water" in the Art Center Ahmanson Auditorium, followed by a reception in the Williamson Gallery

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday - Sunday, 12pm - 5pm
Friday, 12pm to 9pm

ECHO::SYSTEM ACTIONSTATION#2 THE DESERT

Grisha Coleman | Dance Conservatory of Pasadena

In a journey through space and time, Grisha Coleman's dance performance installation immerses audiences and performers in an environment comprised of audio and visual media, digital movement analysis, robotics and live performance. The work was developed in a unique collaborative process that engaged biologists, architects, digital, sound and video designers and performers, who recreate a desert ecosystem simultaneously made up of a virtual and real space, reflecting on how one affects the other.

Dance Conservatory of Pasadena
Friday, October 14, 8pm
Saturday, October 15, 8pm
Sunday, October 16, 2pm



Photographer: Tim Friez

Design by Tsz Chan | tszchan.com

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The Pasadena Arts Council is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that provides resources, programs and services to artists, arts and cultural organizations, audiences, young people and visitors to Pasadena. The agency offers an independent voice for promoting a vibrant cultural community by facilitating, empowering and advocating for the arts.

MAJOR FUNDING
James Irvine Foundation
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
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Division and Arts & Culture Commission
THE Pasadena Foothills Magazine
Pasadena Water & Power

AXS FESTIVAL PARTNERS
Art Center College of Design
Boston Court Performing Arts Center
California Institute of Technology
Dance Conservatory of Pasadena
Gamble House
Honda R&D Americas Gallery
Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Pacific Asia Museum
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