

A × S \ ak-sis \ FESTIVAL 2014

CURIOSITY
SEPTEMBER 19 – OCTOBER 5, 2014

PASADENA | City of Art + Science
axsfestival.org

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

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Pasadena Master Chorale
The Pasadena Playhouse
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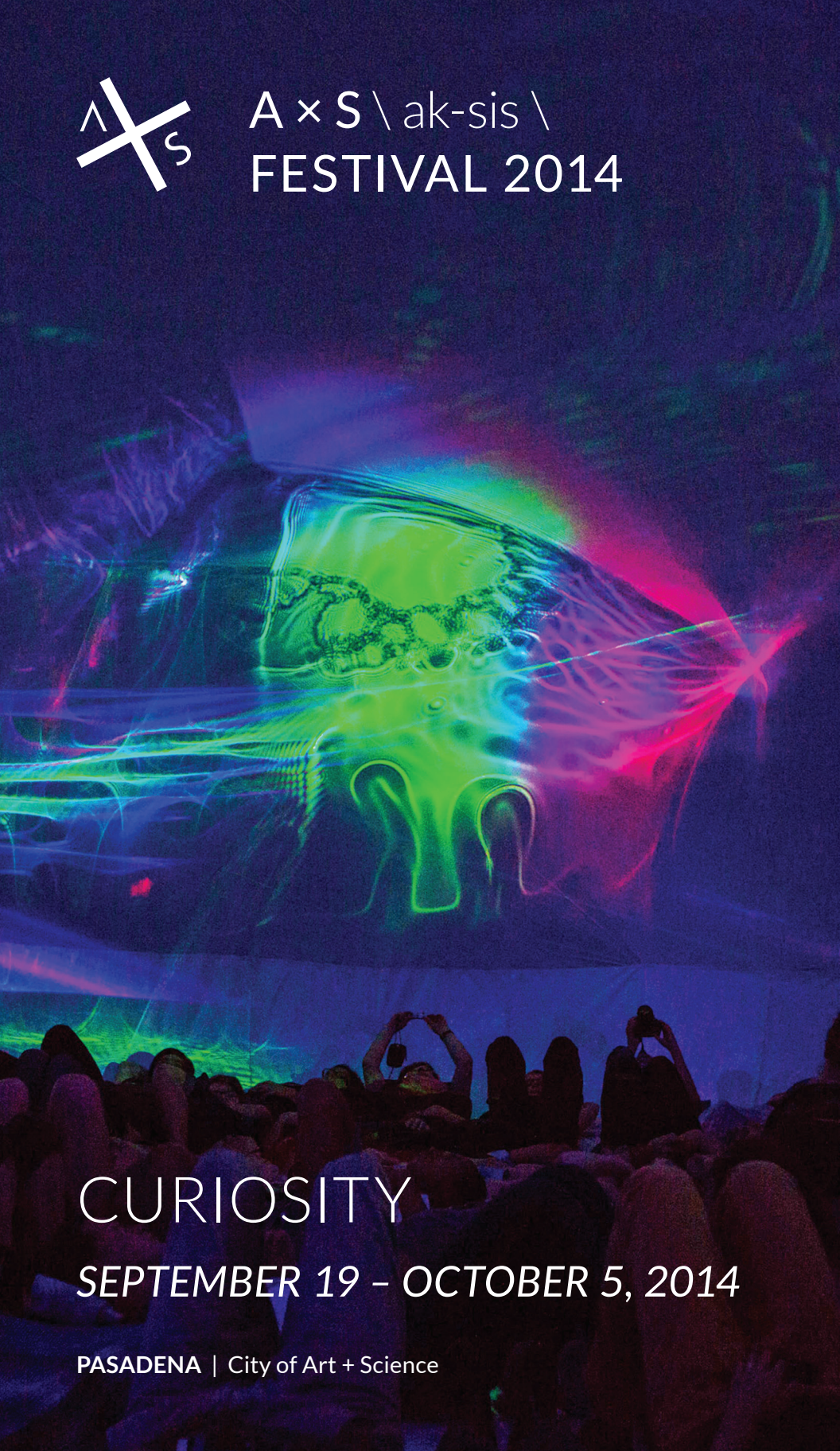
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Cover: Evelina Domnitch and Dmitry Gelfand, 10,000 Peacock Feathers in Foaming Acid, performed at Ars Electronica, 2013.



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AxS [ak-sis] is a two-week citywide festival produced by the Pasadena Arts Council that explores the nexus of artistic and scientific inquiry, promoting experimentation and cross-fertilization between these disciplines. The interplay between human curiosity, scientific investigation and artistic risk-taking reflects a cultural zeitgeist that not only defines Pasadena as the City of Art and Science, but also illuminates the richness, diversity, and sheer innovation of human aspiration and achievement in the 21st century. The 2014 festival theme, CURIOSITY, was inspired by the JPL-built Mars rover currently exploring the Martian surface some 50 million miles above us.

The goal for the festival has been to lead all of us — professional and amateur, maker and watcher — to experience what's so special about inhabiting that uncharted territory on the boundary between art and science. What is CURIOSITY? What does it mean to be “a curiosity”? What does it mean simply to be curious? Curiosity is the prime motive engine of invention in both art and science, and perhaps the single most important trait that makes greatness of achievement in these fields possible.

Presented every two years, AxS is a proving ground where ideas, scientific theories and leading-edge technologies converge with artistic innovation across a multidisciplinary platform of architecture, new media, visual art, music, theater, educational programs and provocative conversation. The AxS Festival is a response to our contemporary cultural condition — a concentrated exploration designed to ignite and inspire the imagination of audiences and participants alike.

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SPHÆRÆ

The North American premiere of *SPHÆRÆ*, a large-scale temporary public artwork by Dutch architect Cocky Eek. Inflatable pavilion designed for immersive environments, music and sound performances, talks, and video installations. **September 19 – October 5**
450 W. Orange Grove Blvd. at Colorado Blvd., Pasadena

EVELINA DOMNITCH & DMITRY GELFAND LUCKY DRAGONS
Amsterdam-based art-science artists Domnitch and Gelfand will join experimental music group Lucky Dragons for performance, science and art, live music, video projections and collaborative sound art. Domnitch and Gelfand's *10,000 Peacock Feathers in Foaming Acid* uses laser light to scan the surfaces of soap bubble clusters. **Friday, September 19th, 7:30pm**

WILLIAM BASINSKI & RICHARD CHARTIER YANN NOVAK STEVE RODEN
Four artists known for their investigations of sound, light and space, and audio landscapes. In *Solunaris*, Basinski and Chartier navigate across the breathtaking expanses of the Sun and Moon in a contemplative live audio/visual performance. Novak explores how sound, light and space focus awareness on the present moment. Roden's work amplifies quiet sounds to form complex and rich soundscapes. **Saturday, September 20th, 7:30pm**

QUANTUM SENSITIVITY: A Talk with Domnitch & Gelfand
The artists discuss their immersive works, which engage with the present and ideas of perception. **Sunday, September 21st, 2pm**

SYNERGETICA SCREENING
Presented by art-science laboratory Synergetica, a screening of five works by different artists from around the world: *Hydro-Acoustic Study* by Paul Prudence and Francisco López, *Fdbck AV* by Bas van Koolwijk, *LC Environment* by Jet Smits, *On Growth and Data* by Martin van Boven, and *Lumophre* by Paul Prudence. **Thursday, September 25th, 7:30pm**

EVELINA DOMNITCH & DMITRY GELFAND ERIC PARREN
Gut Feeling is a time-lapse image sequence of fluorescent proteins. Second performance of Domnitch and Gelfand's *10,000 Peacock Feathers in Foaming Acid*. **Friday, September 26, 7:30pm**

THEUN KARELSE
Mapping the Edible Landscape
Karelse presents a talk on his field experiments in frontline ecology and urban landscapes, including a smartphone app for mapping wild food sources. **Saturday, September 27, 2:00pm**

MARKO PELJHAN Arctic Lab
Noted artist/scientist will discuss the Arctic Perspective Initiative, an art/science/tactical media project focused on the global significance of the Arctic geopolitical, natural and cultural spheres. **Saturday, September 27, 3:00pm**

MIKE HARDING DJ set
Harding, who runs the highly regarded audio-visual label Touch, will present a DJ set of works from the his back catalogue, accompanied by images by acclaimed photographer John Wozencroft. **Saturday, September 27, 7:30pm**

JEFF CAIN Skyglow
Video installation about light and perspective in Los Angeles. Aerial footage shot from a helicopter straight down on the city at night is turned into a planetarium style projection where viewers must lie down to look up at the "stars." **Saturday, September 27, 8:30pm**

OPEN LAB
The *SPHÆRÆ* platform will be made available for artists to create new immersive works and engage with the artistic, architectural and cultural contexts provided by the platform. Artists include Chris Duncan, Intimatchine, Julie Tolentino, Virons, and more. **Sunday, September 28**

BIG CITY FORUM
Leonardo Bravo in conversation with artists Connie Samaras and Soo Kim on the theme of curiosity and a changing landscape. Presented in conjunction with the Armory Center for the Arts. **Wednesday, October 1, 7:30pm**

STEVE RODEN YANN NOVAK LUCKY DRAGONS
In Roden's sound works, source materials such as objects, architectural spaces and field recordings are abstracted to create new audio spaces. Novak's work is informed by investigations of presence, stillness and mindfulness, sculpture, and composition. Lucky Dragons performances include live music, video projection, and sounds created in collaboration with the audience. **Thursday, October 2, 7:30pm**

SOL PATH
Inspired by the exploratory path that the Mars Rover takes over the course of a Martian day and developed in residency at JPL, *Sol Path* explores the intricate interactions between an Earth-bound team of explorers and a robotic space lab as it searches for signs of life. By composer/cognitive scientist Bruno Louchouart with live performance by viola soloist Brett Deubner and immersive multimedia platform by Adam Larsen. **Friday, October 3, 7:00pm**

SYNERGETICA SCREENING SOL PATH
Second performance of five separate works by different artists, followed by second performance of *Sol Path*. **Saturday, October 4, 7:30pm**

HYPER-RAINFOREST
Monumental sound piece by Francisco López. Created from original environmental recordings done between 1990-2010 at multiple locations of tropical, sub-tropical and cold rainforests. **Sunday, September 21, 12pm-5pm Thursday, September 25, 12pm-5pm Friday, September 26, 12pm-5pm Monday, September 29, 12pm-5pm Thursday, October 2, 12pm-5pm Friday, October 3, 8pm-10pm Saturday, October 5, 12pm-5pm**

Please visit axsfestival.org for the most up-to-date information on *SPHÆRÆ* presentations.

MACHINE PROJECT FIELD GUIDE TO THE GAMBLE HOUSE

Pasadena Arts Council has commissioned arts collective Machine Project to re-imagine this quintessential Pasadena landmark. The history, aesthetic and craftsmanship of the Gamble House will be subtly transformed. **September 19 – October 5**
4 Westmoreland Place, Pasadena | Check axsfestival.org for tour dates and times

INSTALLATIONS
On view during Gamble House tours

ASHER HARTMAN
Psychic Reading of the Gamble House
In this film, Asher Hartman psychically reads the Gamble House.

CARMINA ESCOBAR
Omen Avis Choir
This motion-activated bird choir sings to visitors as they walk down the hallway, with occasional vocal accompaniment by the artist.

MICHAEL O'MALLEY
Flower Sculptures
Inspired by the weekly Ikebana designs of the Gamble House's Flower Committee, small flowers sculpted from wood appear throughout the Gamble House.

RAPHAEL ARAR AND CHRIS WEISBART
Projected Shadows Video Installation
This nighttime installation transforms the Gamble House's exterior through video

projected on various surfaces, mimicking the interior's bas-relief wood carvings.

MACHINE PROJECT
The Field Guide to Gamble House Commercial
This commercial for *The Machine Project Field Guide to The Gamble House* stars Cliff Hengst as Jackie Gleason.

ANIMAL CHARM
This mash-up video loops clip art and food, as well as other footage specific to the Gamble House's time period and style.

MATTHEW AU
Gamble House Roof Sculptures
Half-scale replicas of the Gamble House's famous roof sit upside-down at various points around the lawn.

PATRICK BALLARD
A two-story puppet animates the crane and rose of the Gamble family crest. Puppeteers activate the sculpture as a closing ritual to the evenings of Sept 27, Oct 2, and Oct 5.

KEN EHRlich
Gamble House Land Art
Land art of architectural details cut into grass.

Also on view: Jeff Elrod, Cayetano Ferrer, Katie Herzog, Anna Sew Hoy, Emily Joyce, Candice Lin, Sandeep Mukherjee, Rebecca Morris, Laura Owens, Lauralee Pope, Jennifer Rochlin, Sterling Ruby, Ricky Swallow and Henry Taylor.

SPECIAL EVENTS

NATE PAGE
Primary Mass: A Crowd Hunt for Hand Craft
In this nighttime event, visitors participate in an exterior architecture tour using only flashlights for illumination. Images capturing this ghostly exchange will be on display for the remainder of the show. **Sunday, September 21, 8pm**

ANNIE DANIS
Gamble House Archaeological Dig
Using both the analog and high tech methods of historical archaeology this interactive field-work will engage the material and immaterial cultural of the Gamble House. **September 26, 12-4pm and September 27, 12-6pm**

BOB DORNBERGER
Secret Restaurant
A conveyor belt delivers small bites of Swiss-Japanese fusion cuisine from the basement. **Saturday, September 27, 12pm**

SASHA ARCHIBALD
Bed Conversations
A rotating cast of thinkers, talkers and storytellers animate the Gamble House with bedtime chatter, in a rambling exchange that swiftly shifts in topics and tones. **Saturday, September 27, 6-8pm**

NICK DURAN
Waterfall
Duran embodies falling water in a solo dance for the staircase, inspired by the hallway's framed embroidery. **Saturday, September 27, intermittently**

JOHANNA KOZMA
Brain Connections
A reading of the work of Clarice Lispector, in the form of a *tableau vivant*, accompanied by projected video. **Saturday, September 27, 9-10pm**

ANIMAL CHARM
Light Show Performance
Colors and designs specific to the American Arts and Craft movement's style fill the dining room as projectors shine light through the patterned glass windows. **Saturday, September 27, 9:30pm**

MACHINE PROJECT
Poets in Closets
Poets read a single poem to one audience member at a time in the Gamble House's walk-in closet. **Saturday, September 27 and Thursday, October 2 (intermittently)**

MILKA DJORDJEVICH
MASS (at home)
In this ambulatory dance, dancers become sculptures that move through the house and evolve over time. **Saturday, September 27, 12-6pm and Thursday, October 2, 8-10pm (intermittently)**

JIBADE-KHALIL HUFFMAN
Necessary Interruption
Explores the act of calling attention to oneself as well as what happens when the contract of the social space is ruptured by both commonplace or dramatic forms of disturbance. **Thursday, October 2, 8-10pm (intermittently)**

GAIL SWANLUND AND EMILY LUCE
Drawing With Ghosts
In this event, the house's ghosts (may) express themselves to the living world through drawing machines and tools created by the artists. **Sunday, October 5, 3-4pm**

SARA ROBERTS
The Hand is the Window onto the Mind
The soft sounds of the B&W Readers Chorus travel throughout the Gamble House, while readings and body movements explore how the hand and mind interface in the making process. **Sunday, October 5, 12-1pm**

And additional activities: poets in closets, musicians in beds, unannounced rituals, music on the Gamble House piano and more!

WORKSHOPS
Workshop spaces limited, advanced registration required. Sign up at machineproject.org/gamblehouse.

Solar Sun Chime | David Casey
Saturday, September 20, 11am - 2pm

Plant Preservation and Natural Perfumery
Divya Anantharaman
Saturday, September 20, 2-5pm

Paper Cutting | Kaitlynn Redell
Saturday, September 20, 4-7pm

Letter-Writing | Mercedes Texido
Sunday September 21, 4-7pm

Annunciator | Raphael Arar and Chris Weisbart
Sunday, September 28, 2-5pm

Edible Arts and Crafts Design | Scout Regalia
Sunday, September 28, 11am – 2pm

Afternoon Tea with Women of the Gamble House
Sunday, September 28, 3-6pm

Soap Making | Lisa Anne Auerbach
Saturday, October 4, 2-5pm

Embroidering in Architecture | Jenny Hart
Saturday, October 4, 4-7pm

MORE EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

THE CURIOUS ART OF ORIGAMI
Meher McArthur | Curator
Contemporary origami art by artists who have pushed artistic boundaries by experimenting with different types of paper and new folding techniques to create works that sometimes barely resemble traditional origami. **Shumei Hall Gallery Friday, September 19 - Wednesday, November 19 Monday-Saturday 9:30am-6pm**

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF FLIGHT
Kidspace Children's Museum
Special interactive program running throughout the festival designed to explore the art and science of flight and stimulate and inspire curiosity in kids and grownups alike. **Kidspace Friday, September 19 - Sunday, October 5 Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-5pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm**

SIGNS OF LIFE
John O'Brien | Curator
Exhibition exploring explores the theme of water as the fountain of life, and celebrates and questions the presence and many roles of water in our environment and in life itself. **Descanso Gardens | Sturt Haaga Gallery Friday, September 7 - Sunday, November 23 Tuesday-Sunday 10am-4pm**

TAKING FLIGHT: MUSIC INSPIRED BY FLIGHT
Pasadena Master Chorale
Choral program that explores music inspired by actual flight and by the impulse to soar beyond one's confines. Featuring Eric Whitacre's composition *Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine* and Reena Esmail's *Curiosity*. **Altadena Community Church Saturday, September 20, 7:30pm Sunday, September 21, 4pm**

AN EVENING OF PASADENA-INSPIRED ASTRONOMY AND MUSIC
Juna Kollmeier | Andrew Benson | Matthew Brown | Pasadena Conservatory of Music
Opens with a talk by Observatory scientists Kollmeier and Benson on the city of Pasadena's 100-year-plus role as a center for curiosity and astronomy, and will conclude with the world premiere of *Hand in Hand at the Edge of the Sky*. **Carnegie Observatories Monday, September 29, 7pm**

BACH THE CREATOR
MUSE/IQUE
Polymath Julia Greer, Caltech physicist and pianist, will recreate an atmosphere of curiosity and wonderment as Rachael Worby leads a late-night discussion about the science, structure and artistry of the inventor of classical music. **Parkway Grill Monday, September 29, 8pm**

COPENHAGEN
Michael Frayn
Reading of Michael Frayn's Tony-award-winning play in which German physicist Werner Heisenberg and Danish physicist Niels Bohr (and Bohr's wife Margrethe) meet in 1941 to debate physics, politics, love and betrayal, while cautiously dancing toward the detonation of the fission bomb. **A Noise Within Monday, September 29, 7pm**

PROPERTIES OF SILENCE
Theresa Chavez | Rose Portillo | Adam Pulner
Poetry, science, and history spiral out of control as a contemporary Phoenix realtor, her pool contractor husband, and the famed 17th century Mexican poet Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz meet in a multi-layered theatrical dreamscape. **Pasadena Playhouse | The Carrie Hamilton Theatre Thursday, October 2nd, 7:30pm**

ALICE THROUGH THE WORMHOLE OR WHAT'S THIS WONDERLAND UP TO?
Work-in-progress of a wild, original musical take on Alice through the Caltech Universe **Theater Lab Caltech Thursday, October 2, 8pm Friday, October 3, 8pm**

REALSPACE
Stephen Nowlin | Curator
Exhibition investigating aspects of astronomy, space exploration, zoology, physics, origins of life, history, and the beauty of knowledge. "REALSPACE" refers to the world as it exists without human embellishment, mythologies, lore and orthodoxies of belief. **Art Center College of Design | Williamson Gallery Opening Night: Friday, October 3, 7pm Exhibition: Friday, October 3 – Sunday, January 18 Tuesday-Sunday 12pm-5pm, Friday 12pm-9pm**

EDGES
Carole Kim | Makoto Taiko
This piece will seek hybrid ground and innovation through the meeting of different traditions in music and working with digital/new media technologies within a spatial projection installation. **USC Pacific Asia Museum Saturday, October 4, 7pm Sunday, October 5, 7pm**

CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER
Stephen Grimm | Artistic Director
Choral works by John Rutter, Eric Whitacre, Frank Ticheli and Randall Thompson trace the curious journey we take to understand ourselves and the universe. **Pasadena Pro Musica Sunday, October 5, 7pm**

KPCC
A variety of events at the Crawford Family Forum, including two Conversations on Curiosity, an installment of NEXT: People | Science | Tomorrow; Planetary Radio Live; and a special Community Cinema screening. **Watch for more information at KPCC.org/forum. KPCC Crawford Family Forum KPCC | Planetary Radio: Sunday 9/21 Curiosity Conversation #1: Monday 9/22, KPCC | Women in Space: Tuesday 9/23 Curiosity Conversation #2: Wednesday 9/24 KPCC | NEXT: Saturday 10/4**

Please visit axsfestival.org for the most up-to-date information on Festival programs.