FACT LIVERPOOL

PRESS RELEASE

Broken Symmetries - A New Exhibition at FACT, Opening 22 November 2018

Installation view of Yunchul Kim's *Cascade* (2018) at KCCUK, © Mark Blower

From November 22, 2018 to March 3, 2019, FACT, Liverpool premieres *Broken Symmetries,* a new, international exhibition of artworks exploring the links between art and science, and how both can help to reveal hidden elements of our world.

Broken Symmetries is comprised of artworks which rethink scientific facts—challenging our notions of reality and how we arrive at something as "certain." These works question how much we really know about the world around us, and how we may begin to discover new aspects by taking a different perspective.

The ten international artists included in ***Broken Symmetries***, curated by Mónica Bello and José-Carlos Mariátegui, are: Julieta Aranda, Diann Bauer, James Bridle, Juan Cortés, hrm199, Yunchul Kim, Lea Porsager, Suzanne Treister, Semiconductor and Yu-Chen Wang.

In recent years, CERN in Geneva—the world's largest laboratory of fundamental scientific research—has fostered novel models of collaboration between arts and science within the context of the lab. The Collide International Residency award has been one of the core

programmes of Arts at CERN since 2011, and a collaboration with FACT since 2016. Within this programme, artists are invited to spend time working alongside particle physicists and engineers: these encounters spawn creative collisions that enrich and diversify scientific thinking, whilst simultaneously providing endless resources for artistic practice. *Broken Symmetries* brings together just some of the works developed during the last three years of this programme.

Co-produced by CCCB, Barcelona; le lieu unique, Nantes and iMAL, Brussels, the exhibition will tour to each of these venues during 2019-2020.

Lesley Taker, Exhibitions Manager at FACT, said: *"Now more than ever, it is of increasing importance that we understand the world around us is not as it seems, and how much of our existence relies on changing narratives. We are thrilled to partner on such a collaborative project which has seen artists working with science to create works in which some of the most urgent questions of our time collide with the forefront of scientific research."*

Works in the exhibition include **Yunchul Kim**'s *Cascade*, which explores matter by capturing the pattern of muons: i.e. electrically charged subatomic particles. By highlighting the patterns of movements and reactions from invisible particle collisions in a physical reality, Kim explores fluidity as a means of investigating materials and the particular condition of matter. The mysteriously beautiful objects not only visualize a kinetic experiment, but also create a living organism that interacts with its environment, triggered by the detection of these invisible and fundamental particles.

hrm199's work *one1one* fictionalises a situation in the year 4250, where spoken communication is rendered archaic and defunct due to supernatural, mystical and spiritual phenomena. The work examines language as a human technology: drawing on incantation, ritual, and the relationship between written and spoken word. Through this series of sensorial stimuli, hrm199 aim to scrutinise the limitations of how human language can make sense of things, particularly the contradictions of meaning which can occur when it is used to describe fundamental science.

Mónica Bello, Curator and Head of Arts at CERN, said: *"The process of learning through discovery in arts and science make them well-suited partners in interdisciplinary work. The art displayed in this exhibition is a result of three years of intense dialogue between the Collide International artists-in-residence and physicists at CERN. It illustrates how scientists and artists can work together to create a culture that explores questions about the universe we live in.*"

Broken Symmetries is co-produced by ScANNER (the Science and Art Network for New Exhibitions and Research), composed of Arts at CERN (the arts program of the European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva); FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology, Liverpool); CCCB (Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona); le lieu

unique (Center for Contemporary Culture – Nantes) and iMAL (interactive Media Arts Laboratory, Brussels). Additional support from The University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Venue Details: FACT, 88 Wood Street, Liverpool, L1 4DQ

Press Preview: Thursday 22 November 2018, 1-4pm

Opening Events: Thursday 22 November 2018, 4:30-6:30pm

Public Preview: Thursday 22 November 2018, 6:30-8pm

General Admission: Tuesday - Sunday, 11am-6pm. **FREE ENTRY**

Online:
Facebook: @FACTliverpool
Twitter: @FACT_Liverpool
Instagram: @fact_liverpool
Web: fact.co.uk/brokensymmetries

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Curator's Biographies:

Mónica Bello is a Spanish curator and art historian. Over the last 12 years she has focused on the multidisciplinary perspectives and the narratives of today's techno-scientific culture. In her curatorial research and projects she discusses the way artists instigate new conversations around emergent phenomena in our society and culture, such as the role of science and new knowledge in the perception of reality. She is currently the Head of Arts at CERN at the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Geneva where she curates the research-led artistic residencies and art commissions that reflect on the interactions between artists and particle physicists.

José-Carlos Mariátegui is a Peruvian scientist, writer and curator working on culture, new media and technology. He holds a PhD in Information Systems and Innovation from the London School of Economics and Political Science where he studied digital images, technical artefacts and archives. He is also the founder of Alta Tecnología Andina – ATA,

devoted to art, creativity, technology and innovation in Latin America. He has published in journals such as *Third Text*, *The Information Society*, *Telos* and *Leonardo* and curated international exhibitions and events in new media art and on the history of science and technology for more than two decades.

Partner Biographies:

About FACT:
FACT is the UK's leading media arts centre, bringing people, art and technology together. Based in Liverpool, FACT's award-winning building houses three galleries, a Picturehouse Cinema and bar, and an independent café. Now celebrating 15 years in its Liverpool home, FACT has welcomed over 5 million visitors and commissioned and presented over 350 new media and digital artworks from artists including Pipilotti Rist, Nam June Paik, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Wu Tsang, Ryoichi Kurokawa, Apichatpong Weerasethakul and Isaac Julien.
fact.co.uk

About CERN and Arts at CERN:
At **CERN**, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, physicists and engineers are probing the fundamental structure of the universe. They use the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments to study the basic constituents of matter – the fundamental particles. The particles are made to collide together at close to the speed of light. The process gives the physicists clues about how the particles interact, and provides insights into the fundamental laws of nature.

The instruments used at CERN are purpose-built particle accelerators and detectors. Accelerators boost beams of particles to high energies before the beams are made to collide with each other or with stationary targets. Detectors observe and record the results of these collisions.

Founded in 1954, the CERN laboratory sits astride the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva. It was one of Europe's first joint ventures and now has 22 member states.

Arts at CERN is CERN's official engagement with the arts, funded in 2011 to encourage creative connections between science, technology, and the arts. A core programme of Arts at CERN, The Collide International Award is a highly regarded opportunity for artists to spend time in one of the largest science laboratories in the world where fundamental questions are addressed. Collide is created to transform the way art and science encounters are understood, and to challenge new ways of dialogue between both fields.
arts.cern

About the ScANNER Network:
The ScANNER (Science and Art Network for New Exhibitions and Research) network consists of Arts at CERN, Geneva and FACT, Liverpool; CCCB, Barcelona, iMAL, Brussels and le lieu unique, Nantes. It aims to commission and produce new artworks developed through the Collide International residency Award as part of the partnership of CERN and FACT from 2016 to 2018, and present the works through an internationally touring exhibition.

CCCB, Barcelona is a space for creation, research, exhibition and debate on contemporary culture where visual arts, literature, philosophy, film, music, transmedia

activity and the performing arts are interconnected in an interdisciplinary programme.
cccb.org

le lieu unique, Nantes is an atypical and multidisciplinary arts centre housed in the former

LU factory. Led by Patrick Gyger, this national center for contemporary arts and music is a space for artistic exploration that mixes genres, cultures and audiences.
lelieuunique.com

IMAL, Brussels is a meeting place for artists, scientists and creative people around Europe. It comprises an Art Centre, a Media Lab for artists to research, experiment, share and exchange with and about new technologies, and, since 2012, a “Fablab” - one of the first in the Brussels region.
imal.org

Co-produced by the ScANNER Consortium:

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