

Press Release, Monday 14 March 2022

DOMINIQUE GONZALEZ-FOERSTER, ALIENARIUM 5

CONZALEZ-FOERSTER OPENS UP A SPACE FOR ENCOUNTER, WELCOMING ALIENS INTO HYDE PARK FOR A MAJOR EXHIBITION AT SERPENTINE THIS SUMMER

What if aliens were to fall in love with us? What would it change, why and how?

Serpentine South, 14 April – 4 September 2022

Press View, Tuesday 12 April, 9am – 12pm



Detail of *Metapanorama*. © Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster

Serpentine is delighted to present *Alienarium 5*, a major exhibition by leading experimental artist Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster. On display at Serpentine South from 14 April until 4 September 2022, this is the artist's first major institutional solo show in the UK since *TH.2058* at Tate Modern's Turbine Hall in 2008.

Following a long line of projects such as *Cosmodrome* at Le Consortium in 2001 (Dijon, France), *Chronotypes & Dioramas* at Dia Art Foundation (New York, 2009), *Pynchon Park* at MAAT (Lisbon, 2017) and *Martian Dreams Ensemble* at GFZK (Leipzig, 2018), *Alienarium 5* is a vision resulting from over twenty years of Gonzalez-Foerster's explorations into science-fiction and alien life, and her



experiments in deep space. Conceived specifically for Serpentine, the exhibition will feature almost entirely new work engaging both the gallery's internal and external spaces. *Alienarium 5* is a speculative environment in which to imagine possible encounters with extra-terrestrials.

Approaching from the park, visitors will come across a statue in remembrance of the coming alien developed by the artist together with writer and philosopher, Paul B. Preciado. Visible from outside the gallery will be *Holorama*, a new work created together this time with Perez, a musician and Gonzalez-Foerster's co-conspirator for *Exotourisme*, a musical project begun in 2018 which built upon an earlier exhibition of the same title presented at the Centre Pompidou in 2002.

The space inside the gallery will be transformed into an immersive sensory environment, incorporating visual, sonic, olfactory, tactile and live engagements that expand the audience's ability to imagine alternative forms of life and alien encounters.

In the artist's words, the exhibition can be thought of as a 'mutant place contributing to the invention of new technologies of consciousness', while also functioning as 'an anti-*War of the Worlds*' vision. The installation includes a 360-degree panorama, a scent collaboration with Barnabé Fillion of Arpa Studios, and a new VR piece that, following on from her critically-acclaimed *Endodrome* presented at the 2019 Venice Biennale, marks the artist's second VR work produced by VIVE Arts, and developed by Lucid Realities.

Inspired by Serpentine's historical position as a tea house and site of rendez-vous, as well as by past exhibitions at the gallery by Emma Kunz and Hilma af Klimt that looked at the relationship between art and spiritualism, Gonzalez-Foerster's project proposes a visionary space of connection. Serving as a meeting point for friends from the past, future and a time not yet named, *Alienarium 5* encourages people to come together with love for one another and for visitors from outer space.

In the creation of this supernatural environment, the artist prompts us to ask:
What if aliens were in love with us? What would change, why and how?

Bettina Korek, CEO, and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, Serpentine, say:

"Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster is an artist synonymous with experimentation, whose career has spanned decades of research into sensorial and existential dimensions of human life. As such, we are honoured that she has accepted our invitation to create a bold, immersive environment that we hope will change the ways that those who experience it think, see and feel. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to inviting audiences to encounter her phenomenological 'mise-en-espace,' to quote the artist herself."

An exhibition catalogue co-published by Serpentine and Koenig is forthcoming and will comprise conversations with and contributions by artists, musicians, architects, writers and thinkers across time and space.

Forming part of the Live Programme for *Alienarium 5*, live apparitions will appear at various points throughout the duration of the exhibition.



Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster (b. in 1965 in Strasbourg, France) metabolises cinematographic, literary, architectural, musical and pop references to create spaces that investigate the implicit neutrality of artistic practice and display.

Gonzalez-Foerster's work consists of short films, concerts, exhibitions and activations to explore the essences of objects and their context. The artist's multifaceted oeuvre ranges from collected fragments of modernist buildings in Brazil to an immersive light and sound environment speculating on climate catastrophe and the imagination of future life forms.

The artist builds multifaceted worlds that oscillate between finite and infinite, the empirical and the dramaturgical. Elliptical texts, carefully drafted or selected by the artist, often support the understanding of these abstract environments, fluctuating between fiction and non-fiction whilst rooting themselves in the complexity of memory.

Beginning with her participation in the 1992 *Exhibit A: Eight Artists from Europe and America* and in Serpentine's Poetry Marathon in 2009, Gonzalez-Foerster has worked closely with the Serpentine for over twelve years. In this time, she has appeared together with writer Enrique Vila-Matas for *Park Nights* (2010), was involved in The Studio of Giles Round (2010), the Garden Marathon (2011), Memory Marathon (2012), Transformation Marathon (2015), GUEST, GHOST HOST: MACHINE Marathon (2017), and has done a live concert and EP Release of Exotourisme (2018) for which she also collaborated with musician Perez.

Gonzalez-Foerster is the recipient of the 2002 Marcel Duchamp Award and has been exhibited worldwide including at the Venice Biennale (1990, 1993, 1999, 2003, 2019), Italy; Documenta 11 (2002), Kassel, Germany; the Dia Art Foundation, New York, USA (2009); the LUMA Foundation (2012), Arles, France; Manifesta 10 (2014), Saint Petersburg, Russia; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (2014), Spain; Centre Pompidou (2015), Paris, France; and Secession (2019), Vienna. The artist was commissioned for the Turbine Hall at Tate in 2008-2009.

VIVE Arts harnesses cutting-edge technology to transform the way culture is experienced. Since 2016, VIVE Arts has partnered with over fifty cultural institutions and organisations to produce one-of-a-kind projects and realise a variety of innovative collaborations. With the aim of building a rich ecosystem for digital art, VIVE Arts explores the artistic applications of new technologies, supporting artists in the creation of ground-breaking works. Most recently, VIVE Arts launched its NFT Marketplace for all forms of digital art, combining industry leading expertise in Metaverse technologies with a range of bespoke services.

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