Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The cyborgs are coming!

The future of the human species is explored in a bold new exhibition at ArtScience Museum.

SINGAPORE (20 April 2017) – Delve into a future world where the lines between fiction and reality are blurred in ArtScience Museum's latest exhibition *HUMAN+: The Future of Our Species*, opening on 20 May.

Advances in genetic engineering, biotechnology and nanotechnology that not long ago seemed purely science fiction are now real. Cyborgs, superhumans and clones are alive amongst us today. What does it mean to be human now? What will it feel like to be a human a hundred years from now? Should we continue to embrace modifications to our minds, bodies and daily lives, or are there boundaries we shouldn't overstep?

These are the issues at the heart of *HUMAN+: The Future of Our Species*. Showcasing the work of 40 international artists, scientists, technologists and designers, the show explores possible future paths for our species. It includes major names from the fields of robotics, biotechnology, synthetic biology and artificial intelligence, including the world's first living cyborg, Neil Harbisson; Australia's leading performance artist, Stelarc; and Oron Catts and Ionat Zurr, who grow sculptures from living tissue.

A collaboration between ArtScience Museum, Science Gallery at Trinity College Dublin, and The Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB), this cutting-edge exhibition asks what it means to be human in a world of artificial intelligence, life-like robots and genetic modification. It probes the social, ethical and environmental questions raised by using technology to modify ourselves. Will virtual reality be the new reality? What would happen if a robot knew what we wanted before we knew ourselves? In the future, who will have ownership of our genetic information?

From spectacular demonstrations of the latest robotic technologies, to challenging contemporary artworks, intriguing design prototypes, and exciting innovations from Singapore, *HUMAN+* imagines many possible futures.

"When the human genome was sensationally revealed in 2001, humanity had for the first time a genetic portrait of ourselves. From this moment onwards possibilities imagined by writers, filmmakers and artists became plausible reality. Much like computers, genes, it seems, can be programmed. Life can be designed. *HUMAN+*

reveals that in this new age, scientists are making technological creations that can mimic, impersonate and simulate human life. At the same time, artists are making laboratories their new studios, fashioning artworks from the very fabric of life. Our understanding of what is 'natural' and what is 'synthetic', and our entire notion of what it means to be human, is shifting, evolving and mutating. *HUMAN+* takes us on a provocative tour through this brave new world," said Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum.

"The exhibition is about the evolution of our species and therefore about its future. It explores the boundaries of what it means to be human – the boundaries of the body and the species as well as what is socially and ethically acceptable. *HUMAN+* also invites visitors to contemplate their preferred future of the human species from a scientific and technological perspective," said Vicenç Villatoro, Director of the CCCB.

"The works on display seek to explore the evolution of humans. Presented through the expert views of surgeons, scientists, researchers, artists, designers, inventors, creative thinkers and entrepreneurs, we hope to respond to the ultimate question of our time – what is the future like for our species?" said Lynn Scarff Director, Science Gallery Dublin.

Spanning four themed galleries, *HUMAN+* presents a wide range of artwork and scientific research that shows how our perception of humanity is being transformed by science and technology.

Augmented Abilities

The first section of the show presents physical and biological ways in which we have augmented our minds and bodies. From prosthetics that augment bodily functions to medical interventions that change how we think, this part of the show explores what it means to be a cyborg today.

A key highlight is work by Neil Harbisson, the world's first human to be officially recognised as a cyborg. Born without the ability to see colour, Harbisson, who will be in Singapore for the opening of the show, wears a prosthetic antenna called "eyeborg" that allows him to hear colour. This antenna has been implanted in his skull since 2003.

Also included are works by star performance artist, Stelarc, plus captivating images and fascinating prototypes by Aimee Mullins, Chris Woebken and many others.

Encountering Others

The second section of the show explores the changing nature of social relationships, due to advances in technology.

It includes provocative artwork by Addie Wagenknecht that explores how motherhood might evolve in a world of robotics. Her artwork depicts a robot arm that gently rocks a bassinet whenever a baby cries.

Also included are cutting-edge artworks by Louis-Phillippe Demers from Singapore, Cao Fei, Yves Gellie, S.W.A.M.P and many others.

Authoring Environments

This section analyses how we are transforming the very environment we live in due to far-reaching advances in science and technology.

It includes *The Human Pollination Project* by Laura Allcorn, a pollination tool kit, designed to be won as a fashion accessory. It raises questions about the social and environmental implications of the collapse of bee populations, which are responsible for pollinating the plants that grow into the food we eat.

Also included are intriguing speculative artworks and design proposals by Antony Dunne and Fiona Raby, Liam Young, The Centre for PostNatural History, Robert Zhao and many others.

Life at the Edges

This section of the exhibition explores the limits of human life and longevity. What does it mean to create life, or extend a person's lifespan?

It includes a compelling and challenging work by designer, Agatha Haines, who has created five sculptures of human babies, each with a surgically implemented body modification.

Also included are living artworks designed in a laboratory by Oron Catts and Ionat Zurr, and works which explore the end of life by Julijonas Urbonas, and James Auger and Jimmy Loizeau.

For more information on the exhibition, please visit
www.marinabaysands.com/ArtScienceMuseum

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd
Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

About ArtScience Museum
ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the interrelationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totalling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of the 20th century's key artists, including Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

About Science Gallery Dublin
In 2008, a car park in a forgotten corner of Dublin was transformed by Trinity College Dublin into a living experiment called Science Gallery, with a mission 'to ignite creativity where science and art collide'. In the last nine years, three million visitors to Science Gallery Dublin have experienced 40 unique exhibitions ranging from materials science to lifelogging, and from the future of the human race to the future of play. Primarily orientated towards young adults between the ages of 15-25 years old, Science Gallery develops an ever-changing programme of exhibitions, events and experiences fuelled by the expertise of scientists, researchers, students, artists, designers, inventors creative thinkers and entrepreneurs. Science Gallery Dublin focuses on providing programmes and experiences that allow visitors to participate and facilitate social connections, always providing an element of surprise. Science Gallery Dublin is kindly supported by its founding partner the Wellcome Trust, through government support from the Department of Arts, Heritage and Regional, Rural Gaeltacht Affairs, Science Foundation Ireland, and by 'Science Circle' Partners – Deloitte, ESB, Google, ICON and the NTR Foundation. For more information visit: dublin.sciencegallery.com

Science Gallery Dublin is part of the Science Gallery International Network pioneered by Trinity College Dublin.

About Global Science Gallery Network
At the vanguard of the STEM to STEAM movement, Science Gallery is the world's first university-linked network dedicated to public engagement with science and art. Through our galleries and touring exhibitions we have reached millions of 15-25 year olds worldwide. Our transdisciplinary programmes feature emerging research and ideas from the worlds of art, science, design and technology, presented in connective, participative, and surprising ways. Science Gallery International is the non-profit organisation catalysing the growth of the network, which now has six members across four continents - Science Gallery at Trinity College Dublin; Science Gallery London at King's College London; Science Gallery Melbourne at University of Melbourne; Science Gallery Bengaluru at the Indian Institute of Science; Science Gallery Venice at University of Venice Ca' Foscari, and Science Gallery Lab Detroit at Michigan State University. Science Gallery International's Founding Partner is Google.org, with critical support coming from The Cordover Family Foundation and the Human Dignity Foundation. For more information about the Network, visit: international.sciencegallery.com

About The Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona
The Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona - CCCB is a space for the creation, investigation, divulgation and debate of contemporary culture where the visual arts, literature, philosophy, film, music and transmedia activities are interconnected in an interdisciplinary programme. The CCCB works in a network with international institutions and agents, and is linked at the same time to artists, creators' groups, curators and independent cultural agents from the Barcelona area, supporting their proposals to participate in their creative capital and give them visibility.

The challenges of 21st-century society, the expansion of the literary universe; the intersection of art, science, humanities and technology; the hegemony of the audiovisual galaxy; the commitment to cultural research and innovation; the challenge represented by new audiences and the emergence of new real and virtual communities. The renewal of languages and lexicons, the rebirth of the commons; the challenges of participation and co-creation; the tensions between privacy and transparency; the advent of new social and political models; the risks and opportunities of the scientific and technological revolution. These are some of the decisive processes in a culture undergoing deep transformation and that define the thematic lines of the CCCB over the next few years

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For high-res images:
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