

# Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***The cyborgs have arrived!***

*Come and meet the robots in an impressive line-up of programmes over two weekends*

**SINGAPORE (18 May 2017)** – Step into the bold new world of artificial intelligence, life-like robots and genetic modification with the arrival of *HUMAN+: The Future of Our Species* at ArtScience Museum from 20 May.

Meet the world's first officially recognised human cyborg, Neil Harbisson, get up close and personal with the uncannily realistic humanoid robot, *Nadine*, and meet one of the world's leading performance artists, Stelarc. They are all part of a cutting-edge exhibition of thought-provoking works from more than 40 international artists, scientists, technologists and designers at this exhibition.

A blockbuster exhibition not to be missed, *HUMAN+* seeks to ask what it means to be a human in the present and future, and examines the moral issues and ethical conflicts raised in using technology to modify ourselves.

A co-production between ArtScience Museum, Science Gallery at Trinity College Dublin and Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB), *HUMAN+* imagines the future of humanity with spectacular demonstrations of the latest robotic technologies, intriguing contemporary artworks, and remarkable innovations from local institutions.

A key highlight at *HUMAN+* is the first public appearance of *Nadine*, one of the world's most realistic female humanoid robots. Visitors will be able to interact with *Nadine*, a socially intelligent robot, who can recognise people she has previously met and can engage in conversations. She is living proof of what lies in the forefront of research into assistive technologies that are being developed for people with special needs in Singapore.

*Nadine* is created by Nadia Magnenat Thalmann, Director of Institute for Media Innovation (IMI) at Nanyang Technological University.

Visiting Singapore for the opening programme are two legends of art and technology. On 20 May, Neil Harbisson, best known for having an antenna implanted into his skull, will take part in the opening conference, *Future Sapiens*. As he was born without the ability to see colour, the antenna allows him to perceive colours via sound waves. On 27 May, ArtScience Museum will host Stelarc, a seminal performance artist from Australia, who works with his body, using prosthetics, robotics, virtual reality systems, and the internet. He is also well known for having an unnervingly realistic ear surgically grafted to his left forearm.

“Our perception of what it means to be human has been transformed by science and technology. 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? Should we continue to embrace

modifications to our minds, bodies and daily lives, or are there boundaries we shouldn't overstep? *HUMAN+* includes some of the most important and provocative artists working today, including Oron Catts and Ionat Zurr, ORLAN, and Stelarc, who are showing alongside some of Singapore's most brilliant minds, including Robert Zhao Renhui, Louis-Philippe Demers, and Nadia Thalmann. Our entire notion of what it means to be human, is shifting, evolving and mutating. *HUMAN+* takes us on a thrilling tour of this brave new world," said Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum.

"Are we enhancing our bodies, are we fundamentally transforming them, or are we letting our bodies be transformed? What started as a speculative question at Science Gallery Dublin with the first run of *HUMAN+*, finds now a spectacular new life in the magnificent ArtScience Museum. This exhibition is our most ambitious project to date, and we are very grateful and honoured to collaborate with ArtScience Museum for this new version of *HUMAN+*. It will entertain, surprise and ignite conversations on the most human of questions: who are we? With this exhibition, ArtScience Museum confirms its world leading role in exploring the interrelationship between art, science, technology and culture, and it is an immense pleasure for Science Gallery to be its partner for *HUMAN+*," added Andrea Bandelli, CEO, Science Gallery International.

"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.

"*HUMAN+* is an exhibition about the evolution of our species and therefore about its future. But it is also an exhibition that considers science and technology as a factor in the evolution of the species itself. The idea is not that the species is the same as it was a million years ago and is surrounded by different things that have gradually generated in its environment, in its exterior. It is that the species is progressively becoming different based on an evolution that includes science and technology," said Vicenç Villatoro, Director of the CCCB.

Spanning four themed galleries, *HUMAN+* begins by exploring what we mean by human and super-human, and asks if you could enhance your abilities, what would you change? It includes Aimee Mullins, Sophie de Oliveira Barata, Corinne Mariaud, ORLAN, Marc Owens, Lorenz Potthast, Addie Wagenknecht, Chris Woebken and Kenichi Okada, Nina Sellars, Stelarc, Neil Harbisson and Moon Ribas.

The second chapter asks what happens when we live side by side with our robotic companions. It explores how emerging technologies are changing the ways we encounter family, friends, co-workers and even pets. It includes daring artworks Louis-Philippe Demers, Addie Wagenknecht, Cao Fei, S.W.A.M.P, Yves Gellie, and Heidi Kumao. Also on show is a playful and sophisticated interactive installation developed by students from Nanyang Polytechnic's School of Interactive and Digital Media, called *TEASE*.

The third chapter asks if we change the environment, will we have to change ourselves in order to adapt to it? It features intriguing speculative artworks and design prototypes by Laura Allcorn, Antony Dunne and Fiona Raby, Superflux, Liam Young, The Centre for PostNatural History, Nikolaus Geyrhalter and Singaporean artist, Robert Zhao Renhui.

The exhibition ends by delving into the limits of human life. It explores whether the biotech laboratory is the art studio of the future, through compelling and controversial work from Agatha Haines, Oron Catts and Ionat Zurr, Julijonas Urbonas, Zoe Papadopoulou, Jaemin Paik, James Auger and Jimmy Loizeau.

**Programmes over opening weekends of HUMAN+**

In conjunction with the opening of *HUMAN+*, visitors can participate in a series of complementary programmes over the next two weekends.

These events will draw on unique insights from prominent figures in the fields of robotics, biotechnology, synthetic biology and artificial intelligence regarding the possible futures of human beings. They include Neil Harbisson, Nadia Magnenat Thalmann, Oron Catts, Agatha Haines, Louis-Philippe Demers and Stelarc.

Event	Date and timings	Venue	Description	Remarks
Conversations: Future Sapiens	20 May, 11am – 6 pm	ArtScience Museum L4, Expression Gallery	<p>What do we mean when we talk about enhancement and what are the potential future trajectories of our species? What makes us human in an age of science and how do new technologies challenge our understanding of what it is to be human? Unfolding across a series of talks linking ideas, artworks and experiments in <i>HUMAN+</i>, <i>Future Sapiens</i> invites visitors to contemplate the different dimensions, societal costs and unintended consequences of human enhancement.</p> <p>Speakers include Neil Harbisson (Cyborg Artist), Oron Catts (Artist and Co-Founder of SymbioticA), Agatha Haines (Artist and Designer), Jimmy Loizeau (Designer and Lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London), Nadia Magnenat Thalmann (Director of Institute for Media Innovation at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), Louis-Philippe Demers (Artist and Associate Professor at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), Trevor Binedell (Assistant Head of Prosthetics &amp; Orthotics Service at Tan Tock Seng Hospital), Michael Lim (Film and Media Professional and Curator), Gunalan Nadarajan (Art Theorist and Curator) and Andrea Bandelli, CEO of Science Gallery International.</p>	<p>Free on a first-come-first-served basis, subject to capacity. Register in the lobby.</p> <p>For the comprehensive list of specific timings, please visit <a href="http://MarinaBaySands.com/ArtScienceMuseum">MarinaBaySands.com/ArtScienceMuseum</a></p>

Sunday Showcase: Through Our Eyes	21 – 23 May, 10am – 7pm	ArtScience Galleries, Level 4	Interpret reality as you please at <i>Through Our Eyes</i> , an interactive experience presented by Nanyang Polytechnic, School of Interactive and Digital Media. The showcase brings to life the playful spirit of perceptions through immersive projects that represents the best of new media, art and technology.	Free. Register in the Lobby
Conversations: Stelarc  <i>Presented in partnership with LASALLE College of the Arts</i>	27 May, 2pm – 3.30pm	ArtScience Museum L4, Expression Gallery	<p>As part of the opening programme of <i>HUMAN+</i>, two pioneers of art and technology will come together for one afternoon of riveting presentations. Stelarc is one of the true legends of art and technology performance. Steve Dixon is President of LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore, and a world-renowned scholar of technology in performance.</p> <p>The event centers around the work of Stelarc, a seminal performance artist from Australia, who works with his body. His radical performance works undertaken over three decades include 26 body suspension performances with hooks in his skin, three films of the insides of his body made by customized robot sculptures, and a series of performances using prosthetics, robotics, virtual reality systems, and the internet, where his body is moved and controlled involuntarily. His is also well known for having an unnervingly realistic ear surgically grafted to his left forearm. Three of Stelarc's recent performance artworks are presented in <i>HUMAN+</i>, as well as documentation of the <i>Extra Ear</i> project.</p>	Free on a first-come-first-served basis, subject to capacity. Register in the lobby.

*HUMAN+* will run from 20 May to 15 October 2017.

Tickets are available at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and website. Terms and Conditions apply. Tickets prices as follows:

	STANDARD TICKET (SGD)	SINGAPORE RESIDENT (SGD)
Adult	\$17	\$13.60
Senior (65 years and above)/ Student/ Child (2-12 years)	\$12	\$9.60
Family package (2 kids & 2 adults)	\$46	\$36.80

For more information on the exhibition, please visit  
[www.marinabaysands.com/ArtScienceMuseum](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 hi-res images:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6t1x4cfmdo5ztp8/AABa088sqafghFt6oETiBoiTa?dl=0>  
(Credit to Marina Bay Sands)