

CREATIVITY & CURIOSITY

A collaboration between artists & astronomers





IONE PARKIN RWA

Galaxy Formation, mixed media on paper, 84 x 110cm

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'MOONS'

30 March – 2 June 2019

Newarke Houses Museum

Leicester



Creativity and Curiosity is an art/science project led by UK contemporary artists, **Gillian McFarland SSA** and **Ione Parkin RWA**, in connection with astrophysicists, cosmologists and planetary geologists. They have developed a body of artwork exploring the rich imagery of space, engaging in creative dialogue with space researchers and gaining new insights into the dynamic forces of the universe. This artist-led project involves astronomers from the **University of Leicester**, the **Institute of Astronomy (Cambridge)**, **Imperial College London**, the **University of Birmingham** and **Cardiff University**.

Ione Parkin's large-scale paintings express her fascination with the early formation of the universe; massive clouds of cosmic dust and gas; vast webs of colour and shimmering light; and luminous visions of immensity. This exhibition features her richly textured mixed-media works on paper, inspired by planetary surfaces, meteorites, extremes of temperature and geological process. They resemble samples of the undiscovered terrain of distant moons.

Gillian McFarland collaborates with the glass-blower, **Graeme Hawes**, using experimental techniques to produce multiple 'space globes' that echo ideas of rotation, expansion and contraction. She works with extreme heat and the raw materials of silica, nitrates and UV-sensitive uranium glass. Her collagraph prints and punctured paper works explore orbit tracking across otherwise

Ione Parkin RWA

Royal West of England Academician (RWA)
Honorary Visiting Fellow
Department of Physics & Astronomy
University of Leicester

I always think the work you do is amazing and beautiful. It is as if you are creating your own Universe of planets, stars and galaxies. Ione's paintings seem to represent all the possible surfaces of the planets from frozen worlds in the depth of planetary chill, to hot sulphuric, young worlds just forming from the nebulae surrounding their host stars. In Gillian's work I see the delicate tracery of ring systems and swirling colliding groups of stars and galaxies and her own take on exotic planets orbiting distant stars.

Martin Barstow

Strategic Science Projects
Director, Leicester Institute of Space & Earth Observation
Professor of Astrophysics & Space Science, University of Leicester

untouched space. McFarland has worked with Dutch-based artist **Collette Rayner**. Rayner works with film, animation, drawing and text. Her work focuses on the presence of expectation and the promise of response within verbal and non-verbal acts of transmission.

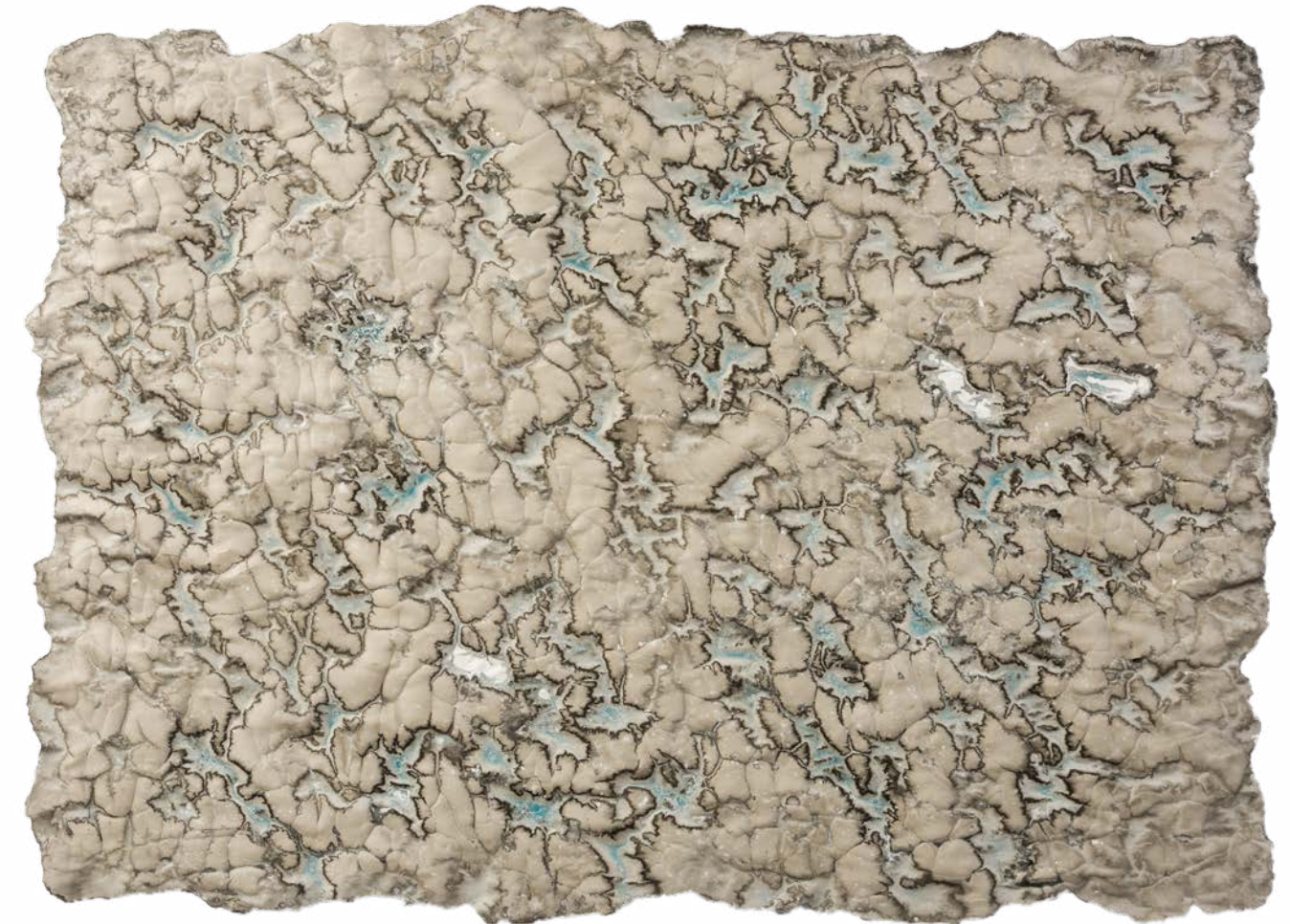
This exhibition features the work of **Kate Bernstein**, contemporary book artist and printmaker. Bernstein was invited by Creativity and Curiosity to collaborate with them in their research at the **Royal Astronomical Society Library**, London. Kate has been exploring early printed books in which advances in both astronomy and print technology are evident.

Collaborating artist from the Netherlands, **Daniela de Paulis** – Astronomers Without Borders – has conceived and developed Visual Moonbounce technology in connection with the CAMRAS team of Radio Telescope Operators. Hosted by the Creativity and Curiosity project, her work will be screened at **De Montfort University** in parallel with this exhibition.

The artists are expressing a lateral, not literal, response to the scientific research – a physical, tactile experience rather than an explanation. Parallels of process have emerged between the artists and scientists – an excitement about uncertainty, ambiguity and anomaly – a desire not just to observe but to look beyond.

Gillian McFarland SSA

Scottish Society of Artists (SSA)
Artist in Residence
De Montfort University



IONE PARKIN RWA

Otherworlds, mixed media on paper, 84 x 110cm



IONE PARKIN RWA
Mars Study, mixed media on paper, 40 x 34cm



IONE PARKIN RWA
Planet Sample, mixed media on paper, 40 x 34cm



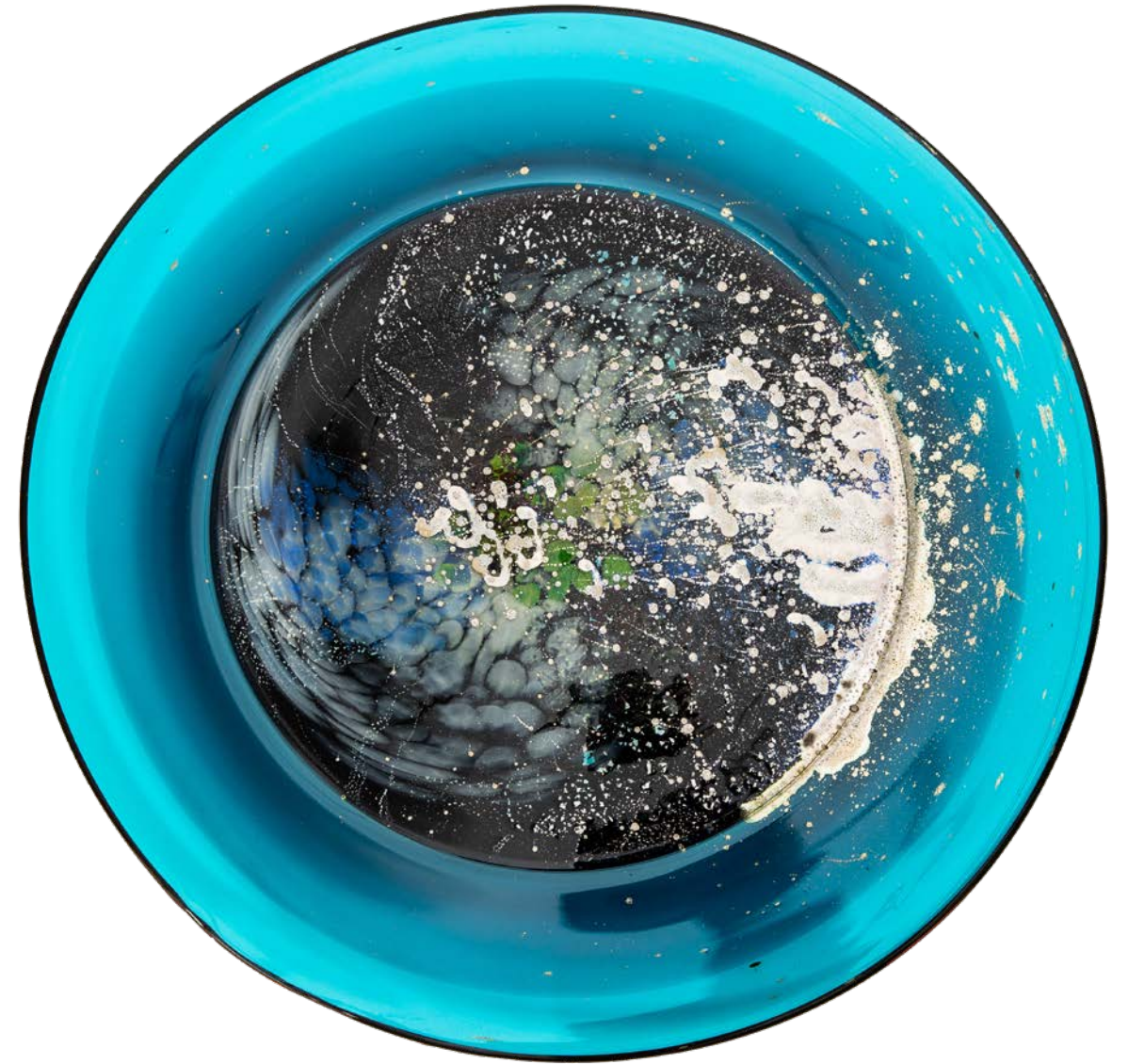
IONE PARKIN RWA
Magnetic Turmoil, mixed media on paper, 40 x 34cm



IONE PARKIN RWA
Sulphur Crust, mixed media on paper, 40 x 34 cm



GILLIAN McFARLAND SSA
Planetary Spin, glass and nitrates, approx. 20cm



GILLIAN McFARLAND SSA
Spinning Galaxies, glass and nitrates, 35cm diameter



GILLIAN McFARLAND SSA
April Moon, collagraph on punctured paper, 55 x 35cm



GILLIAN McFARLAND
Units of Time, rust print on paper, 55 x 35cm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



KATE BERNSTEIN

The Infinite M (with pages), screenprint on paper bound in bookcloth, 14.5 x 10cm

KATY BARRETT
Curator of Art Collections
Science Museum, London

MARTIN BARSTOW
Pro-Vice-Chancellor,
Strategic Science Projects
Director, Leicester Institute of
Space & Earth Observation
Professor of Astrophysics &
Space Science
University of Leicester

SUE BOWLER
Editor of Astronomy & Geophysics
Magazine (Royal Astronomical Society)
School of Earth & Environment
University of Leeds

JOHN BRIDGES
Professor of Planetary Science
Space Research Centre
Leicester Institute for Space &
Earth Observation
University of Leicester

CHRISTINE BRUMMER
Falling Walls Foundation
Berlin Science Week 2018, Germany

PAUL CLARK
Cardiff University

CAROLIN CRAWFORD
Public Astronomer
Institute of Astronomy
Cambridge

DANIELA DE PAULIS
Visual Moonbounce
Astronomers Without Borders
Netherlands

STEVE EALES
Cardiff University

DENIS ERKAL
University of Surrey

GARY FILDES
Kielder Observatory
Northumberland

MORGAN FRASER
University College Dublin

TOM HAWORTH
Research Fellow
Imperial College London

STEVE HOLMES
Fellow of the Royal Astronomical
Society
Technical Programme Manager at
Oculus Research,
Redmond, WA, USA

TURI KING
Genetics & Public Engagement
University of Leicester

RACHEL LAUNAY
British Council
Berlin, Germany

NOAM LIBESKIND
Leibniz Institut Fur Astrophysik
Potsdam, Germany

FELIX LUHNING
Zeiss-Grossplanetarium, Berlin

HELEN MASON
Solar Dynamics
School of Mathematics
Cambridge

MATTIA NEGRELLO
Cardiff University

CHRIS NORTH
Cardiff University

SIAN PROSSER
Royal Astronomical Society Library

JURGEN RIENOW
Zeiss-Grossplanetarium, Berlin

SARAH RUSSELL
Head of Mineral & Planetary Sciences
Natural History Museum London

MARK SIMS
Professor of Astrobiology & Space
Instrumentation
National Space Research Centre
University of Leicester

CHRISTIAN SPIERING
DESY Zeuthen, Germany
Ice Cube Observatory, Antarctica

NIAL TANVIR
Professor of Astronomy
University of Leicester

AMAURY TRIAUD
University of Birmingham

ROBERTO TROTTA
Reader in Astrophysics
Imperial College London

JEMIMA UNG
BA History of Art/Publishing
Bath Spa University

CREATIVITY & CURIOSITY EXHIBITIONS

Zeiss-Grossplanetarium, Berlin
(November 2018)

Visions of Science, University of Bath
(October 2018)

National Space Centre, Leicester
(April 2018)

I, Science Exhibition (November 2017)
Blyth Gallery, Imperial College, London

Road to the Stars Conference 2017:
INSAP X/Oxford XI/SEAC 25th
Santiago de Compostela, Spain
(September 2017)

Cambridge Science Festival 2017
Josef Hamied Centre, Christ's College,
Cambridge

PRESENTATIONS

Hebridean Dark Skies Festival 2019
(G. McFarland, I. Parkin & A. Triaud)
An Lanntair, Stornaway

Berlin Science Week 2018
Zeiss-Grossplanetarium, Berlin
Opening Night talk (Ione Parkin)
Evening of Talks (hosted by C&C)

Royal Astronomical Society, London
October 2018 (Ione Parkin)

NAM/EWASS 2018 - National
Astronomy Meeting/European Week
of Astronomy & Space Science, ACC
Liverpool (Ione Parkin)

Space Lates evening, National Space
Centre, Leicester, UK (March 2018)
(Ione Parkin)

Road to the Stars Conference 2017:
INSAP X/Oxford XI/SEAC 25th
Santiago de Compostela, Spain
September 2017 (Ione Parkin)

MA Art, Science & Critical Thinking
Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art
Dundee, Scotland
October 2017 (Ione Parkin)

NAM 2016 (National Astronomy
Meeting), Nottingham
(Gillian McFarland)

PUBLICATIONS

Astronomy & Geophysics Magazine
Royal Astronomical Society, London
December 2016

I, Science Magazine
Imperial College London

Creativity & Curiosity Catalogue
November 2017

Creativity & Curiosity
Zeiss-Grossplanetarium, Berlin
November 2018

Catalogue design & production:
Jemima Ung

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Aberdeen Science Centre

Acuity Arts

Arts Council England

Astronomy Without Borders

Berlin Science Week

The University of Birmingham

Cardiff University

De Montfort University, Leicester

Dundee Science Centre

Glasgow Science Centre

Herschel Museum of Astronomy

Hope Scott Trust

Imperial College London

Institute of Astronomy,
Cambridge

University of Leicester

National Space Centre

Royal Astronomical Society

www.creativityandcuriosity.com



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Cover Image

GILLIAN McFARLAND SSA

Planetary Earth, glass and nitrates, approx. 20cm

