

## Press release

### Acute Art to present a virtual reality collaboration by Antony Gormley and Dr. Priyamvada Natarajan

'Our nearest neighbour is the Moon, and this project allows us to experience it as a found object in space, to explore its vast openness and swoop the ridges and valleys of its craters.' Antony Gormley

Acute Art is delighted to announce the launch of Antony Gormley and Dr. Priyamvada Natarajan's first virtual reality collaboration, *Lunatick*, at 180 Strand in London on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

*Lunatick*, which is produced by Acute Art, uses data collected by NASA to map a real and interactive journey, leaving Earth to pass through atmosphere, stratosphere, the asteroid belt, and into outer space.

Gormley, one of the most renowned British contemporary artists working today, collaborated with Dr. Natarajan, the acclaimed Professor of Astrophysics at Yale University, to create an immersive experience that treats the body as a vessel free from gravity, in order to bring the haptic experience of space alive.

To produce the piece, Acute Art used multiscale modelling to recreate tiny elements such as flowers and the colossal objects of the Earth, Moon and the Sun. One of the most significant challenges was to create an optic sensation of the real size of an object, within the infinite scale of the cosmos.

*"What Antony Gormley's art always reminds us of is the fundamental fact that we are embodied beings. Our perception of the world and of others takes place through senses that link our incarnated subjectivity to an outside. I understand Gormley's 'Lunatick', his virtual exploration of our heavenly spheres, as a continuation of his sculptural practice. Isn't the moon an astonishing work of sculpture?"* Daniel Birnbaum

*"My work has always tried to explore the dialectic between the body as an object in space and the body as a place containing the infinitude of space."* Antony Gormley

*"I see what I do as map-making. And this is so fantastic because it allows all of us to look up at the night sky not just in awe, but with a profound understanding of what is unfolding in the universe"* Dr. Priyamvada Natarajan.

## About Antony Gormley

Antony Gormley is widely acclaimed for his sculptures, installations and public artworks that investigate the relationship of the human body to space. His work has developed the potential opened up by sculpture since the 1960s through a critical engagement with both his own body and those of others in a way that confronts fundamental questions of where human beings stand in relation to nature and the cosmos. Gormley continually tries to identify the space of art as a place of becoming in which new behaviours, thoughts and feelings can arise.

Find out more at: <http://www.antonygormley.com/>

## About Dr. Priyamvada Natarajan

Priyamvada Natarajan is a professor in the Departments of Astronomy and Physics at Yale University. She is a theoretical astrophysicist interested in cosmology, gravitational lensing and black hole physics. Her research involves mapping the detailed distribution of dark matter in the universe exploiting the bending of light en-route to us from distant galaxies. In particular, she has focused on making dark matter maps of clusters of galaxies, the largest known repositories of dark matter. Gravitational lensing by clusters can also be utilised to constrain dark energy models and she has been developing the methodology and techniques to do so. Her work has demonstrated that cluster strong lensing offers a unique and potentially powerful laboratory to test evolving dark energy models

## About Acute Art

Acute Art works with today's most compelling artists, bringing together technology and artistic vision. Currently working across virtual and augmented realities, it produces original digital artworks and makes these accessible to everyone through its free app and creative collaborations. The company also works as a digital art laboratory, exploring new mediums for experimental art-making and identifying creative ways for it to be experienced and displayed.

[www.acuteart.com](http://www.acuteart.com)

To access the free Acute Art app, download it directly through the App Store or Google Play.

## About 180 Strand

180 The Strand is an iconic Brutalist building currently undergoing a transformation into a creative hub for people and progress. It aims to foster and connect creatives, entrepreneurs, dynamic thinkers and cultural explorers by integrating the creation, display, learning and social functions of culture throughout its spaces.