



PRESS RELEASE

Luminarium, the inflatable colourful structure returns to Lakeside Arts celebrating its 30th anniversary

Saturday 6 – Sunday 14 August 2022

Following a three-year gap caused by the pandemic, the hugely popular Architects of Air returns to Highfields Park from Saturday 6 to Sunday 14 August 2022, with their colourful luminarium Dodecalis. Architects of Air's extraordinary inflatable structures astonish and delight visitors of all ages, with each luminarium being an intriguing maze full of wonderful colours and dazzling spaces.

This Nottingham presentation of Dodecalis is the fruit of an enduring collaboration with Lakeside Arts and of the enthusiasm of the Nottingham public who have now been encountering luminarium light for decades. In 2022, Architects of Air celebrate 30 years of international touring, having shared founder Alan Parkinson's "sense of wonder at the phenomenon of light" as embodied in the 29 luminaria he has designed, and that have been enjoyed by over three million visitors in over 40 countries.

Alan first started experimenting with pneumatic sculptures in the 1980s and has since developed his own language of form in this plastic medium. With the beginnings in a Nottingham community project, the first luminarium *Eggopolis*, a city of inflatable eggs, was born. In 1992 Alan adopted the title of 'Architect of Air' and undertook to tour *Eggopolis* as an experience in its own right. *Meggopolis* was created in 1995, then *Luminarium III*, the third luminarium, was commissioned by the South Bank Centre for installation on the roof of the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London. In 2012 Alan designed *Exxopolis*, 'xx' to represent 20 years of touring, for which, in partnership with Lakeside Arts, he created the intricate 'stained glass' windows of the main dome. 2012 also saw the celebratory book *The Most Beautiful* published, reflecting on 20 years of these monumental, ephemeral structures, created in Nottingham, that continue to travel the globe to world-wide recognition.

In commemoration of their 30th anniversary, Alan says "I am happy to have tumbled on an activity that I am adapted to do justice to – or it could be that the activity tumbled on me to express it. I'm appreciative of the support that I've had and continue to have to get the luminaria out there – and grateful to the presenters and the public who welcome them."

Shona Powell OBE, Director at Lakeside Arts says "All the team at Lakeside are thrilled to be helping celebrate Architects of Air's 30th anniversary with the Nottingham premiere of Dodecalis. This great company are undoubtedly one of the city's most prolific exporters of a unique artistic experience. Whilst operating internationally, they have never forgotten their Nottingham roots and continue to build all their structures here. We're proud to be longstanding partners and friends and look forward to the next decade of new luminaria continuing to enthral visitors of all ages."

Enjoy the luminarium on your own or as a family and take stunning photos of an unforgettable experience. Visitors can book at lakesidearts.org.uk/Dodecalis, with priority access and standard entry tickets available.

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For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact Lakeside Arts' Marketing and Communications Manager Mária Konyelicska at maria.konyelicska@nottingham.ac.uk

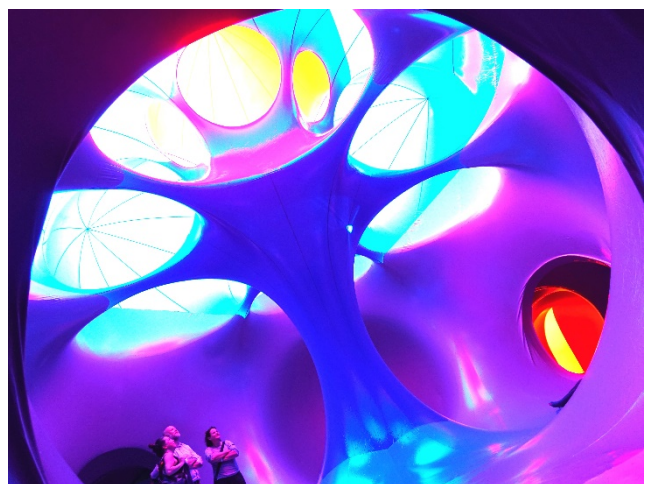
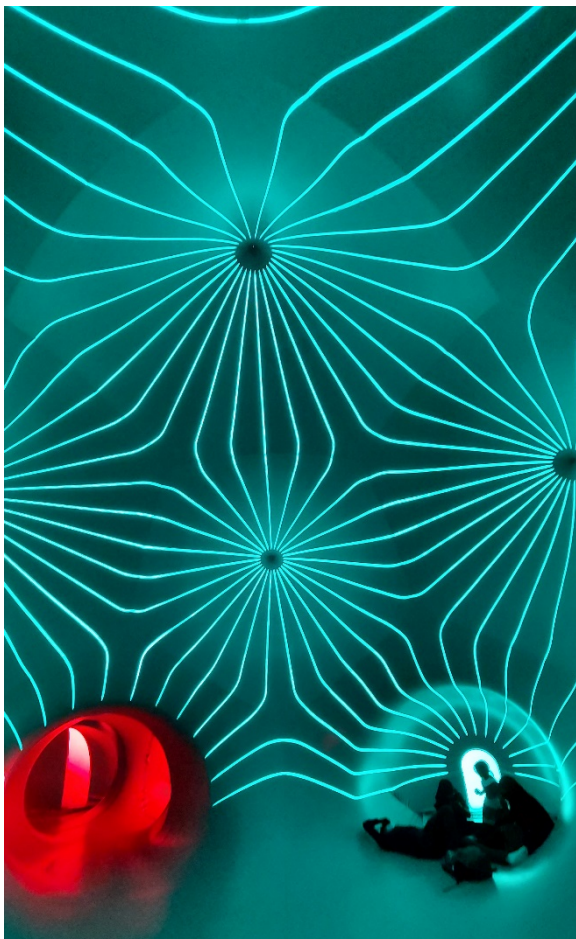
Lakeside Arts Website: lakesidearts.org.uk

Lakeside Arts Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @LakesideArts

Notes to Editors:

Lakeside Arts is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts and museum exhibitions, theatre, dance, children and families' productions, workshops as well as a learning programme for everyone. Its venues include the Djanogly Recital Hall which stages concerts by internationally renowned soloists and chamber ensembles; the Djanogly Gallery; the University Museum which has a permanent collection of archaeology covering a period of some 250,000 years; and the Djanogly Theatre presenting UK and international touring work as well as producing and co-producing new theatre and dance. lakesidearts.org.uk

Images:



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