



Press release, Budapest, 3 September 2024

The best immersive projections are run in the mind – *Phantom Vision*, the Light Art Museum's new exhibition, has opened

The new exhibition of the Light Art Museum Budapest, the international selection titled Phantom Vision – Undercurrents of Perception, is open for visitors. The more than 35 works, interactive installations and immersive projections by international and Hungarian artists utilising the latest results of science and technology allow an insight into the patterns of brainwaves, dreams visualised by artificial intelligence and the hidden communications networks of nature, while also making visible layers of reality that cross the limits of everyday human perception.

Everything we see results from the interaction between light, our eyes and our brain. But what happens when we take light away from this equation? The exhibition invites visitors to submerge into the layers of perception beneath the surface, the world of visual phenomena and unusual sensual experiences behind our closed eyes, the undercurrents of experiences whirling under the surface of visible reality: into the realm of dreams, hallucinations, meditative trance states, frequencies that pervade all yet are inaudible, subjective images and phosphenes sparked off during the uncontrolled operation of neural pathways.

This immersive journey points beyond the visible world, submerging deep into the hidden realms of the human psyche and nature. The title *Phantom Vision* refers to spectacles that are not present in reality yet feel real. How do we perceive reality? How do we keep distorting or moulding it into our own image? How do the latest technologies, the continuous use of the internet and the deluge of images around us impact the images forming in our mind: how do they impact our psyche, our dreams and the inner visual world unique to each of one of us?

The central theme of the exhibition is the diversity of wave phenomena. Spanning from the dual nature of light through sound, radio and electromagnetic waves all the way to brainwaves, the displayed works throw light on how these phenomena shape our perception of reality. The works on the borderline between science and art draw attention to the depths of the human psyche, focusing on the strong correlation between dreams and the activity of brainwaves. They demonstrate the paradox that although dreaming is a universal human experience, sharing it in traditional ways comes up against linguistic barriers. AI-based image generators provide new opportunities to communicate the visual world of dreams. Placing this and similar technological breakthroughs in new contexts, the exhibition calls attention to the effects the internet and digital devices exert on our psyche and dreams, and how different ways of seeing and different cognitive abilities contribute to the emergence of ideas we form about reality. Different neurological patterns generate unique experiences not only during waking hours but also in dreams. The displayed works render the diversity of these experiences palpable, emphasising the importance of understanding non-neurotypical ways in which our brains work (neurodiversity) in dreams and awake states.

The exhibition also offers the opportunity to rethink our relationship with the natural environment and the climate crisis. The works making perceptible the processes taking place in nature before our very eyes as well as its invisible connections and hidden communication networks inspire visitors to seek new approaches and raise new questions.

The exhibiting artists included renowned artists such as Ólafur Elíasson, Brian Eno, Thijs Biersteker, Carsten Nicolai and Jon Rafman. Most of them created their projects by combining the tools of scientific research and poetic thinking, urging visitors to see what they perceive as reality from a new perspective.

Phantom Vision is a call for immersive observation and asking new questions about the perception of reality. Leaving behind the rush of everyday life, visitors can delve into experiences affecting their senses and the ideas raised by the works. The exhibition invites everyone to embark on a journey to discover the undercurrents of perception and experience how different ways of seeing and cognitive abilities enrich our ideas about reality.

Exhibiting artists:

Christian Andersson, Thijs Biersteker, Bigert & Bergström, David Bowen, AlanJames Burns, Yasuhiro Chida, Attila Csörgő, Garnu Depot, EJTECH (Judit Eszter Kárpáti, Esteban de la Torre), Ólafur Elíasson, Justine Emard, Brian Eno, Cerith Wyn Evans, fuse*, Iregular, Kati Katona, György Kepes, Antal Lakner, Liminal State, Guillaume Marmin, László Moholy-Nagy, Matthijs Munnik, Carsten Nicolai, Nonotak, Miklós Onucsán, Finnbogi Pétursson, Jon Rafman, Randomroutines (Tamás Kaszás, Krisztián Kristóf), Sébastien Robert, Judith Röder, Joris Strijbos, Dávid Szauder, Loránd Szécsényi-Nagy, The Corporation (Erik Mátrai, János Borsos), Jan van Munster

Curators: Barnabás Bencsik, Borbála Szalai
Assistant curator: Dalma Kovács

High resolution photos: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1L-evEgmTrp6G7W5YzJ8A3LhLNuMiOx3c?usp=sharing>
Photos: Dávid Bíró/Light Art Museum Budapest

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