



Press release



New commissions by Torsten Lauschmann *Ice Diamond* and *Whistler* for Ice Lab exhibition

Alongside five imaginative designs for Antarctic research stations, The Arts Catalyst has commissioned artist **Torsten Lauschmann** to make new work for **Ice Lab: New Architecture and Science in Antarctica**, an exhibition that will illustrate how innovative contemporary architecture is enabling scientists to live and work in one of the most extreme environments on our planet.

Torsten Lauschmann's artworks will envelope audiences in a bewitching immersive environment, playfully offering visitors sounds, sights and sensations evoking the disorientating Antarctic landscape. Taking as his inspiration the phenomena of 'whistlers', very low frequency electromagnetic waves recorded in Antarctica, Lauschmann introduces the startling sounds of the frozen continent into the gallery. He extends the experiential atmosphere with a simple yet mesmerising audiovisual journey, *Ice Diamond*, splicing footage from the British Antarctic Survey research ship *James Clark Ross*, a vessel that can steam at a steady two knots through sea ice one meter thick, to create a kaleidoscopic vision which he describes as eluding to “the incredible human ingenuity and difficulties in dealing with in this extreme environment.”

Born in Bad Soden in 1970, Lauschmann now lives and works in Glasgow. His idiosyncratic practice using photography, video, sound, drawing, performance and installation is both eccentric and eclectic. Lauschmann merrily experiments with the mathematical, technological and scientific fusing them with comic, fictional, sometimes absurd ideas revealing his boundless curiosity about the World and beyond. From his *World Jump Day* (2005) participatory performance leap proposed to shift the Earth's orbit, to the intergalactic visions of *Father's Monocle* and *Coy Lover* (2012), his art-making explores the real and illusory.

Ice Lab: New Architecture and Science in Antarctica commissioned by the British Council and curated by The Arts Catalyst is an international touring exhibition featuring work by Hugh Broughton Architects, bof Architekten, David Garcia, Space Group, International Polar Foundation. It will give visitors a unique view of the inspiration, ingenuity and creativity behind architecture in the coldest, windiest, driest and most isolated place on earth. It opens at Architecture and Design Scotland, The Lighthouse in Glasgow from 26 July-2 October 2013 before touring to Manchester Museum of Science & Industry (21 October-6 January 2014) as part of the Manchester Science Festival.

Notes to Editors:

About Torsten Lauschmann

Solo shows and performances include 'Startle Reaction,' Dundee Contemporary Arts; Margaret Tait Award, Glasgow Film Festival (both 2011), 'Patchwork Cinema,' Collective Gallery, Edinburgh and a Edinburgh International Film Festival commission (both 2010). 'The Darker Ages,' Mary Mary, Glasgow (2009), solos show at Arnolfini, Bristol; Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow and a Nought to Sixty solo exhibition at ICA, London (all 2008). www.torstenlauschmann.com

Glasgow, 26 July – 2 October 2013

Architecture and Design Scotland, Level 2, The Lighthouse
11 Mitchell Lane, Glasgow G1 3NU

Manchester (during the opening of Manchester Science Festival, 21 October 2013 - 6 January 2014

Museum of Science & Industry
Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4FP

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<http://backoftheenvelope.britishcouncil.org/>

About The Arts Catalyst

The Arts Catalyst is one of the UK's most distinctive arts organisations, distinguished by ambitious art commissions and its unique take on art-science practice. Our primary focus is commissioning new artists' projects, presented in a range of museums, art galleries and other public spaces in the UK and internationally.

www.artscatalyst.org