



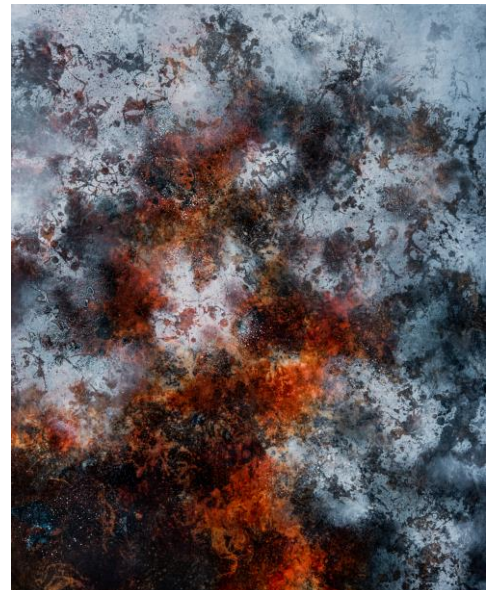
## Creativity & Curiosity

A collaboration between artists and astronomers

**Creativity and Curiosity** is an international art-science project led by UK contemporary visual artists, **Gillian McFarland SSA** and **Ione Parkin RWA**, in connection with astrophysicists, cosmologists and planetary geologists. The artists have developed a body of work exploring the rich imagery of space, engaging in creative dialogue with researchers and gaining new insights into the dynamic forces of the universe. This artist-led project explores the nature of interdisciplinarity within the practice of visual thinking.

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

Gillian McFarland collaborates with Graeme Hawes, producing multiple glass 'space globes' that embody ideas of extremes of heat, rotation, gravity, expansion and collapse. Her prints echo surface impacts and her punctured paper works explore orbit tracking across space.



Responses from collaborating astronomers are shown next to the individual artworks during project exhibitions, revealing insights into the art-science dialogue. 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.

### Ione Parkin RWA

Royal West of England Academician  
Honorary Visiting Fellow, School of Physics & Astronomy  
University of Leicester

### Gillian McFarland SSA

Society of Scottish Artists  
Visual Artist  
Art Therapist/Educator

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## **C&C Reviews**

"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."

**Prof Martin Barstow, Professor of Astrophysics & Space Science, University of Leicester**

"Ione and Gillian's striking work with surfaces instantly reminded me of the lava flows of Io and the icy scars on Europa. Their work is both complimentary to and reminiscent of imagery from a variety of remote sensing spacecraft that have explored our Solar System. Their creativity and experiments fuel the imagination too, and point to physical processes some of which we have seen beyond the Earth and others we are yet to witness up close. Their startling work with metal, glass and other materials make distant worlds feel far more tangible and real. I was delighted to work with both Ione and Gillian to bring their works to audiences in the immersive format of a full dome 'teaser' show to compliment their presentations in a public event hosted in the Peter Harrison Planetarium at the Royal Observatory Greenwich in September 2019. The impact of their work was, I believe, greatly enhanced in the full dome format."

**Dr Brendan Owens, Royal Observatory Greenwich**

"I want heartily to congratulate C&C (plus your astro-collaborators) on creating and presenting such a visually stunning and intellectually stimulating exhibition at Glasgow Science Centre. As you know I have myself long been engaged in and very supportive of a wide range of sci-art collaborations (magic, music, plays, poetry and images). However, I have never before experienced such a wonderful mix of materials/media and techniques brought to bear on creating such combinations of colour, texture and 3-D forms which are both beautiful in themselves and intensely evocative of cosmic bodies, surfaces, nebulosities, and events from fusion to impacts."

**Prof John Brown, 10<sup>th</sup> Astronomer Royal for Scotland**

## C&C EXHIBITIONS

C&C Exhibition – April-September 2022  
Commonwealth Games Cultural Programme  
University of Birmingham

Creativity & Curiosity – February-March 2020  
An Lanntair, Isle of Lewis, Scotland

Association of Interdisciplinary Studies Conference  
University of Amsterdam – October 2019

Creativity & Curiosity – Moon 50  
Glasgow Science Centre - July-August 2019

Creativity & Curiosity Project - 'Moons'  
Newarke Houses Museum, Leicester  
March-June 2019

Creativity & Curiosity Project  
Zeiss-Grossplanetarium, Berlin  
November 2018

Visions of Science  
University of Bath - October 2018

Creativity & Curiosity Project  
National Space Centre, Leicester - April 2018

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

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

Creativity & Curiosity Project  
Cambridge Science Festival 2017  
Josef Hamied Centre, Christ's College Cambridge

## PRESENTATIONS

NAM 2021 – University of Bath

Hebridean Dark Skies Festival 2020  
(I. Parkin, G. McFarland. C&C speakers: R. Trotta  
K. Bernstein, A. Triaud, D. De Paulis, S. Prosser)

Association of Interdisciplinary Studies Conference  
University of Amsterdam - October 2019

Department of Astronomy  
University of Amsterdam - October 2019

Creativity & Curiosity - 'Marvellous Moons'  
(I. Parkin, G. McFarland & A. Triaud)  
Peter Harrison Planetarium  
Royal Observatory Greenwich - September 2019

Disciplinary Convergence Conference (I. Parkin)  
University of Notre Dame (U.S.A.) in England  
April 2019

Hebridean Dark Skies Festival 2019  
(G. McFarland, I. Parkin & A. Triaud)  
An Lanntair, Isle of Lewis, Scotland

Berlin Science Week 2018  
Zeiss-Grossplanetarium, Berlin, Germany  
(Opening Night Talk: I. Parkin)  
(Evening of Talks hosted by C&C:  
I. Parkin, G. McFarland, T. Haworth,  
N. Libeskind, Tim Otto Roth, Daniela De Paulis)

Royal Astronomical Society, London (I. Parkin)  
October 2018

NAM/EWASS 2018: National Astronomy Meeting/  
European Week of Astronomy & Space Science  
ACC Liverpool (Talk & Panel Discussion: I. Parkin)  
April 2018

Space Lates Evening (I. Parkin)  
National Space Centre, Leicester - March 2018

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

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

NAM 2016 (G. McFarland), Nottingham

## PUBLICATIONS

Creativity & Curiosity – 'Moons'  
Newarke Houses Museum, Leicester - 2019

Creativity & Curiosity (German/English catalogue)  
Zeiss-Grossplanetarium, Berlin - November 2018

Creativity & Curiosity Catalogue - November 2017

I, Science Magazine. Imperial College London 2017

'Creativity & Curiosity: When Art Met Science'  
Astronomy & Geophysics Magazine  
Royal Astronomical Society - December 2016

## AWARDS

Arts Council England  
Royal Astronomical Society  
Hope Scott Trust  
Wellcome Trust (through University of Leicester)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Curator of Art Collections  
Science Museum, London

### **MARTIN BARSTOW**

Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
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Director, Leicester Inst. Of Space & Earth Observation  
Professor of Astrophysics & Space Science  
University of Leicester

### **GIANFRANCO BERTONE**

University of Amsterdam

### **SUE BOWLER**

Editor, Astronomy & Geophysics Magazine  
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

### **JOHN BROWN OBE**

10<sup>th</sup> Astronomer Royal for Scotland  
University of Glasgow

### **CHRISTINE BRUMMER**

Falling Walls Foundation  
Berlin Science Week 2018, Germany

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### **CHRIS NORTH**

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### **BRENDAN OWENS**

Royal Observatory Greenwich

### **SIAN PROSSER**

Royal Astronomical Society Library

### **JURGEN RIENOW**

Zeiss-Grossplanetarium, Berlin

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### **ANDY TAYLOR**

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### **AMAURY TRIAUD**

University of Birmingham

### **ROBERTO TROTTA**

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### **JEMIMA UNG/LUCY FLEMMING/FIN NAYLOR**

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