



14 May 2018

**To whom it may concern,**

The National Space Centre recently collaborated with the artists behind the Creativity & Curiosity project – Gillian McFarland, Ione Parkin, and Alison Lochhead – and is delighted to support the future research and development of this exciting exhibition. Creativity and Curiosity combines fine art techniques with cutting-edge science research to beautifully illustrate some of the most explosive, intriguing, and theoretical concepts of astronomy and astrophysics.

Between 10 March and 15 April 2018, the Creativity and Curiosity exhibition was on display in the galleries at the National Space Centre, as one of the key features of our celebration of British Science Week and our Easter half-term programme. The exhibit was open to both school and family visitors as part of the general entry to the Space Centre, and was further brought to life by a Space Lates talk by the artists and two days of accompanying art workshops for families on the weekend of the 16-18 March. During this time, 46,327 visitors had the chance to explore the exhibition.

We received extremely positive feedback about the exhibition – many visitors commented on the beauty of the art, the quotes from astrophysicists that tell the deeper story, and the chance to ‘see something different’ at the National Space Centre. The artists have clearly done their homework and have worked with an impressive range of astrophysicists from across Europe. They can confidently talk about the science behind their pieces, just as easily as the art itself. In fact, during the Space Lates evening, one of our other guest speakers – an astrophysicist specializing in gamma-ray bursts who saw Creativity and Curiosity for the first time that evening – told us how much she enjoyed seeing aspects of her own research represented in the art.

We very much enjoyed our collaboration with the team behind Creativity and Curiosity. Apart from being extraordinary artists, they were extremely professional and prepared during the planning, installation, and take-down of the exhibition. They were responsive to our requests and worked with us to develop new interactive content, appropriate for our audiences, that brought the exhibit to life.

We wish Gillian, Ione, and Allison all the best in their future development of this project, and hope to see it on display in science centres and other venues around the world.  
Sincerely,

Dr Tamela Maciel, Space Communications Manager  
on Behalf of the National Space Centre