



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 14, 2017

Contact: Christina Ondrus, christina@theknowledges.org

Weekend of contemporary art returns to historic astronomical observatory KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory On View June 3 & 4, 2017

(Los Angeles, CA) – [KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory](#) returns for a weekend featuring site-specific art installations and performances at the historic astronomical observatory. Organized by artist **Christina Ondrus**, [KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory](#) takes place **Saturday June 3 and Sunday June 4, 2017** at the **Mount Wilson Observatory**, located in the Angeles National Forest, approximately 33 miles from Downtown Los Angeles. [KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory](#) features **10 newly commissioned artworks**, plus a nighttime program of **performances** and **telescope viewing sessions**. [KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory](#) offers a rare opportunity to experience this historic site in-depth through **free public programs** and **special ticketed events**. [KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory](#) is made possible with support from the **Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts**.

[KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory](#) features 10 commissioned works by ten artists whose practices extend from a nexus of ideas embodied by the Observatory: **Scott Benzel, Jeff Cain, Krysten Cunningham, Erik Frydenborg, Channing Hansen, Gregory Michael Hernandez, Alice Könitz, Karen Lofgren, Margaret Wertheim, and Rosha Yaghmai**. The projects and overall exhibition are shaped through the various disciplines of the participating artists' response to the site:

- [Scott Benzel's](#) *Mathesis and Mathematikoi* is a movement/performance/sound piece to be performed on the rotating interior deck of the dome of the 100-inch telescope. The piece is rooted in the landmark astronomical and cosmological work of Edwin Hubble (which took place in the telescope), the proto-scientific philosophy of the *Mathematikoi*, and the dance work of the Judson Dance Theater.
- [Jeff Cain's](#) video, *Wildfire*, uses 3D modeling simulation to explore issues related to wildfires, urban growth and social unrest. The work is projected outdoors with both city and forest visible.
- [Krysten Cunningham's](#) *Big Stretch Math* is a site-determined sculptural work using spandex to playfully connect a constellation among trees. Its title refers to the Astronomers' work of calculating large distances and magnitudes of scale

that exceed human comprehension, while its materials poke fun at a rigid system of linear logic.

- [Erik Frydenborg](#)'s site-specific scenic flat temporarily obscures the façade of Mount Wilson's Astronomical Museum with a large iconographic tableau, comprised of a mural-sized image with elements of low relief sculpture. This architecturally scaled work will treat the museum's entrance as an oracular shrine, conflating the horologic tradition of astronomical timekeeping with science fiction set design—alluding to a hyperbolic cosmic order.
- [Channing Hansen](#)'s intricately knitted work uses a "score" or pattern generated by a mathematical algorithm derived from GPS gathered while hiking trails around Mount Wilson, overlaid with plots of magnetic fields recorded by the Observatory's solar tower, where the work is installed in situ.
- [Gregory Michael Hernandez](#) creates a series of architectural interventions based around site and perceptions of space, exploring the architecture of time, Michelson's first speed of light test, and Einstein's general theory of relativity.
- [Alice Könitz](#)'s triangular structure creates a sculptural platform for solar observation and social exchange. Visitors can spend time looking at the sun and share their experiences in the architectural space.
- [Karen Lofgren](#)'s *Trace Elements* is a sculptural installation of small to medium sized objects that reflect the composition of the human body in relation to star elements utilizing materials such as calcium, carbon, sodium, copper, tin, silicone, chlorine, and cobalt.
- [Margaret Wertheim](#), Director of the **Institute for Figuring**, investigates poetic and aesthetic dimensions of science, mathematics and engineering through a lecture called "Making Space: A History of Scientific Concepts of Space from Dante to String Theory," followed by a free workshop where participants may explore related concepts interactively.
- [Rosha Yaghmai](#)'s sculptures experiment with both found and cast materials, bringing together a West Coast Conceptualism rooted in psychedelic concepts, exploring themes of transformation and alienation.

After dark, KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory presents **viewing sessions** through the **60-inch telescope** and **100-inch telescope**, which will be ticketed and paired with live music performances by **Constance Demby**, **M Geddes Gengras**, **Ernest Gibson**, **Jeepneys**, **Tara Jane O'Neil**, and more to be announced. **A full schedule of events and ticket information will be available at <http://knowledges.org>.**

NEWS RELEASE



ABOUT KNOWLEDGES:

[KNOWLEDGES](#) is an artist-organized curatorial initiative into the expanded field. The 2017 exhibition is curated by KNOWLEDGES founding director Christina Ondrus, with additional programming curated by John Hogan, Ian James, Gabie Strong, and Brica Wilcox. KNOWLEDGES is a recipient of an inaugural 2016-17 Artist Project Grant from the **Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts**. The first iteration of KNOWLEDGES at *Mount Wilson Observatory* was in 2012, and included work by 40 artists, performers, collectives, and organizations in an unprecedented event. KNOWLEDGES is a project of the [Pasadena Arts Council's EMERGE Fiscal Sponsorship Program](#).

ABOUT MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY:

Soaring a mile above Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Mountains, [Mount Wilson Observatory](#) (MWO) is an astronomical observatory and site of historic scientific discovery, contemporary research, and sweeping views. Since its founding by George Ellery Hale in 1904, MWO has served to revolutionize science. It came to house the most advanced observational equipment of the time, including the 60-inch Hale telescope, followed by the 100-inch Hooker telescope, which was the world's largest for over thirty years. Historic discoveries at MWO include the detection of the sun's magnetic field, the first observations of spiral galaxies, Albert A. Michelson's first speed of light tests, and Edwin Hubble's early research that led to the Big Bang Theory and the theory of an expanding universe. Innovative research continues to this day; Mount Wilson Observatory is a locus from which nearly a century of such advances in astronomical exploration extend.

DIRECTIONS:

Mount Wilson Observatory (MWO) is located on Mount Wilson, a 1,740-metre (5,710-foot) peak in the San Gabriel Mountains near Pasadena, northeast of Los Angeles. From the 210 freeway, follow the Angeles Crest Highway (State Highway 2) north out of La Canada-Flintridge, past the Angeles Forest Highway turnoff to Palmdale, to the Mount Wilson turnoff at Red Box. Drive about 5 miles more to Mount Wilson.

