



PRESS RELEASE

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<http://knowledges.org>

KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory returns for a weekend featuring experimental, site-oriented art installations and performances at the historic astronomical observatory on **Saturday and Sunday June 3 & 4, 2017.**

(Los Angeles, CA) – **KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory** takes place **Saturday June 3 and Sunday June 4, 2017** at the **Mount Wilson Observatory**, located approximately 33 miles from Downtown Los Angeles. Soaring a mile high in the **San Gabriel Mountains**, Mount Wilson Observatory is an astronomical observatory and site of **historic scientific discovery**, contemporary research, and sweeping views. **KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory** offers a unique opportunity to **experience** this site **through the lens of art**, with **free public programs** and **special ticketed events**. The event runs **Saturday 10 a.m. through 1:00 a.m.**, and **Sunday 10 a.m. through 7 p.m.**

KNOWLEDGES at Mount Wilson Observatory features **10 newly commissioned artworks**, plus a nighttime program of **performances** and **telescope viewing sessions**. Sculpture and installation works by **Krysten Cunningham, Erik Frydenborg, Channing Hansen, Gregory Michael Hernandez, Alice Könitz, Karen Lofgren, and Rosha Yaghamai** will be on view throughout the weekend, along with a performance by **Scott Benzel** staged on the rotating deck of the 100-inch Telescope, and a video screening by **Jeff Cain**. **Margaret Wertheim**, Director of the **Institute for Figuring**, presents a **symposium and workshop** exploring concepts of space in mathematics and cosmology. An artist edition by **Claire Nereim** will accompany the exhibition. *[More on visual artist projects at bottom.]*

On **Saturday night**, the Observatory grounds will remain **open to the public after dark** for **free performances** and **screenings**, along with **ticketed viewing sessions** inside the two large telescopes. Free programs include a gong ceremony by **Harrisant**, a performance by **Anna Luisa Petrisko** (Jeepneys), and theatre screenings of historic **glass lantern slides** taken at the Observatory nearly a century ago. **Celestial viewing** through the **60-inch telescope** and **100-inch telescope** is **ticketed** into one-hour sessions and accompanied with solo live music performances by **Constance Demby, Ernest Gibson, Matthewdavid, Money Mark & Secret Circuit, Tara Jane O’Neil, Odeya Nini, Sun Araw, and White Magic**. These intimate sessions create a **rare opportunity** to be transported through a **visual and**

sonic experience of the cosmos. Each of these **micro-concerts** are a very limited capacity of 20-25 people. Tickets are **\$40 per person**, and include viewing through the telescope, offering the public an opportunity for **individual**, rather than standard group access. Tickets available at: <http://knowledges.org/tickets>.

In a very special **encore appearance**, symphonic sacred **space music** pioneer **Constance Demby** invites audiences to "**travel on a beam of sound to the heart of the universe**" as she performs her custom designed **Sonic Steel Space Bass** inside the **100-inch Telescope dome**. This additional **Sunday afternoon** performance is ticketed at **\$20 per person**.

A full schedule of events and tickets will be available at <http://knowledges.org>.

KNOWLEDGES at *Mount Wilson Observatory* is made possible with support from the **Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts**.

ABOUT KNOWLEDGES:

KNOWLEDGES is an artist-organized curatorial initiative into the expanded field, creating opportunities for artists and the public to experience site through the lens of art. 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.

WEBSITE: <http://knowledges.org>

INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/theknowledges>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/theknowledges>

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/theknowledges>

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.



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PARKING:

The U.S. Forest Service requires that each vehicle parking within the Angeles National Forest, which includes the Observatory parking lot, display a National Forest Adventure Pass or a Golden Age Passport. The Adventure Pass may be purchased for \$5 (one day) or \$30 (one year), per vehicle. On weekends, the passes may be purchased at the Cosmic Café, above the Observatory's main parking lot.

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 major historic scientific discovery, contemporary research, and sweeping views. <https://www.mtwilson.edu/>

MORE ABOUT THE VISUAL ARTIST PROJECTS:

- **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. Performances are free and will be scheduled throughout the weekend.
- **Jeff Cain's** *Blindspot* is a video that uses 100 years of sunspot observational drawings from Mt Wilson's 150 Solar Tower with manipulated video footage and animation to speculate the connection of celestial and terrestrial landscapes.
- **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's** *Architectures of Time* is a series of sculpture, painting and architectural installations exploring 20th century advancements in our expanding knowledge of (and discovered limitations in perceiving) time and space.
- **Alice Könitz's** presents a series of sculptural apparatuses for solar observation and social exchange. Visitors can gaze through a solar tent and natural obsidian lenses positioned throughout the Observatory, and share their experiences.
- **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**, leads a seminar entitled, "**Making Space at Mount Wilson: An Exploration of Concepts of Space in Mathematics and Cosmology**," followed by a workshop where participants explore non-Euclidian geometry by constructing paper models of hyperbolic space. Both are free, registration is required for the workshop.
- **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.

