

periastra

methodologies of curiosity within the fields of art and astrophysics

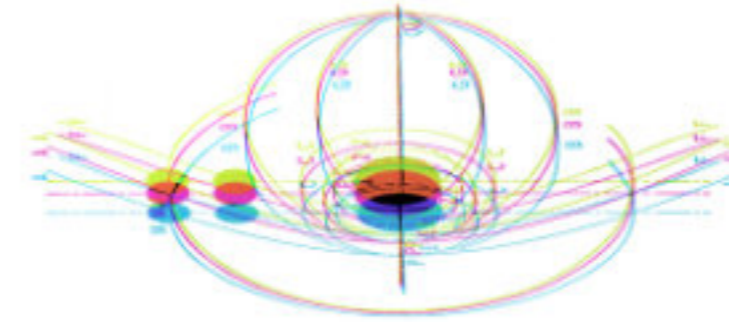
Periastra was a hybrid exhibition where artists and astrophysicists were invited to share each others' modes of exploring the world of celestial phenomena. Often thought of as mutually exclusive, there are sometimes surprising similarities in terms of the aspiration and expression of curiosity. The participants in this show have been identified through their interest in crossing this boundary and the result is an intriguing and visually rich interpretation of each others' fields of research.

The sky is a half of our environment and yet its nature remains elusive and a source of mystic inspiration. The very distance of its population removes our enquiry from direct interaction and launches out into the realms of speculation with barely adequate tools. Recent exploration by spacecraft and improvements in the operation of telescopes have returned vast quantities of data that require interpretation. This, in turn has required the adoption of models of increasing complexity and assumption. The advent of computing has accelerated this process but at the risk of losing that immediate contact with astronomical ontology.

The greatest telescope we possess is our ability to think imaginatively. What could the nature of this Universe be and how can we experiment in this grandest of laboratories? Is it at all possible to bring this realm into an Earthly laboratory let alone the enthusiast's shed? Little more than a century ago observational endeavours would result in, at best, the interpretation of a few grains of photographic emulsion. With every advance in technology, and the subsequent resolution in signal reception, has come an ever growing appreciation of the complexity we experience above our heads. This is a journey that has barely begun.

Curators note: In assembling this exhibition the interest has moved in the direction both of experiments in detection and demonstrations in the laboratory. Often, when thinking of astrophysics and the visual imagery that surrounds it, it is the overt phenomena that comes to mind; stars, galaxies and nebulae that we can see in the optical range.

However there exists a far more comprehensive electro-magnetic and particulate spectrum which provides us with a greater flux of information to hypothesize the mechanics of the Universe. And of course the biggest part of that 'detection of the invisible' is the procession of thought that emanates from the pursuit of curiosity.



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www.cipango.co.uk/periastra

Periastra was an exhibition which took place between the 3rd to the 13th of February 2022 at the APT Gallery, Deptford, London.

Curated by Paul Malone



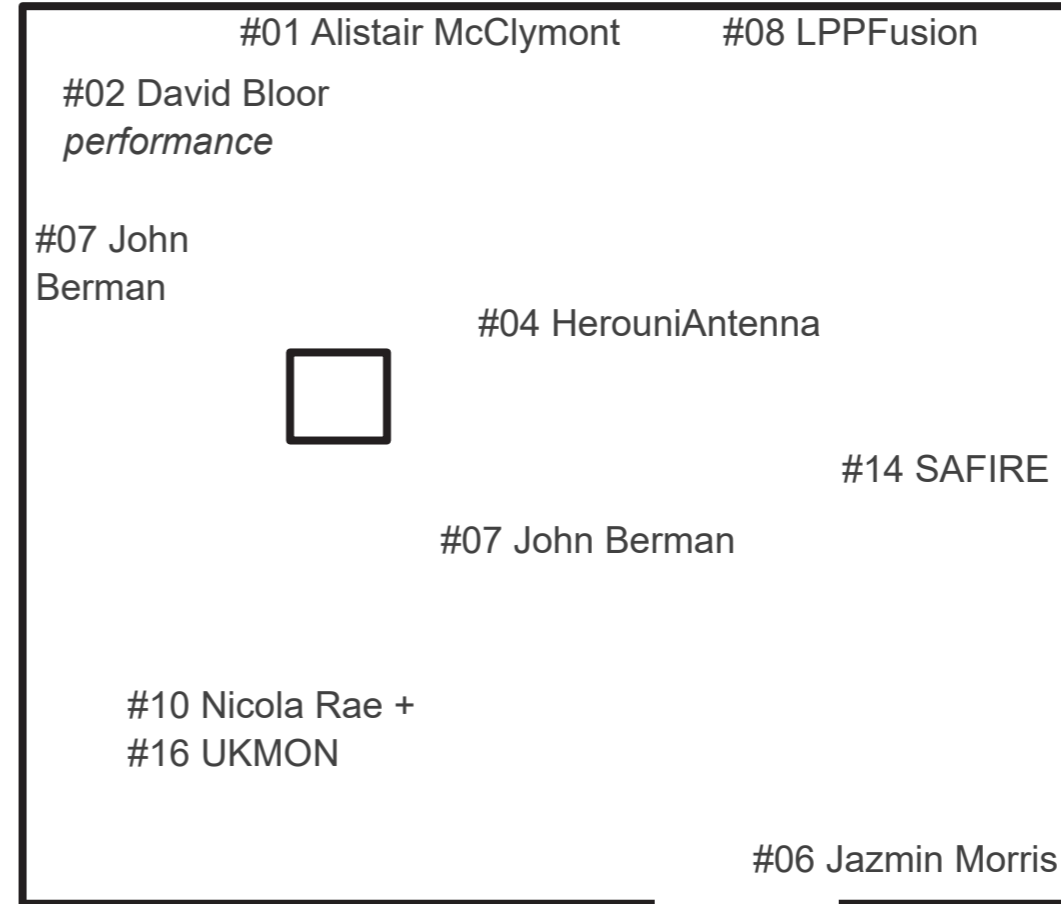
Participants

- Alistair McClymont multimedia art
- David Bloor sound art
- Els van Riel structural film
- Jean-Louis Rault, FRIPON fireball recovery
- Herouni Antenna, Armenia optical radio
- Jazmin Morris computational artist
- John Berman muon detection
- LPPFusion focus fusion research
- Miles Mathis maths, charge field theory
- Nicola Rae multimedia art
- Paul Malone multimedia art
- Richard Lawrence sculptor
- Rupinder Khaira multimedia art
- SAFIRE electric sun experiments
- Steven Scott multimedia art
- UKMON meteor detection



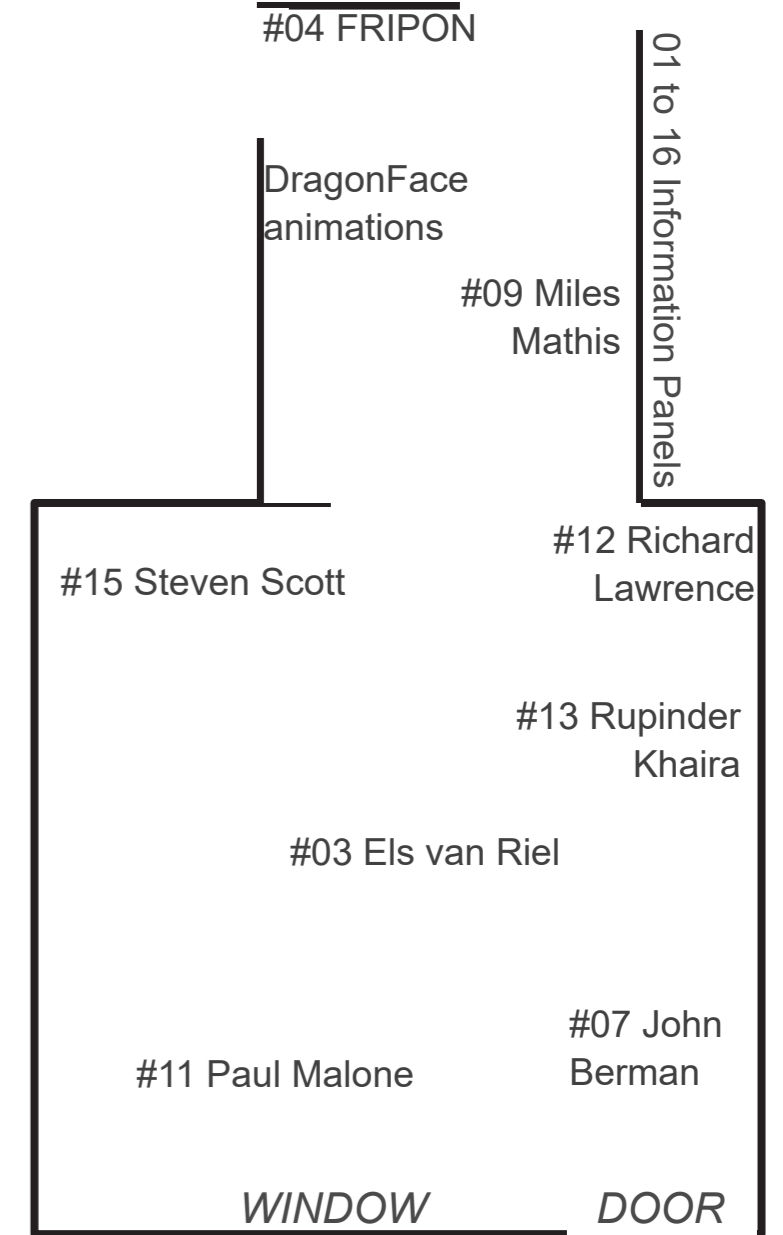
The APT Gallery, Creekside, Deptford, London

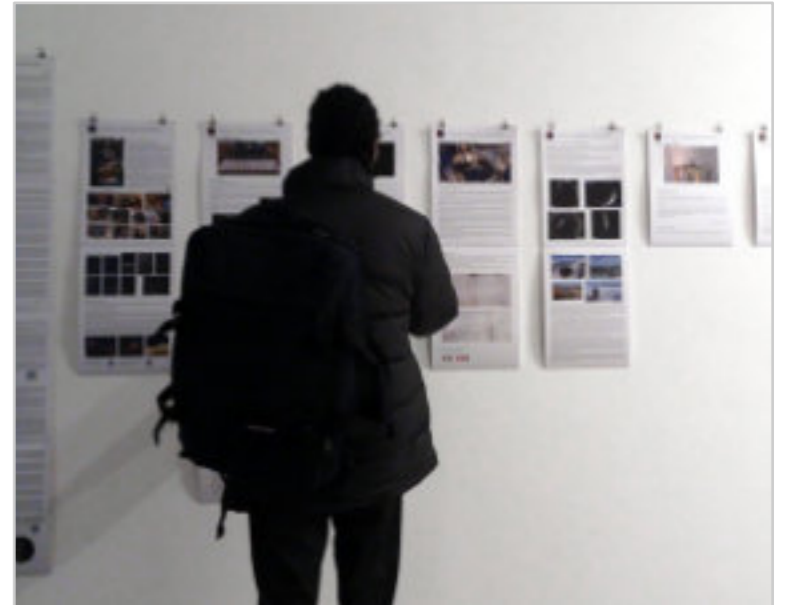
Periastra at the APT Gallery



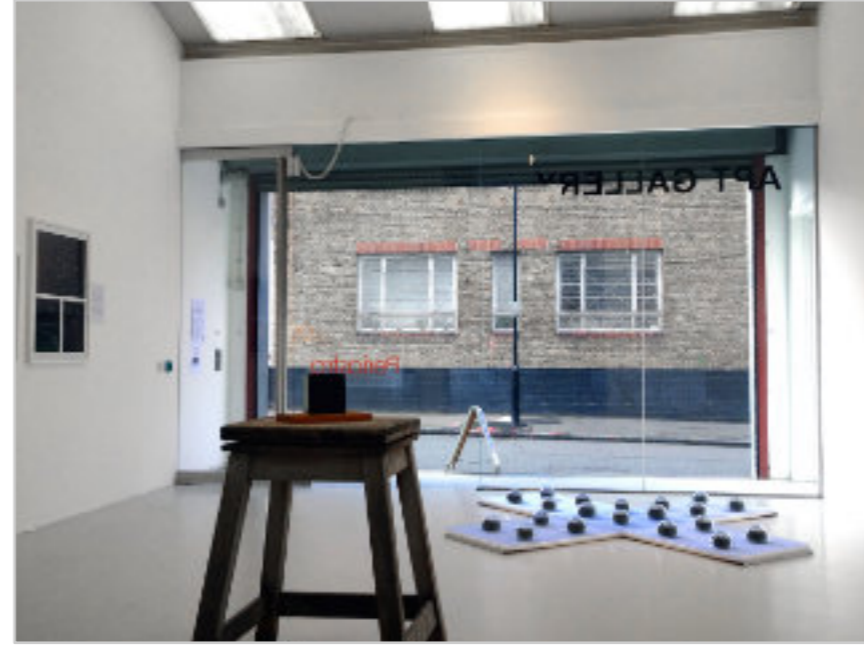
Above: Plan of rear darkened space
 Right: Plan of front daylight space and 'Link' information hub

Layout of the exhibition





Private view



general views: front

