Arts and Culture in Davos 2017

Davos-Klosters, Switzerland 17-20 January
The World Arts Forum is a Swiss non-profit foundation founded in 1991 by Professor Klaus Schwab and Mrs Hilde Schwab to produce a World Arts Summit in Venice, Italy, which brought together leaders of the arts, government, business and civil society in the spirit of cross-cultural understanding. Since the success of that event, artists have increasingly contributed their thoughts, visions and wisdom to the Forum’s main events. The Foundation’s role today is to suggest and secure Crystal Award recipients.
In a time of heightened insecurity and mistrust of the “other”, cultural leaders come together in Davos to help inspire responsive and responsible leadership.

Our 23rd annual Crystal Awards, which honours artists who are bridge-builders and role models for the global community, takes place on Monday 16 January at 18:15 in the Congress Hall. We extend our congratulations to this year’s awardees: violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, for her leadership in providing musical education for youth; singer and songwriter Shakira, for her leadership in advancing early-childhood education; and artist and social activist Forest Whitaker, for his leadership in peace-building and conflict-resolution.

We are also delighted to welcome back Yo-Yo Ma who, in 2016, became the first artist to join the Board of Trustees of the World Economic Forum. In all, 40 exceptional cultural leaders will be actively involved in more than 50 sessions across the Annual Meeting programme on topics ranging from populism to climate change and from technology to spirituality. They will challenge assumptions, bring new perspectives and seek to inspire collective action.

The cultural agenda and cultural offerings at the Annual Meeting are richer than ever this year. Of particular note in the programme is the Afghan Women’s Orchestra “Zohra”, a group of 30 young and brave women from Afghanistan between the ages of 14 and 20, including the country’s first female conductors, Negin Khpolwak and Zarifa Adiba. They are the first women in their country to learn music in more than three decades, despite the challenges they encounter every day to do so. For their first international tour, we have created a collaboration for them with the youth orchestra of the Collège de Genève and, together, they will perform the closing concert in Davos (20 January) before performing in Zurich, Geneva, Berlin and Weimar. Join us for this celebration of courage and mutual understanding across cultures.

Be sure to experience the many art installations both in and outside the Congress Centre. These include monumental installations by Tomás Saraceno, John Grade and Angelica Dass that present alternate ways of living and envisioning our relationship with each other and the planet. Not to be missed is the Benevolent Machine exhibition with works by several artists, scientists and technologists. It investigates whether technology will control us – or support us. It is located in the Loft, our hotspot for dialogue on the governance of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

This and much more awaits you this year in Davos. Engage with cultural leaders and let yourself be challenged and inspired. There is so much yet for us all to learn and experience.
Previous Recipients of the Crystal Award

Jose Antonio ABREU, 2009
Conductor

Vladimir ASHKENAZY, 1995
Pianist and conductor

Margaret ATWOOD, 2010
Author

Shabani AZMI, 2006
Actress and social activist

Amitabh BACHCHAN, 2009
Actor and director

Shigeru BAN, 2015
Architect

Luc BESSON, 2012
Filmmaker

Andrea BOCELLI, 2015
Tenor and singer-songwriter

BONO, 2002
Singer

Mario BOTTA, 1996
Architect

Wissam BOUSTANY, 1998
Flautist

José CARRERAS, 2011
Opera singer

Yvonne CHAKA CHAKA, 2012
Singer

CHEN Kaige, 1996
Film director

YAO Chen, 2016
Actress

CHRISTO & JEANNE-CLAUDE, 1995
Artist-engineers

Paulo COELHO, 1999
Author

Matt DAMON, 2014
Actor and co-founder, Water.org

Leonardo DICAPRIO, 2016
Actor and founder, Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation Film

Michael DOUGLAS, 2006
Director, producer and actor

Umberto ECO, 2000
Writer, historian and philosopher

Olafur ELIASSON, 2016
Artist

Hans ERNI, 1999
Artist

Ivan FISCHER, 1998
Conductor

Juan Diego FLOREZ, 2014
Tenor and Founder, Sinfonia por el Peru

Peter GABRIEL, 2001
Singer, songwriter and musician

Richard GERE, 2005
Actor and President, Gere Foundation

Valery GERGIEV, 2004
Artistic & General Director, Mariinsky Theatre

Gilberto GIL, 2006
Musician and Minister of Culture

Nadine GORDIMER, 1995
Author

Barbara HENDRICKS, 1995
Soprano

Ikuo HIRAYAMA, 1995
Painter

Tao HO, 1997
Architect and artist

Jenny HOLZER, 1996
Artist

Ibrahim HUSSEIN, 1997
Painter and calligrapher

Quincy JONES, 2000
Producer, composer, musician

Sumet JUMSAI, 1999
Architect and painter

Udo JURGENS, 2010
Singer and composer

Dani KARAVAN, 1995
Sculptor

Amjad Ali KHAN, 1997
Composer and sarod player

Angélique KIDJO, 2015
Singer-songwriter

Lang Lang, 2010
Pianist

James LEVINE, 2003
Conductor and Artistic Director

Jet Li, 2009
Actor

Julian LLOYD WEBBER, 1998
Cellist

Yo-Yo MA, 2008
Cellist

Amin MAALOUF, 2000
Writer and historian

Lorin MAAZEL, 2014
Conductor and musician

Richard MEIER, 1995
Architect

Lord MENUHIN, 1995
Violinist and conductor

MIDORI, 2012
Violinist

Nikita MIKHALKOV, 1996
Film director

Es’kia MPHAHLELE, 1998
Writer

Vik MUNIZ, 2013
Artist

Youssou N’DOUR, 2001
Musician and singer

Shirin NESHAT, 2014
Artist

NOA, 1998
Singer and songwriter

Sharmeen OBAID-CHINOY, 2013
Documentary filmmaker

Ben OKRI, 1995
Author and poet

Julia ORMOND, 2003
Actress & co-chair, FilmAid Int'l

Krzysztof PENDERECKI, 1997
Composer and conductor

Sidney POITIER, 2002
Actor, director and producer

Lord PUTTNAM, 1997
Film producer

A. R. RAHMAN, 2011
Film composer, musician and singer

Lionel RICHIE, 2005
Musician

Mallika SARABHAI, 2009
Artist and activist

Jorge SEMPRUN, 1999
Writer

Ravi SHANKAR, 1996
Sitarist and composer

Rodion SHCHEDRIN, 1995
Composer

Anant SINGH, 2001
Film producer

Wole SOYINKA, 1995
Poet and playwright

Frank STELLA, 1995
Painter

Oliver STONE, 1995
Director, writer and producer

TAN Swie Hian, 2003
Painter, poet, philosopher, author

Charlize THERON, 2013
Actor

Emma THOMSON, 2008
Actor and writer

Mario VARGAS LLOSA, 2001
Author

Maxim VENGEROV, 2007
Violinist

Elie WIESEL, 1995
Author

will.i.am, 2016
Musician
The 23rd Annual Crystal Awards

Introduced in 1995 at the initiative of the World Economic Forum’s late friend Lord Yehudi Menuhin, the Crystal Awards recognize personalities in the arts who are role models for the global community. Awardees are highly regarded for their artistic career and have a demonstrated and long-standing commitment to improving the state of the world. Awardees are selected by the World Economic Forum’s World Arts Forum.

Anne-Sophie Mutter
Violinist, Munich

Shakira
Singer and Songwriter, Barcelona

Forest Whitaker
Artist and Social Activist, Los Angeles
Anne-Sophie Mutter
Violinist, Munich
Crystal Award 2017 for her leadership in promoting musical education for youth

Anne-Sophie Mutter is among the greatest violin virtuosos of our time – the year 2016 marked the 40th anniversary of her debut at the age of 13 at the Lucerne Festival. One year later, she performed at the Salzburg Whitsun Concerts under Herbert von Karajan’s baton. She has performed in the world’s most important music centres – focusing equally on the performance of traditional compositions and on the future of music. For her numerous recordings, Anne-Sophie Mutter has received four Grammy Awards®, nine Echo Classic Awards, the German Recording Award, the Record Academy Prize, the Grand Prix du Disque and the International Phono Award.

Anne-Sophie Mutter is committed to supporting young, talented violin, viola, cello and contrabass soloists worldwide. For this purpose, she established the “Freundeskreis der Anne-Sophie Mutter Stiftung e.V.” (Friends of the Anne-Sophie Mutter Foundation) in 1997. The foundation of the same name with its head office in Munich was established in 2008. The foundation provides scholarships for the following purposes: purchasing string instruments and bows; help with identifying and selecting teachers, music academies or conservatories; help with arranging and financing travel to auditions for conductors, agents and concerts; procuring or awarding stipends for music academies, conservatories and master courses; providing scores and parts; advising on the purchase of instruments; financing and practical implementation of CD productions; and commissioning new works to expand the repertoire. In addition, the Foundation gives the Aida Stucki Encouragement Award to outstanding young soloists and offers opportunities for solo performances as part of the ensemble “Mutter’s Virtuosi.”

Mutter also takes a keen interest in alleviating the medical and social problems of our times. She supports various causes through regular benefit concerts. In 2016, she performed for the Foundation of the Ruhr Piano Festival, SOS Children’s Villages in Syria and the Leipzig Refugee Council. Music helps us to build bridges – allowing us to open up and connect to the people around us. Music also forces us to see others – regardless of religion or cultural differences. Being a musician is a profession that goes far beyond performing in concerts. But talented young instrumentalists face a difficult environment and often lack the necessary support and mentoring that is so crucial – especially in the early years of their development. I’ve experienced that first-hand in my career. That is why I have decided to offer through my foundation what is not provided by official funding. The support of top musical talent is a challenge for anyone who cares as deeply about classical music as I do. I invite you to support young musicians, whose artistic development depends on a helping hand.
Opening Concert:
Anne-Sophie Mutter and Mutter’s Virtuosi

Join us for the Opening Concert on Monday 16 January at 18.45, following the Crystal Awards ceremony. The programme includes:

André Previn (1929-)
Nonet for two string quartets and contrabass

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
Le quattro stagioni (The Four Seasons)
Concerts for violin, strings and Basso continuo, op. 8 no. 1-4

In partnership with Intesa Sanpaolo
Shakira
Singer and Songwriter, Barcelona
Crystal Award 2017 for her leadership in advancing early childhood education

Shakira, singer and songwriter, Grammy-winning artist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, is also a devoted advocate of education, particularly early childhood development (ECD). At age 18, she founded the Pies Descalzos Foundation, which presently has six open-door, state-of-the-art schools providing access to quality education for displaced and underprivileged children in her native Colombia. In addition to building projects that ensure the children have safe and well-equipped learning facilities, the foundation supplies nutritious meals; educational enrichment through art, music and recreation; and economic opportunities for families. The schools serve over 6,000 students and impact over 30,000 members of the community at large.

Shakira is also the Co-Founder of ALAS, a movement that advocates placing ECD on the political agendas of territories in Latin America and forms public-private partnerships to build ECD centres throughout the continent. To date, over 35 centres have opened in Colombia, Argentina and Mexico. In 2011, US President Obama appointed Shakira to his Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

As a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 2003, Shakira has expanded her child advocacy efforts on the global level. She has made field visits to Bangladesh, Azerbaijan and India and led two global fundraising campaigns to help life-saving supplies reach the world’s most impoverished and at-risk children. During UN Week 2015, she hosted a high-level meeting of advocates and private- and public-sector representatives to discuss the importance of additional investment in ECD on a global scale.

Since 2015, she has served as a member of former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s International Commission on Financing Global Education, which seeks to find a worldwide solution and funding to provide universal access to quality education. Additionally, in 2015, she was appointed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Advocate with a mandate to support the UN Secretary-General in his efforts to generate momentum and commitment to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

By age five, children’s brains are 90% of the size of an adult brain. We must invest in this critical window of opportunity where we can enhance children’s futures by nourishing and protecting their bodies, brains and environments, helping them grow into happy and healthy individuals as well as productive adult members of society. The return on investment in early childhood education is indisputable.
Forest Whitaker believes that, to attain peace and prosperity, communities and nations must heed the voices of their diverse and vibrant youth. He and the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI) are committed to providing educational tools and better living conditions to young women and men living in regions touched by violence, war and poverty.

Whitaker is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of WPDI, Co-Founder and Chair of the International Institute for Peace, UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation and a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group. Whitaker is dedicated to cultivating the artistic talents of young people. As a member of the US President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, he works closely with primary school students to demonstrate the limitless power of the arts to express their voices and creative energies.

In addition to his social activism, Whitaker is one of Hollywood’s most accomplished and versatile figures. Through his production companies, Significant Productions and JuntoBox Films, he aims to support young, talented filmmakers. He believes that film can enlighten people across the globe and start meaningful dialogues about important subjects. He has produced several award-winning documentaries that touch on a wide range of social issues. He has also received many distinctions for his acting, including the 2007 Academy Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in The Last King of Scotland, a performance for which he also received a BAFTA Award, SAG Award and Golden Globe. In addition, Whitaker received the Best Actor Award for Bird at the 1988 Cannes Film Festival.

Whitaker’s artistic and humanitarian contributions have been widely recognized at home and abroad. In 2007, he received the Cinema for Peace Award for his advocacy for child soldiers and work with inner-city youth. In 2013, he was made a Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government in recognition of his work serving those affected by conflicts and violence.

Whitaker’s commitment to peace and social justice has led him to work in close collaboration with UNESCO. In 2011, Whitaker was designated a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation. In this role, he works towards global peace and community-building through non-violence education, research and training. In 2014, he started collaborating with the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict as an Advocate for Children Affected by War, a topic on which he was invited to speak before the UN Security Council in September of that year. In 2016, he was appointed to the Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group by the UN Secretary-General.

Above all, Whitaker believes that ordinary people can and must come together to change the world and that even a seemingly small action can cause ripples that make an enormous impact.

Children and youth make up almost half of the global population. This means that young people are not only tomorrow’s leaders – they must also be today’s peace-builders. Through my work with the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, we seek to empower young women and men to become voices for peace and agents of change. We must cease to see youth in parts of the world touched by conflict simply as victims and perpetrators of violence. They are our partners for peace, and when we give them the tools and support they need, I believe they will be able to change the world in ways we never thought possible.
A community of 40 Cultural Leaders joins the Annual Meeting in Davos to help inspire responsive and responsible leadership.
Zarifa Adiba
Kabul
Zarifa Adiba is a musician who plays the viola and is one of the conductors of the Afghan Women’s Orchestra, the first all-female Afghan orchestra based at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music. In Davos, she will join the orchestra to perform the closing concert before embarking on tour in Europe.

Andrea Bandelli
Dublin
Andrea Bandelli is the Executive Director of Science Gallery International (SGI). He has led, managed and evaluated international projects linked with science, art, democracy and public participation, and writes widely on public engagement with science. Bandelli is participating in the Annual Meeting as part of SGI’s collaboration on the exhibition “Benevolent Machine” in the Loft.

Carol Becker
New York
In her role as Dean of the Columbia School of the Arts, Carol Becker has helped to launch international programmes for screen and television writing, film production and literary translation. She has written extensively about the impact of art and artists on society. Becker also worked closely with the World Economic Forum’s Global Leadership Fellows to develop a unique programme on leadership development through art practice.

Jacques Berchtold
Geneva
Professor and author Jacques Berchtold is an expert in Enlightenment philosophy and literature. Since 2014, he has been Director of the Martin Bodmer Foundation, which hosts one of the largest collections of historical documents and manuscripts in the world. Berchtold is participating in the Annual Meeting as part of the Forum’s collaboration with the Martin Bodmer Foundation on a series of interactive sessions on the high points of civilization.

Lonnie Bunch
Washington DC
Lonnie Bunch is the founding Director of the Smithsonian Institution’s brand-new National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington DC. A historian and educator, Bunch has unique insights on embracing history to address current challenges in the US and around the world.

Matt Damon
New York
Matt Damon is a prominent actor, film producer and screenwriter. He is passionate about alleviating the global water crisis. He is the co-founder of Water.org, which seeks to ensure that everyone in the world has access to safe water and basic sanitation. Damon is a 2014 recipient of the Crystal Award.

Angélica Dass
Madrid
Angélica Dass is a Brazilian artist who has received international acclaim for her Humanae photo project, a collection of portrait photos of diverse people revealing the true beauty of human colour and questioning our assumptions about race. In Davos, Dass presents a large-scale outdoor installation of Humanae intended to remind participants of the diversity of the human condition.
Marc Forster
Los Angeles
Marc Forster is a filmmaker and screenwriter, best known for directing the films Monster’s Ball, Finding Neverland, Quantum of Solace, and others. He has worked with the Red Cross organization Our World, Your Move, as well as with Rokpa International, which helps the hungry, sick, orphaned and poor in Tibet and Nepal.

John Grade
Seattle
John Grade creates large-scale sculptures designed to change over time and involve collaborations with large groups of people and communities to build. In Davos, he presents Middle Fork, a carved work-in-progress sculpture made from a 40-metre tree cast. Grade invites participants to build parts of the sculpture.

Imogen Heap
London
Imogen Heap is a multi-award winning recording artist, composer, producer and innovator. She is the first female artist to have earned a Grammy for best engineer. Heap is recognised as a pioneer in music and technology for her gesture-based music gloves system and she is a leader in developing Blockchain technology that can enable a flourishing future music industry.

Jin Xing
Shanghai
Jin Xing is a TV talk show host and one of China’s most influential opinion-makers. She is a trained dancer, choreographer and owner of the Jin Xing Dance Theatre in Shanghai, the country’s first independent dance company. Jin was the first transgender person in China to receive the government’s approval to undergo gender reassignment.

Tracy Fullerton
Los Angeles
Game designer Tracy Fullerton is a Professor and Chair of the Interactive Media & Games Division of the University of California’s School of Cinematic Arts, and Director of their Game Innovation Lab. In Davos, Fullerton presents her award-winning video game, Walden, A Game, as part of the exhibition “Benevolent Machine” in The Loft.

Daisy Guo
Beijing
Daisy Guo is the co-founder of Tezign.com, an online platform connecting creative professionals and clients with design demand. Prior to this, she was part of the curating team for the Chinese pavilion at the 2012 Venice Biennale and curated exhibitions around the world. She is a Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum.

David Hertz
São Paolo
Chef and social entrepreneur David Hertz is the founder of Gastromotiva, a social enterprise working in low-income areas of Latin America. Gastromotiva runs a state-of-the-art food waste restaurant school, Refettorio Gastromotiva, providing culinary training for underprivileged youth, and enables students to develop sustainable gastronomic businesses within their communities. Hertz is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

Karan Johar
Mumbai
Karan Johar is one of India’s most influential film directors, producers and TV personalities. He hosts the wildly popular television chat show, Koffee with Karan, and has served as a judge on the reality show India’s Got Talent. Johar is considered a leading figure in the Hindi cinema industry and, through his extensive work, has brought a fresh and modern outlook to Indian commercial cinema.
Zoe Keating
Northern California

Celebrated cellist Zoe Keating is a one-woman orchestra. She uses a cello and a foot-controlled laptop to record layer upon layer of cello. She is also known for releasing her music online without the help of a record label. Keating is a Young Global Leader and a Steward of the Forum’s System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Digital Economy and Society.

Negin Khpolwak
Kabul

Negin Khpolwak is Afghanistan’s first female conductor. Despite repeated death threats against her for her courage to learn and play music, she conducts the Afghan Women’s Orchestra, the first all-female Afghan orchestra, based at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music. The Orchestra will perform the closing concert in Davos before embarking on tour in Europe.

Richard Kurin
Washington DC

Richard Kurin is the Acting Provost and Undersecretary for Museums and Research at the Smithsonian Institution, overseeing the work of the world’s largest museum, education and research complex in 145 countries. A cultural anthropologist, Kurin was previously the Director of the Smithsonian Institution’s Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

Mokena Makeka
Cape Town

Mokena Makeka is an architect and founder of Makeka Design Lab, an innovative design practice, and the House of Makeka, a brand that confronts social and environmental change in Africa. His vision is to create a global African aesthetic that brings dignity and grace to the built environment. He is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

Yo-Yo Ma
Boston

Yo-Yo Ma is one of the most recognized cellists of all time. With his Silk Road Ensemble he creates musical collaborations and education programs across cultures. He is a 2008 recipient of the Crystal Award. In 2016 he became the first artist ever to join the Board of Trustees of the World Economic Forum.

Haifaa al-Mansour
Los Angeles

Haifaa al-Mansour is the first female filmmaker in Saudi Arabia. Her feature debut, Wadjda, is the first feature film shot in Saudi Arabia and the first by a female director. The film received wide critical acclaim after its premiere, establishing her as an important talent emerging from the Arab world. Al-Mansour’s latest film, A Storm in the Stars, is based on the life of Frankenstei

Keiichi Matsuda
London

Keiichi Matsuda is a designer and filmmaker. He works with video, architecture and interactive media to propose new perspectives on reality. In Davos, Matsuda presents his video installation Hyper-Reality as part of the exhibition “Benevolent Machine” in the Loft.

Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy
Karachi

Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy is a two-time Academy Award winning documentary filmmaker. Her films cover topics of refugees, women’s advocacy and human rights. She is a 2013 recipient of the Crystal Award and a member of the Young Global Leaders community. She joins us in Davos as the first artist to be a Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting.
Jamie Oliver
London
Jamie Oliver is a renowned chef and restauranteur. He has long been the face of the United Kingdom’s campaign to bring radical change to the school meals system by replacing unhealthy food with nutritious substitutes. Oliver is also a patron of the environmental charity, Trees for Cities.

Platon
New York
Photographer Platon is the founder of the People’s Portfolio, which uses portraiture to celebrate human rights defenders and advocate responsible citizenship. Platon’s iconic portraits have appeared in the world’s most influential magazines. He is a member of the World Arts Forum and a Steward of the Forum’s System Initiative on Economic Growth and Social Inclusion.

Tomás Saraceno
In and beyond planet Earth
Artist Tomás Saraceno’s work can be seen as ongoing research informed by art, architecture, natural sciences, astrophysics and engineering. His floating sculptures propose and explore new, sustainable ways of inhabiting and sensing the environment. In Davos, Saraceno presents Aerocene, large-scale sculptures that point towards a future free of carbon emissions.

Elif Shafak
London
Elif Shafak is one of today’s most influential international authors and intellectuals. Her books have been published in 47 languages and she has been awarded the prestigious Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. An advocate for women’s and LGBT rights, freedom of speech and a new humanism, Shafak’s unique work straddles cultures, East and West.

Sarah Parcak
Birmingham, Alabama
Sarah Parcak is a satellite archaeologist and a professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She founded the Lab for Global Observation and has created a crowdsourced platform to engage the world with discovering and protecting ancient sites from space.

Cory Richards
Bozeman, Montana
A climber and visual storyteller, Cory Richards was named National Geographic Adventurer of the Year. His work attempts to capture not only the soul of adventure and exploration, but also the beauty inherent in modern society.

Ahmad Sarmast
Kabul
Ahmad Sarmast is a musician and the intrepid founder of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) in Kabul. The ANIM is a beacon of hope in a country devastated by war. It provides an outlet and a future for hundreds of Afghan children regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religious sect or socio-economic circumstances.

Anant Singh
Durban
Anant Singh is the producer of award-winning films including Long Walk to Freedom, the film adaptation of Nelson Mandela’s autobiography, and REMEMBER with Christopher Plummer. He is a commentator on human rights and apartheid. Singh is a 2001 recipient of the Crystal Award and recently appointed member of the International Olympic Committee.
Patrick Tresset
London
Patrick Tresset is an artist who presents installations in which robotic agents are actors, with their behaviour perceived as artistic, expressive and obsessive. Tresset presents Human study #1, 3RNP as part of the exhibition “Benevolent Machine” in the Loft. In this installation, three robots sketch portraits of human sitters.

Credit Kris Krüg

Ana Cristina Vargas
Caracas
Ana Cristina Vargas is an architect who established her own architecture practice in 2015 and founded Tracing Public Space (Trazando Espacios), an NGO focused on teaching children urban design skills to transform public spaces within their communities. Vargas is a Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum.

Corine Wegener
Washington DC
Corine Wegener is the Cultural Heritage Preservation Officer at the Smithsonian Institution. She leads the Smithsonian’s Cultural Rescue Initiative for cultural heritage impacted by disasters, including armed conflict. From Iraq to Nepal, Wegener conducts disaster recovery, training and capacity-building activities for the protection of cultural heritage.

Credit Smithsonian Institution

will.i.am
Los Angeles
will.i.am is a musician, producer and entrepreneur, best known as a founding member of the Black Eyed Peas. His i.am.angel Foundation created a new model for education that serves at-risk youth using STEAM and accelerates youth entrepreneurship in underserved communities. He is a 2016 recipient of the World Economic Forum Crystal Award.
Special Project:
The Afghan Women’s Orchestra “Zohra”

In Afghanistan, more than 30 young women between the ages of 14 and 20 are defying the odds against them every day and playing music together. They are students at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music and the first women in their families, community and country to learn music in over three decades. This is happening in a country where, in over 30 years of war – through political turmoil, religious extremism and crippling poverty – the women of Afghanistan have borne the brunt of terrible pain, suffering and injustice.

Through the challenges and gloom that exists in Afghanistan, one beacon of hope shines bright: the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) founded by Ahmad Sarmast, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education of Afghanistan. At ANIM, music is the antidote and the way forward. And, through music, ANIM has provided an outlet and a future for hundreds of Afghan children regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religious affiliation or socio-economic circumstances. In a country in which girls are often discouraged from education (especially music education) and women and men, girls and boys are segregated in schools, restaurants and social gatherings, ANIM’s mission of co-education is important and revolutionary. Girls and boys who learn to work together through music develop a respect and understanding that is crucial to tearing down gender barriers in the future.

ANIM’s impact can be seen in the ever-increasing number of families who wait in line each year for a chance to audition their children for enrolment; in the number of international concert tours its students perform each year; in the musical growth and progress of the students; and in the professional success of its graduates. ANIM has proved that the power of music is crucial in contributing to the development of this war-torn nation. One of ANIM’s primary commitments is to empower girls through music. From its inaugural days in 2010 to the present, the enrolment of girls has risen to 65 out of a total of 200 students. In 2016, the Afghan Women’s Orchestra “Zohra” – led by an inspiring female conductor, Negin Khpolwak – was formed.
The World Economic Forum has invited the Afghan Women’s Orchestra “Zohra” to join forces with members of the Orchestre du Collège de Genève to perform the closing concert of the Annual Meeting in the spirit of intercultural dialogue. After the Annual Meeting in Davos, the ensembles will travel together to Zurich and Geneva, where they will perform for general audiences and school children, participate in workshops and master classes, and visit cultural sites. Zohra then travels on to Weimar and Berlin in Germany, where they will collaborate with other local youth orchestras.

Meet the Afghan Women’s Orchestra in Davos at these times:

**Leadership beyond Borders: The Afghan Women’s Orchestra “Zohra”**
Thursday 19 January, 12.30 - 13.45 at the Open Forum
Special performance with Q&A

**Artists on the Frontlines: Fighting the Taliban with Music**
Thursday 19 January, 18.00 - 19.00 in Aspen 2
A Conversation with Founder Ahmad Sarmast and Afghanistan’s first female conductors, Negin Khpolwak and Zarifa Adiba

**Closing Performance**
Friday 20 January, 17.30 - 18.15 in the Congress Hall
The participation in Davos of the Afghan Women’s Orchestra is made possible thanks to generous support from Intesa Sanpaolo.

**Orchestre du Collège de Genève**
For their concerts and activities across Switzerland, including the closing concert in Davos, the Afghan Women’s Orchestra “Zohra” pair up with members of the Orchestre du Collège de Genève. The orchestra, founded in 1962 and under the direction of Maestro Philippe Beran, is dedicated to providing opportunities to perform and tour for high-school students who are aspiring professional musicians.

**Project Partners**
This touring project is made possible through the collaboration of several partners including the Afghanistan National Institute of Music, the World Economic Forum, the Ministry of Education of Afghanistan, Intesa Sanpaolo, the International School of Geneva, the Service Cantonal de la Culture de Genève, Mr. Elyass Nory, Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich, the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar, Minz GmBH, amongst others.

**More Information**
For more information about the Afghanistan National Institute of Music and to contribute to its efforts, visit http://www.anim-music.org/
To follow “Zohra’s” tour on social media, check out #zohratour

Check the programme for full details and for the confirmed schedule.
The Loft features lectures, exhibits and technologies that explore the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The sessions and experiences available in the Loft allow participants to learn through distinct modes of interaction, from experiential installations to expert talks and engaging debates.

Check the programme for full details and for the schedule of sessions.

The Loft is a two-minute walk from the Congress Centre; please take the Promenade exit and turn right.

Technology is getting better at observing, interpreting and mimicking human behaviour. Algorithms help individuals, companies and governments comprehend big data and enhance decision-making. But are we confident that technology will always be benevolent? Where is the boundary between caring and controlling? How do we politely ask our intelligent machines for a bit of privacy?

Benevolent Machine aims to bring a poetic and provocative perspective to the urgent debates on better technology governance arising with the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Partial list of installations

**Sophia**
Sophia is the latest robot creation from Hanson Robotics. She can animate all kinds of human expressions but is only starting to learn about the emotions behind those expressions. Every interaction she has makes an impact on how she develops and shapes who she will eventually become.

**Hyper-Reality**
Our physical and virtual realities are becoming increasingly intertwined. Technologies such as virtual and augmented reality, wearables and the internet of things are pointing to a world where technology will envelop every aspect of people’s lives. It will be the glue between every interaction and experience, offering amazing possibilities, while also controlling the way we understand the world. Hyper-Reality, a video by designer and filmmaker Keiichi Matsuda, explores this exciting but dangerous trajectory. It was crowdfunded and shot on location in Medellin, Colombia.

**3RNP**
A robot can be equipped with sensors that outperform the capabilities of the human eye many times over. Is how we perceive the world merely a function of how well we collect and process visual data? Will a robot interpret what it sees through the lens of its own life experience and bias? Can it empathize or judge the subjects it observes, or is what a robot sees a true reflection of reality? 3RNP – or “3 Robots Named Paul”, a work by artist Patrick Tresset, challenges the vision we have of ourselves.

**Walden, A Game**
While connecting billions of people online, technology is often accused of disconnecting us from nature and the world around us. Walden, A Game, by video-game creator Tracy Fullerton, posits a new genre of video gameplay in which reflection and insight play an important role. Become Henry David Thoreau, apply yourself to the daily tasks of maintaining the basic aspects of life at Walden Pond and focus on the deeper meaning behind events that transpire in the world.

**Moral Machine**
Why vote when your data can vote for you? The Moral Machine installation presents a future in which everything has been quantified, analysed, modelled and optimized. What is left for the people to choose? Moral Machine is a supercomputer that confronts us with ethical dilemmas, forcing us to make a compromise and decide. Will human values become window dressing in the era of big data? Can morality be left up to a machine? By the Dubai Future Foundation, creators of the Museum of the Future.

The Benevolent Machine exhibition is made possible thanks to the partnerships of several collaborators, including Tracy Fullerton, Brian Bilston, Keiichi Matsuda, Patrick Tresset, Kenichi Okada, Naoaki Fujimoto, Hanson Robotics, Emotiv, the Wellcome Trust, Science Gallery International and the Dubai Future Foundation.
Hyper-Reality

Moral Machine

Sophia
Arts and Culture in Davos 2017

Art Installations

Middle Fork
By John Grade

In the main corridor in the Congress Centre

Seattle artist John Grade created a 40-metre plaster cast of a living 150-year-old hemlock tree in Washington State in the United States. He then engaged more than 1,000 volunteers to weave the shell of a new tree from the mould, using half-million strips of reclaimed old-growth red cedar.

The making of the sculpture Middle Fork is ongoing and Davos participants are invited to participate in building the tree. After Middle Fork completes its exhibition cycle, it will be returned to the base of the tree where it was cast, left to moss over and gradually disintegrate into the forest floor.

The sculpture is a collective meditation on our relationship with nature and an invitation to find beauty in the everyday.

Middle Fork was originally featured in Wonder, an exhibition of the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington DC. Wonder celebrated the value that art museums bring to our lives as places to encounter the unexpected, lose oneself in awe and amazement, and experience wonder.

The Smithsonian Institution – the world’s largest museum, education and research complex – investigates, celebrates and shares the wonder of our cultural and natural worlds in more than 150 countries.

Learn more about the work and vision behind Middle Fork with artist John Grade in the sessions “Behind the Artist’s Idea: Middle Fork”. Meet at the sculpture in the main corridor of the Congress Centre.

Check the programme for times and full details.

Smithsonian Institution

For more information on Middle Fork, visit http://www.johngrade.com
Aerocene
By Tomás Saraceno
In the Gallery in the Congress Centre

Artist Tomás Saraceno proposes speculative alternative ways of living, and suggests floating instead of flying in a new era he has called the “Aerocene”. The Aerocene is a future beyond the Anthropocene, which is understood as our current predicament where human activity is primarily responsible for changes in the climate and the environment.

Aerocene is at once a sculpture and a mode of moving, living and being together. It is a new journey that removes our dependency on hydrocarbons, batteries and hydrogen. The Aerocene sculpture floats in the air, making the longest fossil fuel-free journey around the world, day and night, buoyed up only by the heat from the sun and the infrared radiation from the surface of the Earth. With Aerocene, Saraceno offers a space to shape a new narrative for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and for the future of our relationship with the planet.

Saraceno presents a large scale installation of Aerocene sculptures in the Gallery in the Congress Centre. Join his team at the Aerocene Space in the Gallery to map the trajectory of your fossil fuel free Aerocene journey using forecast wind data and visualization developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The project also includes the Explorer, a tethered-flight starter kit that enables communities around the world to launch their own solar sculpture and start exploring the skies. Aerocene was initiated by Saraceno and developed by the Aerocene Foundation together with many collaborators.

Learn more about the work and vision behind Aerocene with artist Tomás Saraceno in the sessions “Behind the Artist’s Idea: Aerocene”. Meet at the Aerocene Space in the Gallery of the Congress Centre.

Check the programme for times and full details.

For more information on Aerocene, visit http://www.aerocene.com/
We know that skin colour is more complex than just black and white. Angélica Dass’ *Humanæ* is a work in progress that consists of the portraits of more than 3,000 volunteers from around the globe. The background of each portrait matches the Pantone® tone extracted from a small pixel sample taken from their nose. The project is a chromatic inventory that can only be complete once every human on Earth has been photographed. At present, *Humanæ* has been in 25 cities and 16 countries.

Learn more about the work and vision behind *Humanæ* with artist Angelica Dass at the sessions “Behind the Artist’s Idea: Humanæ”. Meet at the installation located outside the Promenade Entrance of the Congress Centre.

Check the programme for times and full details.

For more information on *Humanæ*, visit http://humanae.tumblr.com/

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The Photographers
In partnership with Save the Children
Near the Humanitarian Hub in the Congress Centre

We tend to think in global terms when considering refugees and forget that they are first and foremost human beings, all different and unique.

The exhibition “The Photographers” includes images from the photography project “Inside Za’atari”, supported by Save the Children. The photographers are young refugees who have decided to show the diversity of their fellow refugees through portraits and testimonies that illustrate their fears, losses and worries, but also their hopes, aspirations, joys and dreams. By doing so, they restore the refugees’ humanity, resilience and dignity.

“We're aspiring Syrian photographers, criss-crossing the vast stretch of the Za’atari refugee camp, capturing and sharing moments of our lives.”

The Photographers

Check the programme for times and full details of the Humanitarian Hub.

For more information on “Inside Za’atari”, visit http://insidezaatari.tumblr.com/
Programme Highlights

Cultural leaders are involved in over 50 sessions across the official programme on topics ranging from populism to climate change and from technology to spirituality. Special focus within arts and culture includes:

Identity and Narratives
At a time of global divisiveness and conflict, leaders are challenged to be more responsive and responsible, and to address identity through shared narratives.

Partial List of Sessions:

The New Lead Characters
Tuesday 17 January, 16.00 - 17.00, Aspen 2 (panel session)

Pioneers in the global film and television industry have set out to tell stories that celebrate human complexity and diversity. What happens in society when global popular culture includes a more diverse group of leading characters?

The Post-Multicultural Era?
Wednesday 18 January, 09.15 - 10.15, Aspen 1 (panel session)

Multicultural and assimilation policies of integration are being challenged in this time of cultural divisiveness. How can we build a new social contract that ensures trust between people of varied backgrounds?

This session was developed in partnership with Euronews.

The Art of Dissent
Thursday 19 January, 09.15 - 10.15, Aspen 2 (panel session)

The incidence of censorship, detention and killings of artists and journalists who speak truth to power has skyrocketed around the world. What price are we willing to pay for freedom of expression?

For more information about arts and culture at the World Economic Forum:
visit www.wef.ch/culturalleaders
and https://forumblog.org

Check the programme for full details and for the confirmed schedule.
Fourth Industrial Revolution

The scale, scope, and complexity of a global technological transformation will be unlike anything humankind has experienced before.

Partial List of Sessions:

Benevolent Machine

Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 January, 15.45 - 16.15, The Loft (exhibition session)

A series of sessions with artists, scientists and ethicists on The Benevolent Machine exhibition in the Loft invites us to reflect on potential unintended consequences of emerging technology. Topics in these series include traversing the boundary between caring and controlling, virtually exploring our nature, and capturing the essence of humanity for our robotic future.

Behind the Artist’s Idea: Aerocene

Wednesday 18 January, 14.00 - 14.30
Friday 20 January, 11.30 - 12.00
Aerocene Space (exhibition session)

Join Tomás Saraceno to learn about his vision of creating a fossil fuel-free future with Aerocene, a project encompassing a series of sculptures as well as a mode of living that removes our dependency on hydrocarbons, batteries and hydrogen.

Immersive Learning with Holograms

11 sessions in the Mixed Reality Space in the Gallery of the Congress Centre (experience session)

Embark on a guided holographic exploration, from the inner recesses of the human body to the immensity of outer space. Could this be the future of learning? Participants can also visit the Mixed Reality Space outside of scheduled session times. Time slots are available every 30 minutes.

These sessions were developed in partnership with Case Western University.

Cultural Heritage

Wide-scale cooperation and action are more necessary than ever to address the catastrophic destruction of cultural heritage around the world.

Partial List of Sessions:

Safe Havens for Heritage in Wartime: Cultural Leadership in a Dangerous World

Wednesday 18 January, 14.45 - 15.45, Salon (panel session)

Efforts to provide “safe havens” for heritage under destruction in Syria bring up the thorny issue of cultural appropriation of heritage in the past as with the Parthenon Marbles or the Pergamon Altar. How can nations navigate the fine line between protection and exploitation of the cultural heritage of vulnerable states?

Developed in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution.

High Points of Civilization: A Digital Journey

Tuesday 17 January, 15.45 - 16.15,
Wednesday 18 January, 14.00 - 14.30,
Thursday 19 January, 17.30 - 18.00
The Loft (hub session)

Discover through 3D digitization some of the original manuscripts and other treasures of humanity that reveal major markers of civilization and hidden cultural linkages.

These sessions were developed in partnership with the Fondation Martin Bodmer.

Secrets Below the Surface: Incredible Archaeological Discoveries

Wednesday 18 January, 16.30 - 17.15, BetaZone (BetaZone session)

Space archaeologist Sarah Parcak takes us on a journey to discover never-before-surfaced ancient cities via satellite technology and uncover clues to humankind’s rise and fall throughout history.
The World Economic Forum, committed to improving the state of the world, is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.