

For immediate release

**MATTHEW RITCHIE – THE MORNING LINE**  
A Collaborative Structure

At the Serpentine Gallery 24-Hour Experiment Marathon  
13 – 14 October 2007

The final contribution of this year's Serpentine Gallery 24-Hour Experiment Marathon which blurs the boundaries of art and science will be an introduction to an ongoing project and an "Experimental Panel" with artist Matthew Ritchie, scientist Neil Turok, architects Benjamin Aranda / Chris Lasch, artist Olafur Eliasson, Serpentine Gallery Co-Director Hans Ulrich Obrist and Francesca von Habsburg, chairman Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary in the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007 designed by Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen.

**Serpentine Gallery Pavilion, Sunday, October 14, 2007, 12 noon**

**The Morning Line** is a newly commissioned public art project by New York based artist **Matthew Ritchie**, developed in collaboration with **Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary** as a research/ investigation for spatial models that probe interdisciplinary ideas. This is the second architectonic commission following the great success of the foundation's pilot project **Your black horizon** Art Pavilion, a collaboration between **Olafur Eliasson** and **David Adjaye** currently installed on the remote island of Lopud, near Dubrovnik in Croatia. Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary's "pavilion project" will be discussed in a preliminary panel by Francesca von Habsburg, Hans Ulrich Obrist and panelists Olafur Eliasson and Matthew Ritchie.

To design The Morning Line, Matthew Ritchie collaborated and consulted for two years with a team of architects, engineers, musicians, scientists, programmers and animators as varied as Aranda/ Lasch (architects, New York), David Adjaye (founder of Adjaye/Associates), Daniel Bosia (Arup, Advanced Geometry Unit), Bryce Dessner (founding member of bands The National and Clogs), Paul J. Steinhardt (Albert Einstein Professor in Science, Princeton University), Michael Gordon (composer and co-founder of New York's Bang on a Can Festival), Nick Roth (computer graphics supervisor) and R. Luke Dubois (algorithmic composer and co-author of the Jitter programming language) to create the possibly first semiasographic building, a structure made from an architectural language that directly expresses its content through its structure – a structure that is simultaneously generating itself and falling apart, enclosing an interactive environment inside which a possible future can be seen – and changed by the viewer.

**The Morning Line** is an anti-pavilion, not an enclosure, but an opening of space, a conversion of place into language that visualises the past and future as the indeterminate spaces and histories of quantum mechanics and string theory. The narrative references of John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, revisit the original biblical accounts of Genesis and the Fall from the perspectives of Satan, God, Eve and Adam.

**The Morning Line** serves as a large outdoor performance and audience/visitor area, which is covered by an interlocking system of variable modules that provide both seating and performance area, and seamlessly form an auditorium/landscape/ruin. Sensors register the movement of anyone in the space and convert their presence into voice, image and sound. The structure contains a non-linear narrative that can be read as the circuit of creation, sometimes called the tree of life, a common interpretive model in several major cultures; including our own. Read another way it broadly corresponds to recent epikyrotic or cyclical models of brane theory proposed by Turok and Steinhardt.

#### **'A New Universal' / Experiment Proposal**

As the final contribution of this year's Serpentine Gallery 24-Hour Experiment Marathon in the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007 by Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen, and in partnership with Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Matthew Ritchie will be revisiting some of the underlying questions leading to the conception of *The Morning Line*. Together with scientists Neil Turok, architects Benjamin Aranda / Chris Lasch, and artist Olafur Eliasson 'A New Universal' will be addressing following questions: Is it possible to graphically describe a universe with more than three dimensions? If it is: can a physical structure be built to represent that description?

An **interactive 4D tabletop model** of the Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary anti-pavilion will be presented as a theoretical operating environment/tool kit for the discussion.

#### **Speakers confirmed for the final panel:**

Matthew Ritchie, artist, New York

Neil Turok, Chairman of Mathematical Physics, Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England

Benjamin Aranda and Chris Lasch, architects, Aranda / Lasch, New York

Olafur Eliasson, artist, Berlin

Hans Ulrich Obrist, Co-Director, Exhibitions and Programmes Director of International Projects, Serpentine Gallery, London

Francesca von Habsburg, Chairman, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna

### **Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary**

Founded in Vienna in 2002 by Francesca von Habsburg, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary represents the fourth generation of the Thyssen family's dedication to the arts. Committed to supporting the production of contemporary art and actively engaged in commissioning and disseminating unconventional projects that defy traditional disciplinary categorizations, the foundation sustains a far-reaching regional and international orientation and explores modes of presentation that are intended to broaden the way viewers perceive and experience art. In addition, it shares its collection and commission with numerous museums and public institutions.

Collaborations have also been a focus of the foundation's work, namely with the New York Public Art Fund, Art Angel and Wiener Festwochen. In 2006, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary organized an itinerant exhibition – **Küba: Journey Against the Current** – that travelled on a barge up the Danube River through seven countries.

Within the next few years, and in collaboration with local partners, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary aims to place a number of pavilions in carefully selected locations around the world. Artworks, specially commissioned from emerging and established international artists, will rotate around these global locations to create a new and constantly regenerating network of contemporary art. **Your black horizon Art Pavilion** on the Croatian Island of Lopud is open to the public until October 31, 2007.

### **Serpentine Gallery 24-Hour Experiment Marathon**

**Project Introduction and "Experimental Panel" with Matthew Ritchie, Neil Turok, Benjamin Aranda / Chris Lasch, Olafur Eliasson, Hans Ulrich Obrist and Francesca von Habsburg**

**Sunday, October 14, 2007, 12 noon**

**Serpentine Gallery Pavilion  
Kensington Gardens  
London W2 3XA**

#### **Marathon times:**

Saturday 13 - Sunday 14 October, 2007

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007 by Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen

Nearest Tube Stations: South Kensington or Lancaster Gate

**For full listings and tickets please visit: [www.serpentinegallery.org](http://www.serpentinegallery.org)**

**To book contact: Tel 08700 600100 or [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk),**

**Serpentine Gallery Lobby Desk: T +44 207 402 6075**

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# T-B Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary A21

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