

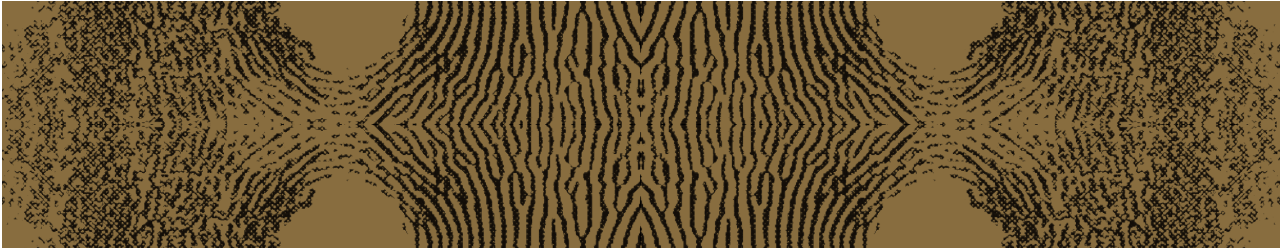
Soft Hair

MARCOS LUTYENS

CURATED BY CHIARA VECCHIARELLI

September 4TH

October 30TH 2021



47 rue de Montmorency - 75003 Paris
Opening: Saturday, September 4th, 3pm
Opening hours: Tu-Sat 11am - 7pm

Black holes have no hair - scientists have long thought. Until recently, from a black hole we could know the mass, to some extent the electric charge and even the angular momentum when they did not belong to the static kind, but any other property, any additional information about a body entering a black hole seemed to be forever lost, locked up or disappeared beyond the threshold that astrophysicists call the event horizon. To an outside observer, black holes appeared to be completely bald, with not even a particle escaping from their edge, until something like soft hair - as defined by Stephen Hawking, the very author of the no-hair theorem, along with Perry and Strominger - appeared on their surface. Something like a radiation of energy carried by gravitational waves seemed at last to whisper what had never been audible.

What if something of our consciousness could also vibrate around us, after being encrypted like the internal information of a black hole, on the surface of a sphere? Couldn't art bring to the surface, perhaps trace, as in a hologram, the information necessary to access our inner universe? How to make visible the singularity of the knowledge of others? And what is the form of wisdom? Is there a way to make tangible what seems elusive? These are the questions Marcos Lutyens wishes to articulate with the Soft Hair project, which opens at the Alberta Pane Gallery on September 4.

Black holes are said to be the most extreme astrophysical laboratories in the universe. Soft Hair temporarily transforms Alberta Pane's Paris gallery into a Research Center for Consciousness, inviting philosophers, physicists, biologists, botanists, writers, and other resonant minds to engage in a process of inductive meditation designed to transfer onto the soft surface of a wax sphere that will later be cast in bronze, something of the shape of their own universe. Inspired by the Magic Sphere of Helios, an archaeological artifact found buried near the Acropolis in Athens, bearing mysterious symbols and instructions on its surface, Marcos Lutyens reinvents the tradition of portraiture. Flattened in the age of selfies and social networks, the portrait, which seemed to have lost its thickness, regains depth through the surface, through an operation that goes to the cosmos to return to our planet loaded with a sample of the knowledge of black holes, and finally draw only a line to allow us to find the path to the inner cosmos.

On view in the gallery space, immersed in a quadrant of blue, red, yellow and blue, are four spheres carrying on their surface the encounter with Antoine Danchin, a scientist working in genomics, synthetic biology and bioinformatics, researching genome evolution at the crossroads between the living and artificial intelligence; Catherine Malabou, philosopher, who developed the concept of plasticity that she drew from philosophy and neuroscience; K Allado-McDowell, a writer, musician and AI researcher who is currently leading Google's Artists and Machine Intelligence program; Carlo Rovelli, a leading physicist in Loop Quantum Gravity and a philosopher of science who deals extensively, in his research, with the physics of black holes.

Chiara Vecchiarelli

Marcos Lutyens

Born in 1964 in London, UK, Marcos Lutyens now lives and works in Los Angeles, USA.

Lutyens' art practice aims at the psychic and emotional well-being of his audience by skillfully leading participants through hypnotic exercises that touch the deepest levels of their psyche. His work takes the form of installations, sculptures, drawings, short films, writings and performances.

In his explorations of consciousness, Lutyens has collaborated with renowned neuroscientists like V. Ramachandran and Richard Cytowic, while studying with shamans from different cultures. Based on these investigations and research, he has worked with the unconscious states of visitors in museums, galleries and biennials around the world.

Lutyens was invited by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York to be the lead artist for the opening performance of Culture Summit 2019. Lutyens has exhibited in many leading museums and art exhibitions around the world, including the Royal Academy of Arts, Centre Pompidou, National Art Museum of China, Documenta, and biennales in Venice, Istanbul, Liverpool, and São Paulo. During the COVID-19 health crisis, Lutyens created a series of 12 performances on Zoom to help in the healing process of people in various countries around the world, and is currently working on COVID-19 nationally with his work *Rose River Memorial*, which has been exhibited at various sites in the United States, most recently the Orange County Museum of Art.

Lutyens has exhibited internationally at numerous museums, galleries, and biennials, including the Havana Biennial (2019) and as the Guggenheim's guest lead artist at CultureSummit Abu Dhabi 2019, at the Frye Museum, Seattle (2018), Miró Foundation, Barcelona (2018), Main Museum, Los Angeles (2018), National Museum of Art, Latvia (2018), 33rd São Paulo Biennial (2018), Guggenheim Museum, New York (2017), The Armory, New York (2017); Boghossian Foundation, Brussels (2017), Palazzo Fortuny, Venice (2017), La Monnaie de Paris (2017), Palazzo Grassi, Venice, (2017), 55th and 57th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition (2013 & 2017), Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool (2016); 14th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul (2015); MoMA PS1, Queens (2014); National Art Museum of China, Beijing (2014); dOCUMENTA(13), Kassel (2012); Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2010); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2010 & 2014); Royal Academy of Arts, London (2010); 7th Venice Architecture Biennale (2000).