

## Barbican Centre

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# barbican

### Rain Room

Random International

The Curve, Barbican Centre, London, UK

Admission Free

Media View, 10am – 1pm, Wednesday 3 October  
4 October 2012 – 3 March 2013

*The exhibition is supported by Arts Council England.*

*Rain Room has been made possible through the generous support of the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation for Art*

Known for their distinctive approach to digital-based contemporary art, **Random International**'s experimental artworks come alive through audience interaction. Their largest and most ambitious installation yet, **Rain Room** is a 100 square metre field of falling water for visitors to walk through and experience how it might feel to control the rain. On entering The Curve the visitor hears the sound of water and feels moisture in the air before discovering the thousands of falling droplets that respond to their presence and movement. **Rain Room** opens in The Curve on 4 October 2012.

**Kate Bush, Head of Art Galleries, Barbican Centre**, said: *The Curve has previously played host to guitar-playing finches, a World War II bunker and a digital bowling alley. Random International have created a new work every bit as audacious and compelling - Rain Room surpasses all our expectations.*

At the cutting edge of digital technology, **Rain Room** is a carefully choreographed downpour – a monumental installation that encourages people to become performers on an unexpected stage, whilst creating an intimate atmosphere of contemplation. The work also invites us to explore what role science, technology and human ingenuity might play in stabilising our environment by rehearsing the possibilities of human adaptation.

**Random International** said: *Rain Room is the latest in a series of projects that specifically explore the behaviour of the viewer and viewers: pushing people outside their comfort zones, extracting their base auto-responses and playing with intuition. Observing how these unpredictable outcomes will manifest themselves, and the experimentation with this world of often barely perceptible behaviour and its simulation is our main driving force.*

Finding a common purpose as students at the Royal College of Art, **Random International** was founded in 2005 by Hannes Koch, Florian Ortkrass and Stuart Wood. Today the studio is based in Chelsea – with an outpost in Berlin – and includes a growing team of diverse talent. With an ethos of experimentation into human behaviour and interaction, they employ new technologies in radical, often unexpected ways to create work which also draws on op art, kinetics and post-minimalism.

**Random International** have gained international recognition, inspiring audiences from broad multidisciplinary interests. A breakthrough work of 2008, *Audience*, marked **Random**'s first installation with audience participation. Motorised mirrors disconcertingly respond to human activity in their midst in inquisitive, synchronized movements, with the viewer becoming both active agent and subject of the piece. *Swarm*, a light work of 2010, emulates the behaviour of birds in flight: the sound created by the presence of visitors causes the abundant individual light sources to respond in swarm-like formations. With *Future Self*, new commission by MADE Berlin in 2012, the studio explores the direct interaction of the viewer with the full body image of the self, represented in light in three-dimensions.



The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre

Other notable commissions include *Reflex*, a large scale light installation that inhabited the windows of London's Wellcome Trust for one year, and the studio's scenography for Wayne McGregor's production, *FAR*, presently on world tour. *Random International's* kinetically responsive sculpture *Fly* was premiered at the last Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, while intelligent light installation *Swarm Study / III* is on display permanently at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

*Random International* are represented by Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London and Paris. An overview of their work, *Before the Rain*, is on show in Paris 8 September – 21 December 2012. Prior to this they have exhibited at Tate Studio at Tate Modern, Pinakothek Der Moderne, Munich and Museum of Modern Art, New York. They have won a number of awards including Designer of the Future 2010, Prix Ars Electronica – Honourable Mention, CR – Creative Futures Award, Wallpaper\* Award and were listed in the Observer's Top Ten Creative Talent in the UK. Earlier works form part of the permanent collections at the Frankel Foundation for Art, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

## EVENTS

**Wayne McGregor | Random Dance, with a score by Max Richter**

**Sunday 18 November, 2 December, 20 January, 24 February. 2 – 5pm at regular intervals**

A new short dance intervention created in response to Random International's *Rain Room*

The Curve, Barbican Centre. Audiences will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Admission Free. Visit [barbican.org.uk](http://barbican.org.uk) for more details.

## ENDS

### Notes to Editors

#### Press Information

For further press information, photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact

Barbican Art Gallery Press Office:

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### Public Information

The Curve, Barbican Art Gallery, London

Opening times: Daily 11am – 8pm and every Thursday LATE until 10pm

Closed 24, 25 and 26 December

Public information: 0845 120 7550 / [www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery](http://www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery) / Admission free

*It is possible you may get slightly wet. Flat shoes advisable.*

### Barbican Weekender: Natural Circuits

#### Connect to your creative side over two days of free digital activity

3 - 4 November 2012 / 12:00, Barbican Foyers

*Rain Room* is part of the *Barbican Weekender*, two days of free digital activity for all ages. The Theme *Natural Circuits* celebrates the influence of digital technology on the arts and the combined force of nature and human creativity. The lively programme will include interactive installations, performances and drop-in workshops for anyone and everyone willing to try something new.

### The Curve

The Curve is the Barbican's free exhibition space that wraps around the back of the Concert Hall. Launched in May 2006, Curve Art is a series of new commissions in which contemporary artists respond to the distinctive architecture of the space. Artists who have previously made new commissions for The Curve are Tomas Saraceno (Argentina); Richard Wilson (Britain); Jeppe Hein (Denmark); Marjetica Potrc (Slovenia); Shirana Shahbazi (Switzerland/Iran); Hans Schabus (Austria); Huang Yong Ping (France/China); Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (Mexico/Canada); Peter Coffin (United States of America); Clemens von Wedemeyer (Germany); Robert Kusmirowski (Poland), Céleste Boursier-Mougenot (France); John Bock (Germany), Damián Ortega (Mexico), Cory Arcangel (USA), Junya Ishigami (Japan) and most recently Song Dong (China).

### Barbican Art Gallery

One of the leading art spaces in the UK, Barbican Art Gallery presents the best of international visual art with a dynamic mix of art, architecture, design, fashion and photography. From acclaimed architects to Turner prize-winning artists, the Gallery exhibits innovators of the 20th and 21st centuries: key players who have shaped developments and stimulated change.

### About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](http://barbican.org.uk) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Our creative learning programme further underpins everything we do. In 2012 we celebrate the Olympic year with many of our projects forming part of the Cultural Olympiad and [London 2012 Festival](http://london2012festival.org.uk) – it is also our 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday year. Over 1.5 million people pass through our doors annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. Our architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, the Pit, Cinema One (with [Cinemas Two and Three](#) opening in Beech Street in September 2012), Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants.

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