



Search
wallpaper.com

Search

Wallpaper*

*DESIGN INTERIORS FASHION ART LIFESTYLE



Home 01 Gallery 02 Video 03 Architecture 04 Interiors 05 Fashion 06 **Art 07** Travel 08 Cars 09 Lifestyle 10 Technology 11 Events 12 Subscribe 13

Art

Subscribe to Wallpaper* magazine

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier, Paris

ART

By Damon Syson

Mathematicians have a tendency to wax lyrical about the 'beauty' and 'elegance' of their discipline. For the most part, this is a tricky concept for the layman to grasp. The enigmatic glamour of prime numbers, for example, is beyond the ken of most of us. But Mathematics: A Beautiful Elsewhere - a new exhibition at the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain - aims to translate the mysterious allure of maths to a wider audience, with a little help from artists like [David Lynch](#), [Patti Smith](#) and [Takeshi Kitano](#).



[See more from the 'Mathematics: A Beautiful Elsewhere' exhibition at Fondation Cartier](#)

The exhibition, developed in association with the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHÉS), takes visitors on a journey through mathematical thought, guided by six of its most prominent figures: Sir [Michael Atiyah](#), [Alain Connes](#), [Nicole El Karoui](#), [Misha Gromov](#), [Cédric Villani](#) and [Don Zagier](#) - world authorities in fields such as number

INFORMATION

[Read about 'Beat' Takeshi Kitano's show at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain last year](#)

[See W*139 guest editor David Lynch's 'Darkened Rooms' exhibition at Comme des Garçons' Six gallery in Osaka](#)

Event dates

21 October 2011 to 18 March 2012

Website

<http://www.fondation.cartier.com>

Telephone

33.1 42 18 56 50

Address

Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain
281, boulevard Raspail
75014 Paris

Bookmark

[Digg](#)
[Delicious](#)
[Reddit](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Stumbleupon](#)

-

[Print this item](#)

[Subscribe to Wallpaper*](#)

[Wallpaper* News feed](#)

[Add Wallpaper* Widget](#)

theory, algebraic geometry, differential geometry and probability.

These eminent eggheads have been invited to come up with new ways of 'seeing, hearing, doing, thinking and interpreting mathematics'. But while there's no doubting the superiority of their grey matter, the assumption is that they might need a hand when it comes to making themselves understood to the average maths dunce.

To help them communicate their brain-meltingly complex ideas, Fondation Cartier has teamed these experts up with eight artists - [Jean-Michel Alberola](#), [Raymond Depardon](#) and Claudine Nougaret, Takeshi Kitano, David Lynch, [Beatriz Milhazes](#), [Patti Smith](#) and [Hiroshi Sugimoto](#) - with the goal of translating aspects of their subject into tangible experiences in a range of media.

David Lynch, for example, has created a structure in the shape of a zero to accommodate Misha Gromov's Library of Mysteries, which provides a retrospective of the major events in the history of mathematics via an audiovisual installation.

Lynch also contributed to 'Ergo-Robots/Flowers Fields: Artificial Curiosity and Language', an interactive installation that sees a 'tribe' of robotic figures emerging from an egg and then exploring their environment, learning new skills and communicating with their human visitors. The robots' heads, which Lynch designed, have a distinct touch of Eraserhead about them.

Arguably the most germane of all the exhibition's installations, however, is Hiroshi Sugimoto's graceful sculpture, a hyperbolic form entitled 'Surface of revolution with constant negative curvature' - which poses the thorny question underpinning this entire project: how can mathematical abstraction be represented visually?



Wallpaper*

*DESIGNINTERIORSFASHIONARTLIFESTYLE

- Home 01
- Gallery 02**
- Video 03
- Architecture 04
- Interiors 05
- Fashion 06
- Art 07
- Travel 08
- Cars 09
- Lifestyle 10
- Technology 11
- Events 12
- Subscribe 13

Gallery

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



Mathematics: A Beautiful Elsewhere is a new exhibition at the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain in Paris. Bringing together prominent mathematicians and well-known artists like Takeshi Kitano and David Lynch, the show aims to take visitors on a visual journey through mathematical thought. This piece, titled 'O Paraiso', is by Beatriz Milhazes

01 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

ART 21 OCT 2011

RELATED LINKS

Read the article: Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier, Paris

BOOKMARKS

[Tweet](#) 1 [Like](#) 18

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



'Fireplace' is an animated film created for the exhibition by David Lynch

02 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



A still from 'Fireplace'

03 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

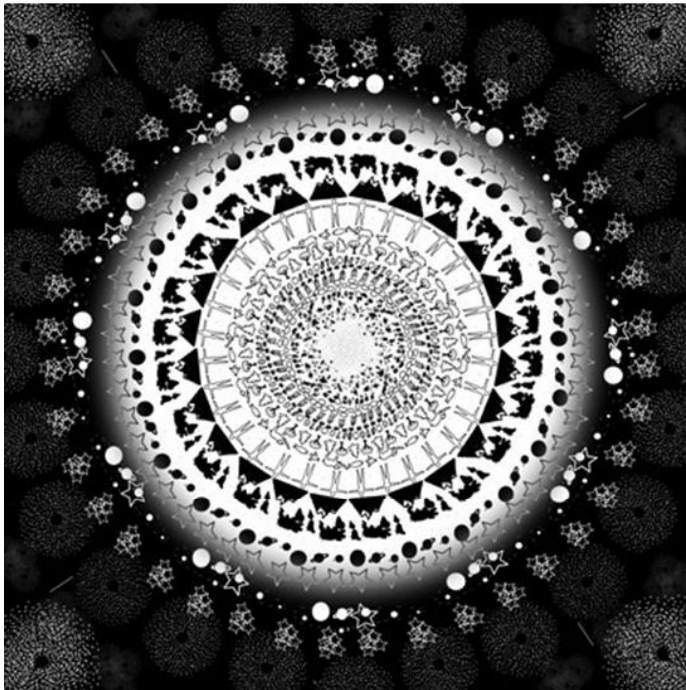
Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



A still from 'Fireplace'

04 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

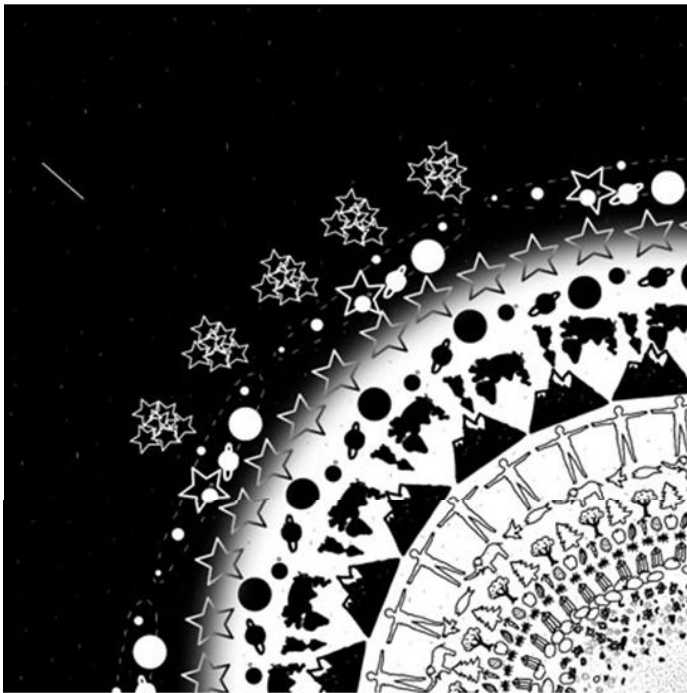
Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



'Galaxy' is a second animated film created for the exhibition by David Lynch

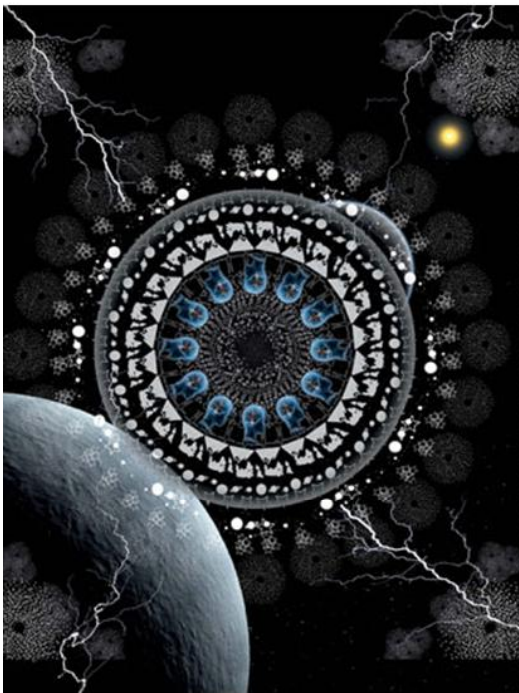
05 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



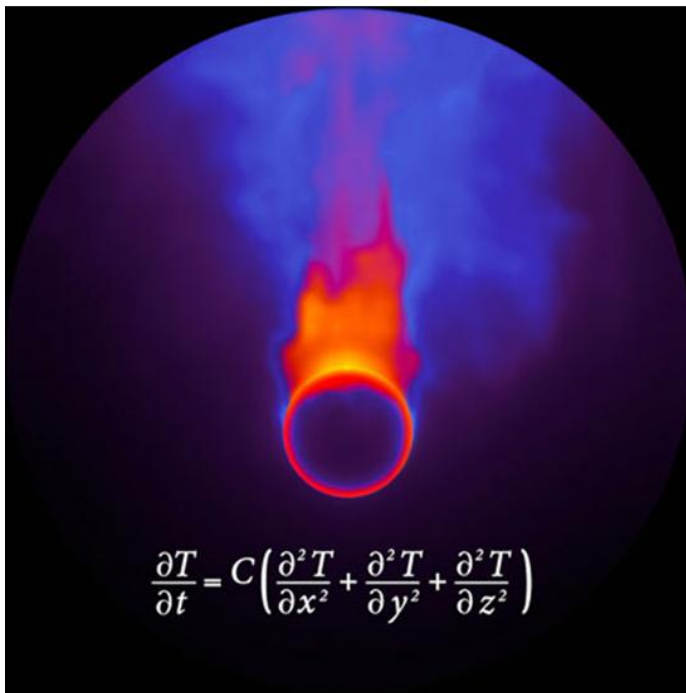
Still from 'Galaxy'

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



Still from 'Galaxy'

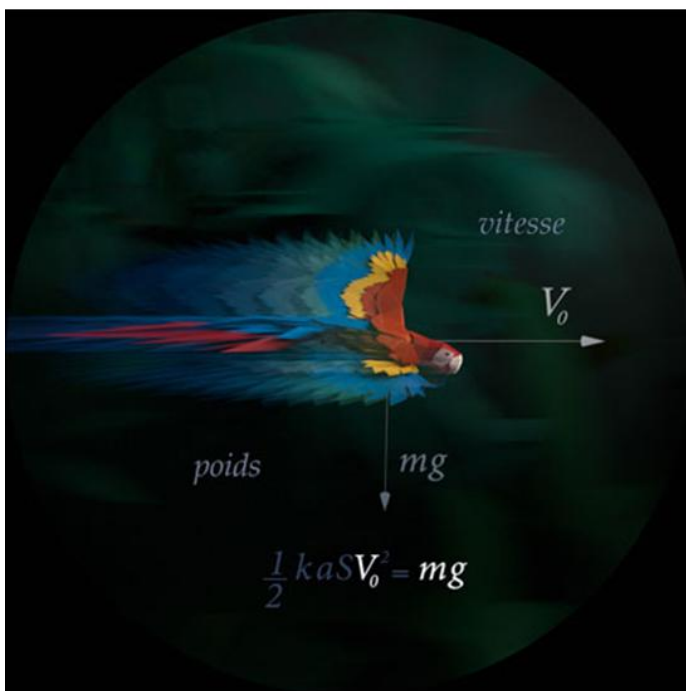
Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



A still from the film 'Mathematical paradises', by Beatriz Milhazes, depicting Heat Diffusion (Fourier's equation)

08 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

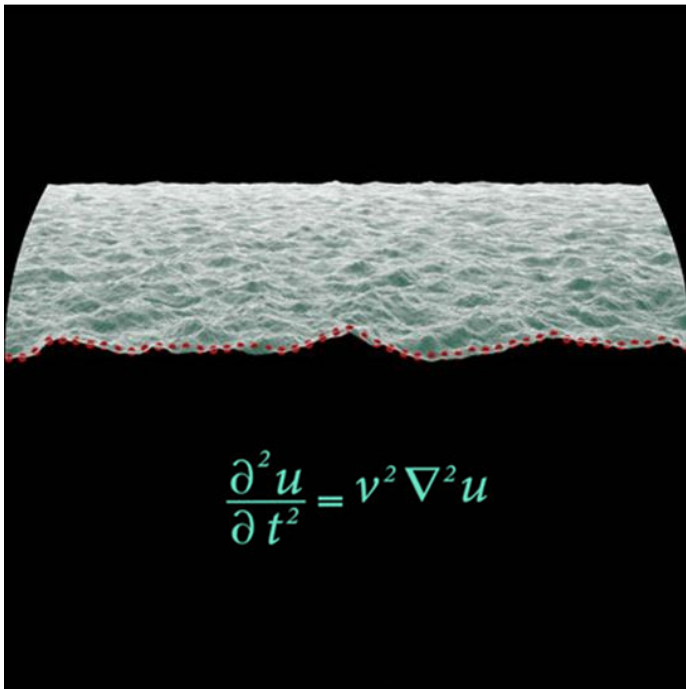
Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



A still from the film 'Mathematical paradises', by Beatriz Milhazes, depicting Bird Flight (Bernoulli's principle)

09 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



A still from the film 'Mathematical paradises', by Beatriz Milhazes, depicting Sea Waves (wave equation)

10 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



Hiroshi Sugimoto's aluminum and mirror sculpture 'Conceptual Form 011: Surface of revolution with constant negative curvature' poses the question: how can mathematical abstraction be represented visually?

11 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



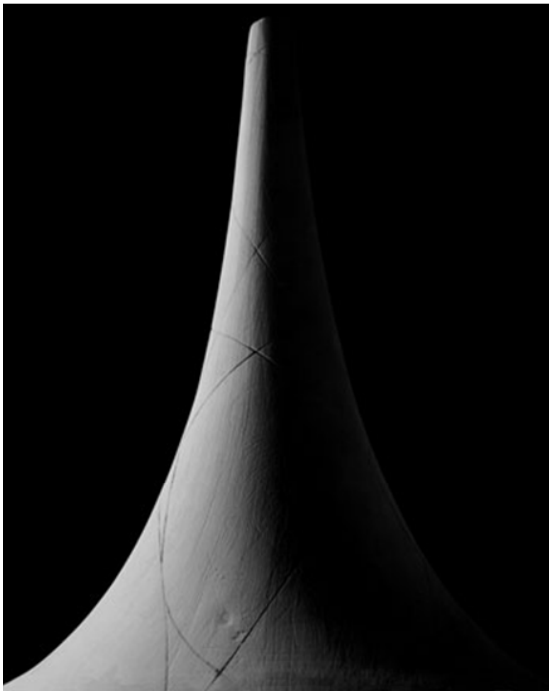
'Conceptual Form 011: Surface of revolution with constant negative curvature' by Hiroshi Sugimoto

12 of 17

[Prev / Next](#)

[Start Slideshow](#)

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



'Conceptual Form 011: Surface of revolution with constant negative curvature' by Hiroshi Sugimoto

13 of 17

[Prev / Next](#)

[Start Slideshow](#)

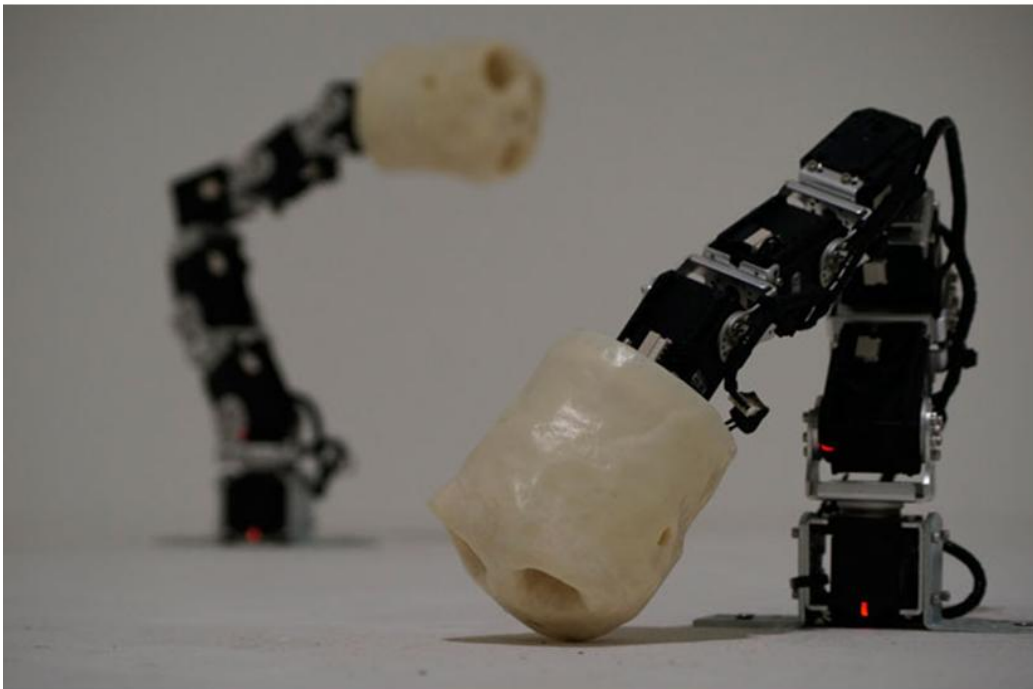
Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



Ergo-Robots/Flowers Fields: Artificial Curiosity and Language' - an interactive installation that sees a 'tribe' of robotic figures emerging from an egg and then exploring their environment, learning new skills and communicating with their human visitors

14 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



Coordinated by Pierre-Yves Oudeyer, the 'Ergo-Robots/Flowers Fields' project came about as the result of an encounter between Oudeyer, mathematician Mikhail Gromov and David Lynch. It was realised by INRIA Flowers in collaboration with University of Bordeaux

15 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



Ergo-Robots/Flowers Fields' explores fundamental questions about the nature of humans and machines. Based on recent advanced models of autonomous learning inspired by human infant development, the robots progressively acquire new skills, discover ways to communicate, and organise their own culture.

16 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)

Mathematics exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain



David Lynch designed the heads and the environment of the Ergo-robots - with inspiration, we imagine, from his cult 1977 film Eraserhead.

17 of 17 [Prev / Next](#) [Start Slideshow](#)