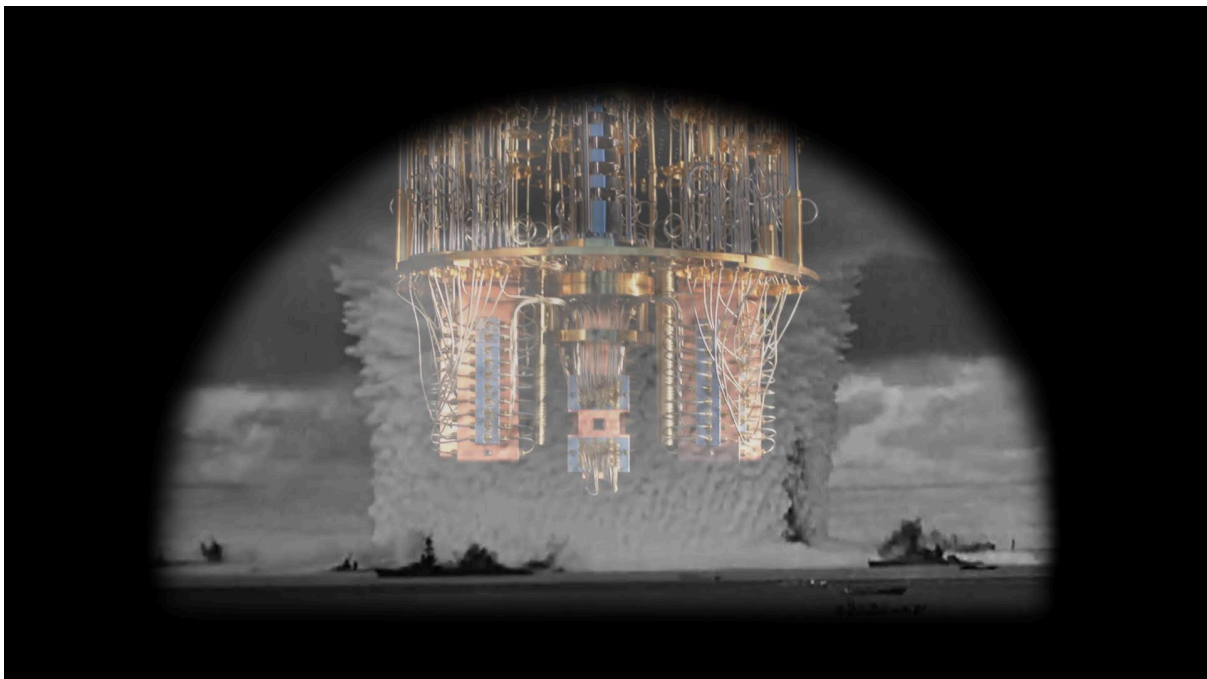




**SMAC San Marco Art Centre, the pioneering new arts institution in Piazza San Marco, Venice, announces *The Quantum Effect*, an exhibition co-curated by Daniel Birnbaum and Jacqui Davies and produced by SMAC and OGR Torino**

**5 September – 23 November 2025**



Jacqui Davies, Time Forks Perpetually Towards Innumerable Futures. In One Of Them I Am Your Enemy (2025), Film Still.

**Venice** – SMAC, the pioneering new arts venue in the heart of Venice, which opened earlier this year is pleased to announce that the second exhibition, *The Quantum Effect*, co-curated by Daniel Birnbaum & Jacqui Davies, will open to the public on 5 September 2025. SMAC's exhibition programme is realised in collaboration with world-class institutions and curators, and this exhibition is produced by SMAC and OGR Torino, a culture and innovation hub in a vast former railway repair building. *The Quantum Effect* explores spatial and temporal paradoxes introduced by

quantum theory: parallel universes, time travel, teleportation, supersymmetry and dark matter. The exhibition will include works by some of today's most prominent artists woven into a cinematic narrative using imagery from contemporary science and from the worlds of science fiction and pop culture.

Birnbaum and Davies combine artworks, scientific experiments, quantum mechanical equations, and science fiction to create a total quantum effect across 1,000 sq m of exhibition space. The curation draws conceptually on Raymond Roussel's seminal 1914 novel *Locus Solus* with its account of eight miraculous *tableaux vivants* taking place in a glass architecture. Taking a cue from quantum realities, the exhibition signals new creative possibilities where objects and roles can be both one thing and seemingly incompatible others. Besides works by artists such as Dara Birnbaum, Isa Genzken, Ilya Khrzhanovskiy, Jacqui Davies, Jeff Koons, Mark Leckey, and Marcel Duchamp/Man Ray, *The Quantum Effect* displays curator-made elements - "entangled" cinematic collages of puzzling glimpses from the world of quantum theory and computing, as well as "Science Fiction", an alternative quantum timeline that, true to the show's theme, questions the notion of linear time and the nature of reality.



Jeff Koons, *One Ball Total Equilibrium Tank* (1985), Copyright Jeff Koons  
Mark Leckey, *To the Old World (Thank You for the Use of Your Body)* (2021-22).  
Courtesy the Artist and Cabinet, London

SMAC's exhibition space is comprised of 16 galleries, arranged along a continuous corridor that stretches over 80m. *The Quantum Effect* will centre around Isa Genzken's mirror room *Oil VII* (2007). From this central point, the exhibition unfolds symmetrically, with galleries to the left and right experienced as parallel states, as if the show is happening simultaneously in multiple realities. It will in effect become possible for viewers to live in one of many possible worlds as they progress through the exhibition's "supersymmetrical" layout.

**Daniel Birnbaum & Jacqui Davies, Co-Curators of The Quantum Effect:** *"Just as the paradoxical nature of quantum disrupts our understanding of reality, we have produced an exhibition which challenges the nature and meaning of things: artworks, films, scientific experiments, quantum theories and their symbolic representations. Even the discreet roles of curator, producer and artist are upended, with curator-conceived experiment-installations and interventions exhibited alongside acclaimed artists' works. At times, fact and fiction become blended, key quantum protagonists re-animated and traditional timelines become "Science Fiction". Extraordinarily, in this world, Davies is commissioned as artist, making works which instrumentalise science fiction cinema, popular culture, social media and more, constructing audio-visual portals between the worlds of art, cinema, science, philosophy and magic."*



Dara Birnbaum, *Technology/Transformation: Wonder Woman* (1978-79)  
Courtesy of Dara Birnbaum and LUX, London

**Anna Bursaux, David Gramazio and David Hrankovic, Co-Founders, SMAC:**

*“SMAC’s exhibition programme continues to shed light on the unexpected with The Quantum Effect, which has been conceived by the curators Daniel Birnbaum & Jacqui Davies. Providing a bridge between the worlds of science, art and cinema, The Quantum Effect highlights the research, dialogue and experimentation that define SMAC’s curatorial vision. As with each of the exhibitions at SMAC, The Quantum Effect is realised through a collaborative approach and on this occasion is produced by SMAC and OGR Torino.”*

### **Exhibition highlights**

According to the exhibition’s mirror-like structure, each work will appear with a twin –sometimes an almost identical doppelgänger.

Highlights include two works by Tomás Saraceno from the Hybrid Webs series, which present spiderwebs contained within vitrines. The artist views the structure of the world as a web interwoven with sensory experiences that combine and collide to encourage communication across the creatures that inhabit our galaxy.

Mark Leckey’s *To the Old World (Thank You for the Use of Your Body)* (2021-22) is a film installation that captures its protagonist as they crash through the screen of a bus stop. The glass acts as an invisible membrane through which they transition from one world into another.

*One Ball Total Equilibrium Tank* (1985) is an iconic early work by Jeff Koons. A basketball hovers in a case, suspended between two states made possible due to the fact that everything contained within the glass has the same density. Koons worked with the quantum theorist Richard Feynman to bring the piece into existence.

*Technology/Transformation: Wonder Woman* (1978-79) by Dara Birnbaum depicts the superheroine in moments of teleportation, her spinning body changing state from her everyday character to the superhuman power she was known as, as she transitioned easily from one dimension to another.

John McCracken’s otherworldly objects are reminiscent of the enigmatic monolith in Stanley Kubrick’s *2001: A Space Odyssey* and were described by the artist as the kind of work that could have been brought to earth by a U.F.O.

Ilya Khrzhanovskiy’s *DAU*, which began as a fictional feature film about Russian scientist and Nobel Prize winner Lev Landau, became a unique, multidisciplinary, and ever-evolving project. The exhibition will include never-before-seen *DAU* Physics films where real contemporary physicists debate quantum theory within the historic conditions of Landau’s Soviet laboratory.

Man Ray’s 1923 photograph of Marcel Duchamp lying behind his first glass work, *“Glissière contenant un moulin à eau (en métaux voisins) (Glider Containing a Water Mill [in Neighboring Metals])”* (1913–15), is formally echoed in film works throughout the exhibition.

Jacqui Davies uses the semi-circular glider shape to frame her cinematic interventions that use found footage from science fiction cinema, music and visual culture and imagery of quantum computers. They are seen, as it were, through Duchamp's first glass object.

Duchamp's influence continues throughout the exhibition, with Sturtevant's *Duchamp descendant l'escalier* (1992) depicting the artist in multiple places and states simultaneously.

SMAC opened to the public in Venice in May 2025, launching to coincide with the Architecture Biennale, with monographic exhibitions dedicated to the pioneering careers of the Australian modernist architect Harry Seidler and Korea's foremost landscape architect Jung Youngsun. SMAC's location on the second floor of the Procuratie in Piazza San Marco has been made possible due to a landmark agreement with Generali, the owner of the building. Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate David Chipperfield was commissioned to restore the entire building, which opened to the public for the first time in 500 years in 2022, reimagined as a hub of social inclusion and culture.

The third floor of the Procuratie hosts The Home of The Human Safety Net, with the interactive exhibition 'A World of Potential', an immersive journey in which visitors are led to discover their strengths and can connect to the Foundation's programmes. Interactions between The Home of The Human Safety Net and SMAC enable further synergies at the intersection of art and social impact, in the development of initiatives for the local and global community, and in the creation of new partnerships.

*With special thanks to Ulf Danielsson, Professor of Theoretical Physics and Secretary of the Nobel Committee for Physics, who is the special science advisor for The Quantum Effect.*

[CLICK HERE FOR HIGH-RES IMAGES](#)

#### **EXHIBITION CREDIT**

*The Quantum Effect* is co-curated by Daniel Birnbaum & Jacqui Davies and produced by SMAC and OGR Torino

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

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Procuratie, Piazza San Marco 105  
30124 Venice

Open from Wednesday to Monday, 10am - 6pm (closed Tuesdays)

Tickets and more information at [www.smac.org](http://www.smac.org)



### **About Daniel Birnbaum & Jacqui Davies**

Daniel Birnbaum is a curator and writer based in London. He was the director of Moderna Museet in Stockholm and curator of the 2009 Venice Biennale. He is currently professor of philosophy at the Städelschule in Frankfurt.

Jacqui Davies is an award-winning producer and curator, working at the intersection of art and cinema, and director of the production company Primitive Film, London. She has produced over 80 films and curated across art and cinema, site-specific commissions, stage and television.

Since 2023, Birnbaum and Davies have developed a unique collaborative practice. Their trans-disciplinary methodologies of exhibition production juxtapose historical materials with artworks and elements from cinema, literature, music, science and cutting-edge digital experimentation, including immersive technologies and mixed realities. Presented in a wide variety of institutional contexts, their projects have explored all forms of artistic production, dissemination, and transmission, both ancient and contemporary.



### **About SMAC San Marco Art Centre**

SMAC is a new centre for the Arts in the heart of Venice. Every year SMAC presents a dynamic and vibrant program of exceptional exhibitions across all of visual culture. Situated in one of the most iconic locations in the world, SMAC is located at the Procuratie on Piazza San Marco, recently renovated by Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate David Chipperfield. SMAC presents an ambitious program across art, architecture, design, fashion and film, offering opportunities for discovery for specialists and the general public alike. SMAC focuses on content that sheds light on the unexpected, that challenges conventions and poses rigorous questions. Through research, dialogue, and experimentation, SMAC critically examines contemporary visual culture and its relations with history, science, philosophy, and society. SMAC believes that the Arts open new possibilities for human co-existence and allow for cities and communities to thrive.



### **About OGR Torino**

OGR Torino is a unique cultural and technological innovation hub dedicated to experimentation across disciplines and dialogue between arts and emerging technologies. Former late 19th century train repair workshops, now an industrial archaeological heritage site, it stands in the heart of Turin on area of 35,000 square metres to activate new horizons for collaboration, creativity and conviviality. Since 2017, OGR Torino has welcomed visitors with contemporary art exhibitions, major concerts, and opportunities to engage deeply and explore contemporary culture from multiple perspectives. To date, it has commissioned and produced solo exhibitions and site-specific projects by world-renowned artists and

performers, such as William Kentridge, Tino Seghal, Susan Hiller, Mike Nelson, Monica Bonvicini, Arthur Jafa, Sarah Sze, Cyprien Gaillard, as well as music shows and DJ set by Kraftwerk, Alva Noto, New Orders, Pixies, Interpol, Robert Plant, Godspeed You! Black Emperor, Grant Marshall aka Daddy G, among many others.

[ogrtorino.it](http://ogrtorino.it)

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