

PRESS RELEASE

SURFACE TENSION: THE FUTURE OF WATER

The 6.775 billion people currently occupying this planet rely on exactly the same 1% of available freshwater as every previous generation, how can our planet's natural systems sustain this and what does this tension mean for our future? Will the next global conflict be over water resources? Should water be treated as a commodity, or as a public good, and how should it be managed?

SCIENCE GALLERY

Pearse Street, Trinity College, Dublin
October 21, 2011 – January 20, 2012
www.sciencegallery.com

Water is both disposable and sacred, a source of healing and a source of conflict. Science Gallery's new major exhibition, SURFACE TENSION, gathers work by artists, designers, engineers and scientists that explore the future of water, playing on its physical properties, its role in politics and economics, and ways in which it may be harnessed, cleaned, and distributed.

SURFACE TENSION: THE FUTURE OF WATER at Science Gallery, Trinity College Dublin opens on October 21st, with a VIP preview on October 20th. Running for three months the exhibition features innovative artworks, events, and a lab in the gallery, all of which explore the complex tensions surrounding the future of water. Visitors to this free-entry exhibition are invited to bring a water sample from their locality, participate in the exhibits, join the discussion and explore their own water footprint. Key exhibits include a water lab where you can investigate water quality of samples you bring to the gallery and an exhibit produced by IBM Smartlab and Dublin City Council, which will visualize water use in Dublin city in real time. Additional exhibits by world-renowned artists will include Petroc Sesti, Julius Popp, David Holden and Fergal McCarthy.

The future of water is the subject of tension. In Ireland, all domestic water has been supplied free from the public main since water charges were abolished in 1997 - now water charges and metering are set to return. In the developing world, the privatisation of water has been the cause of social unrest. In the Middle East, access to water is used as weapon in political conflict. Developing technologies such as desalination plants promise to increase the amount of drinkable water available to us – but in doing so may cause other environmental damage.

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

Among the many water-themed exhibits, events, workshops, and interactive experiences, exhibition highlights include:

- An open-source prototype for a robotic swarming sailing ship that could clean up oil spills in the future
- Umbilical filters, artificial insemination kits and precocious puberty dolls, all responding to rising levels of chemicals and hormones in our drinking water
- A water pump that requires the same amount of energy to fill a plastic bottle as would go into producing it – approximately 3 hours of pumping per liter; 1,000 times more energy than would be required for tap water
- Artist Fergal McCarthy will swim across Dublin from south to north via the city's many and varied waterways. A film that documents his journey will be screened throughout the exhibition
- A project by TCD researchers and Dublin-based illustrator Chris Judge that explores the future of washing

EVENTS

A dynamic series of events and workshop will complement the exhibition and include talks on water and innovation, water and aid, and "peak water". There will also be a one-off performance by artist Mary Coble who, in a feat of endurance, will filter and tell the stories of water samples collected from all over Dublin.

ENDS

ABOUT SCIENCE GALLERY

Science Gallery is a world first – since opening in early 2008 over 750,000 people have experienced 16 exhibitions ranging from light to love, from sustainability to infections, Science Gallery aims to transform curious minds through science – creating dynamic intersections where science and art collide.

Science Gallery recently received the 2011 Shorty Award for Best Cultural Institution on Twitter globally adding to its awards including European Museum of the Year Award – Special Commendation 2010 and National IT award for best use of technology in education, 2009.

Science Gallery is an initiative of Dublin's leading research university, Trinity College Dublin and is kindly supported by the Wellcome Trust (founding partner) and DELL, Google, ICON and Paccar (Science Circle supporters). Science Gallery receives government support from Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport and Science Foundation Ireland.

www.sciencegallery.com

LISTINGS INFORMATION

EXHIBITION: SURFACE TENSION: The Future of Water
VENUE: Science Gallery, Pearse Street, Trinity College, Dublin 2.
DATES: Friday October 21, 2011 – Friday January 20, 2012.
TIMES: Tues – Fri 12-8pm, Sat & Sun 12-6pm. Closed Mondays.
ADMISSION: Free with a suggested donation of €5.
WEBSITE: www.sciencegallery.com

EXHIBITION PUBLICITY

For further information images, or interviews, please contact:

<Shaun O'Boyle>

Marketing & Communications Team

SCIENCE GALLERY

Pearse Street, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland.

T: [+353 1 896 4197](tel:+35318964197)

M: [+353 86 770 7343](tel:+353867707343)

E: marketing@sciencegallery.com