

# Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Virtual reality installation *We Live in an Ocean of Air* makes its Asian debut at ArtScience Museum

*In Singapore after its sold-out London show, this groundbreaking multi-sensory experience by Marshmallow Laser Feast explores unseen connections between people and nature*



**SINGAPORE** (9 May 2022) – Visitors to ArtScience Museum will soon be able to take a captivating multi-sensory journey through the ecosystem of a vast forest in its upcoming virtual reality installation, *We Live in an Ocean of Air*. Opening on 28 May 2022, this first-of-its-kind experience in Singapore will be housed within the Museum’s permanent VR Gallery.

*We Live in an Ocean of Air* is by Marshmallow Laser Feast (MLF), one of the world’s leading experiential art collectives. As pioneers in immersive experiences, their latest project transports visitors across the globe to Sequoia National Park, California – a forest filled with giant sequoia trees.

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*We Live in an Ocean of Air* is a 12-minute-long immersive experience where visitors are invited to follow their breath through the forest, discovering the inner life of a giant sequoia tree. In this stunning multi-sensory experience, state-of-the-art technology including breath sensors and heart rate monitors, visualise the human cardiovascular system as a pulsing red glow and transcribe visitors' breath as a cascade of particles. The resulting artwork is an extraordinary, yet meditative, encounter that illuminates the invisible, yet fundamental, connection between humans and the natural world.

Prior to its Asian debut in Singapore, *We Live in an Ocean of Air* premiered in 2018 at The Saatchi Gallery in London for a sold-out run, which was extended twice due to popular demand.

"The opening of *We Live in an Ocean of Air* by MLF in our VR Gallery is a landmark event for ArtScience Museum. Bringing one of the world's leading art collectives working with virtual reality and extended reality technologies to Singapore to present one of their most ambitious works has long been a dream for our team. This installation is truly multi-sensory, showcasing the very frontiers of immersive experience. It combines virtual reality, breath sensors, monumental projection, surround sound, scent, and special effects. It is an artwork that fundamentally connects people with nature, by revealing the invisible ecosystems that we live within, reminding us of the importance of conserving forests for our collective future," said Honor Harger, Vice President of Attractions at Marina Bay Sands.

Visual artist Ersin Han Ersin, one of Marshmallow Laser Feast's three creative directors, added, "Through this and other creations, we strive to repair a broken connection with nature through art. Humanity is dependent on the natural world for everything – from food to water to air we breathe. We want to channel our audience into an understanding of our interconnectedness by placing them in the centre of these ecosystems."

## **A Multi-Sensory Experience**

Forged at the intersection of art, science, and technology, *We Live in an Ocean of Air* seamlessly blends the digital world with the physical space through a unique combination of technologies. Visitors to the installation will be given a personal rig consisting of a VR headset, heart rate monitor, breath sensors and a body tracking device, that will give them the freedom to roam around and interact with the space untethered. Through the use of large projection screens, participants will be welcomed into the heart of the virtual forest before further exploration reveals the full scope of its scale.

The addition of binaural sound, scent dispersal systems, and wind machines will enhance the environment to provide a multi-sensory experience beyond audio and video. Each session accommodates a group of six people, allowing for an individual as well as a collective experience.

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*We Live in an Ocean of Air* builds upon earlier award-winning multi-sensory experiences by MLF including *In the Eyes of an Animal*, which showcases a 360° vision of a forest from the perspective of animals and insects, and *Treehugger*, where the inner circulatory system of a tree is visualised through the journey of water from its roots up to its leaves. In *We Live in an Ocean of Air*, the interconnected exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide that is shown to occur between plant and animal, encourages participants to contemplate their dependence on – and responsibility towards – other living things in the natural world.

Located on Level 4 of ArtScience Museum, *We Live in an Ocean of Air* also launches alongside a new cinema space as part of a holistic offering that will extend visitors' experience across different mediums. The opening film programme titled *We Tread in a Garden of Spells* has been specially curated to complement the installation, with a wide variety of works exploring the theme of environmentalism through cinematic magic-realism. Tickets are now available for booking at <https://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/events/garden-of-spells.html>.

*We Live in an Ocean of Air* will run from 28 May 2022 to 2 October 2022.

## **Tickets and Reservations**

Tickets can be purchased at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and online from 9 May.

It is strongly recommended that guests pre-purchase tickets online in advance, due to limited capacity of the venue and timed entry to the installation.

Participants will be required to wear a backpack weighing 5kg for up to 20 minutes. The experience is not accessible to individuals below 120cm in height.

Ticket prices as follows:

	<b>STANDARD TICKET (SGD)</b>	<b>SINGAPORE RESIDENT (SGD)</b>
<b>Adult</b>	19	16
<b>Concession</b>	14	12

The following time slots are available daily: 10:40am, 10:50am, 11:20am, 11:30am, 2pm, 2:10pm, 2:40pm, 2:50pm, 3:20pm, 3:30pm, 4pm, 4:10pm, 4:40pm, 4:50pm, 5:20pm, 5:30pm

Visitors are advised to adhere to all precautionary measures implemented at ArtScience Museum. Hand sanitisation and the wearing of masks will be mandatory for all visitors before they enter the VR Gallery. As part of the visit, each visitor will also receive a sanitised VR headset, backpack PC, and wrist tracker. Contact surfaces and materials will be sanitised after each session.

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For more information on *VR Gallery: We Live in Ocean of Air*, visit <https://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/exhibitions/we-live-in-an-ocean-of-air.html>

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## **About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd**

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, over 2,000 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants, a theatre and an outdoor event plaza. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com](http://www.marinabaysands.com).

## **About ArtScience Museum**

ArtScience Museum is a major cultural institution in Singapore that explores the intersection between art, science, technology and culture. It is the cultural component of Marina Bay Sands. Since its opening in February 2011, ArtScience Museum has staged large-scale exhibitions by some of the world's major artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, M.C. Escher, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as exhibitions that explore aspects of science and technology – including particle physics, big data, robotics, palaeontology, marine biology and space science. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html](http://www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html)

## **For media enquiries on ArtScience Museum**

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## **About Marshmallow Laser Feast**

Marshmallow Laser Feast (MLF) is a leading art collective that seeks to create immersive experiences and expand perceptions by exploring connections with the natural world. Fusing architectural tools, contemporary imaging techniques and performance with tactile forms, MLF sculpt spaces that lay dormant until animated by playful investigation. Informed as much by playfulness as research, MLF breaks the boundaries to worlds beyond our senses.

## **For media enquiries on Marshmallow Laser Feast**

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For hi-res images, please click [here](#). (Credit images as indicated in the captions)

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## ANNEX I

### Marshmallow Laser Feast



*Marshmallow Laser Feast Group Portrait*

London-based arts collective Marshmallow Laser Feast (MLF) creates immersive experiences that expand perception and explore our connection with the natural world by illuminating the hidden natural forces that surround humanity.

Their art practice combines a wide range of disciplines, including sculpture, installation, live performance, and mixed reality. By fusing architectural tools, contemporary imaging techniques and performance with tactile forms, MLF sculpts spaces that lay dormant until animated by playful investigation. Informed as much by playfulness as research, MLF break the boundaries to worlds beyond our senses.

MLF has designed and directed for the likes of the critically acclaimed debut of *We Live in an Ocean of Air* at Saatchi Gallery in collaboration with Natan Sinigaglia and Mileece l'Anson, and *In The Eyes Of The Animal*, which was nominated for the Design of the Year by Design Museum Beazley Awards and won the Wired Innovation Award (2016). Most recently, MLF attained the Tribeca Film Festival Storyscapes Award for Innovation in Storytelling and Best VR Film at VR Arles Festival for *TreeHugger*. MLF's works have been exhibited around the world including Lisbon Triennial, Sundance Film Festival New Frontier, Tribeca Film Festival Storyscapes, Istanbul Design Biennial, London, New York, and Shanghai.

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## ANNEX II

### Visitor Advisories

- VR experiences are not recommended for individuals under 10 years of age or individuals with claustrophobia, a history of seizures, epilepsy, and/or sensitivity to flashing lights.
- For safety purposes, pregnant ladies should consult with a doctor prior to the VR experience.
- If participants do not feel well during the experience, they are advised to take off the headsets and raise their hand immediately.
- This experience includes scent, designed to enhance one's experience of the installation. These scents have been certified as in compliance with the standards of the International Fragrance Association, for the way they are used in this experience. Certification and safety data sheets are kept on site and available on request.
- For the experience to be enjoyed at its best quality, subtitles will not be provided.