



Haroon Mirza: Aestival Infinato (Solar Symphony 11) Media Release



3 June–2 July 2017

Deer Shelter Skyspace

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) presents *Aestival Infinato (Solar Symphony 11)*, 2017, a new sound and light sculpture by internationally acclaimed artist Haroon Mirza in the James Turrell *Deer Shelter Skyspace*. *Aestival Infinato (Solar Symphony 11)* is part of the artist's ongoing *Solar Symphony* series and will be open to visitors over the summer solstice as part of YSP's 40th anniversary celebrations.

Mirza's *Solar Symphonies* are solar-powered sculptures and wall works that generate electronic audio compositions and LED light which changes according to the level of natural light to which they are exposed. Mirza will fix a photovoltaic panel to one wall of the *Skyspace*, which will be activated as direct sunlight tracks across the space, emitting sound and light through LEDs and speakers. The light and sound are brighter, louder and faster-moving with fiercer sun and vice versa, creating a direct relationship and interaction between the changing environment and artwork.

Mirza has been familiar with YSP for some years and *Aestival Infinato (Solar Symphony 11)* was conceived as a response to the *Deer Shelter Skyspace*, taking its name from the old English word for summer and playing on the word 'infinite'. It extends the language of land

Haroon Mirza, *Sunlight Infinato (Solar Symphony 5)*, 2014. Photovoltaic Panel, LEDs, circuitry, speaker, plywood, TV mount. Courtesy hrm199 and Lisson Gallery. Photographer Jack Hems

art, referencing a long history of human creativity in relation to the sun, of channeling its power, and giving it a shape and voice. Sited within the *Skyspace, Aestival Infindato (Solar Symphony 11)* is a multi-layered sensory experience that is given another layer of complexity by being in the *Skyspace*, created by another contemporary artist. Mirza often combines and layers the work of other artists with his own and has previously responded to works by Jean Tinguely, Alexander Calder and Anish Kapoor.

Mirza is recognised for installations that test the interplay and friction between sound and light waves and electric current. He devises kinetic sculptures, performances and immersive installations, such as *The National Pavilion of Then and Now* (2011), an anechoic or echoless chamber with a circle of light that grows brighter in response to an increasing drone noise, and becomes completely dark when there is silence.

An advocate of interference (in the sense of electro-acoustic or radio disruption), Mirza creates situations that purposefully cross wires. He describes his role as a composer, manipulating electricity – a live, invisible and volatile phenomenon – to make it dance to a different tune and calling on varied instruments to behave differently – including household electronics, vinyl and turntables, LEDs, furniture, video footage and existing artworks. Processes are left exposed and sounds occupy space in an unruly way, testing codes of conduct and charging the atmosphere. Mirza asks us to reconsider the perceptual distinctions between noise, sound and music, and draws into question the categorisation of cultural forms.

Mirza will take part in an in-conversation event on 24 June 2017 with Dr Suchitra Sebastian, Lecturer in Physics at the Maxwell Centre and Director of the Cavendish Arts-Science Project, University of Cambridge.

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Haroon Mirza was born in London in 1977 where he lives and works. He has a BA in Painting from Winchester School of Art, an MA in Design Critical Practice and Theory from Goldsmiths College (2006) and an MA in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art and Design (2007). Recent solo exhibitions include: Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC, Canada (2017); Summerhall Festival 2016, Edinburgh, UK; Pivô, São Paulo, Brazil (2016); Nam June Paik Center, Seoul, South Korea (2015); Matadero, Madrid, Spain (2015); Museum Tinguely, Basel, Switzerland (2015); Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland (2014); Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye, Poissy, France (2014); IMMA, Dublin, Ireland (2014); Le Grand Café, Saint-Nazaire, France (2014); and The Hepworth, Wakefield, UK (2013). His work was included in the 7th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale, China (2012) and the 54th Venice Biennale, Italy (2011), where he was awarded the Silver Lion. He was awarded the Northern Art Prize in 2011, the DAIWA Foundation Art Prize in 2012, the Zurich Art Prize in 2013, the Nam June Paik Art Center Prize in 2014 and the Calder Art Prize in 2015.

ABOUT YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2017. It is an independent charitable trust and registered museum (number 1067908) situated in the 500-acre, 18th-century Bretton Hall estate in West Yorkshire. Founded in 1977 by Executive Director Peter Murray, YSP was the first sculpture park in the UK, and is the largest of its kind in Europe, providing the only place in the world to see Barbara Hepworth's *The Family of Man* in its entirety alongside a significant collection of sculpture, including bronzes by Henry Moore, and site-specific works by Andy Goldsworthy, David Nash and James Turrell. YSP also mounts a world-class, year-round temporary exhibitions programme including some of the world's leading artists across five indoor galleries and the open air. Recent highlights include exhibitions by Not Vital, KAWS, Bill Viola, Anthony Caro, Fiona Banner, Ai Weiwei, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Amar Kanwar, Yinka Shonibare MBE and Joan Miró. YSP's core work is made possible by investment from Arts Council England, Wakefield Council, Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation and Sakurako and William Fisher through the Sakana Foundation. YSP was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2014. y.sp.org.uk

Twitter and Instagram: @YSPsculpture / #YSP / #HaroonMirza

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