



Right To The Night NI Science Festival, Girdwood Community Hub

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Right To The Night

NI Science Festival, Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast, 2024, Curated By Household



Right To The Night
a project about light pollution by Aisling O'Beirn

Thurs 15th Feb Girdwood Community Centre
as part of
Northern Ireland Science Festival

3-5pm - Immersive film & exhibition
5.30-7pm - talks & discussions

Book at www.nisiencefestival.com
All Welcome Free Event

  **Belfast City Council** A Household Project supported by Belfast City Council

Right To The Night is an ongoing project addressing the impact of light pollution in Belfast and was part of the NI Science Festival in Girdwood Community Centre, North Belfast. The event, an exhibition, screening and talk brought together artists, astronomers and environmentalists to raise awareness of light pollution in the city and build communal activism about who has a right to the night sky. This is part of a longer campaign to set up an advocacy group to raise awareness and campaign through artistic means.

An immersive film mapping a year of views of the night sky was projected on the ceiling of a dome kindly supplied and installed by W5. The dome sat in the hall along with a range of related sculptural objects and 2 sets of drawings laid out on tables.

The animation imagery came from the set of 24 drawings of the night sky that were laid out on tables in the exhibition. The other set of drawings focus on key terminology on light pollution from a glossary produced by DarkSky International.

The film invited the audience to stargaze by following a 12 month hand drawn star almanac, representing stars and planets that should be visible in the northern hemisphere, with views looking north and south for each month, but are not due to light pollution. Soundtrack by guineapig with thanks to TONN Recordings.

Visitors were able to drop in and out through the course of the day to lie on the star sculptures and experience the animation in the dome. The screening dome was surrounded by display boards/tables with related drawings and sculptures.

All photographs Simon Mills. Supported by Belfast City Council, projection dome courtesy of W5

<https://www.aislingobeirn.com/righttothenight.html>

<https://www.householdbelfast.co.uk/artists-in-neighbourhoods-all/project-three-77d9m>



Installation shot with projection dome drawings and sculptures, photograph Simon Mills



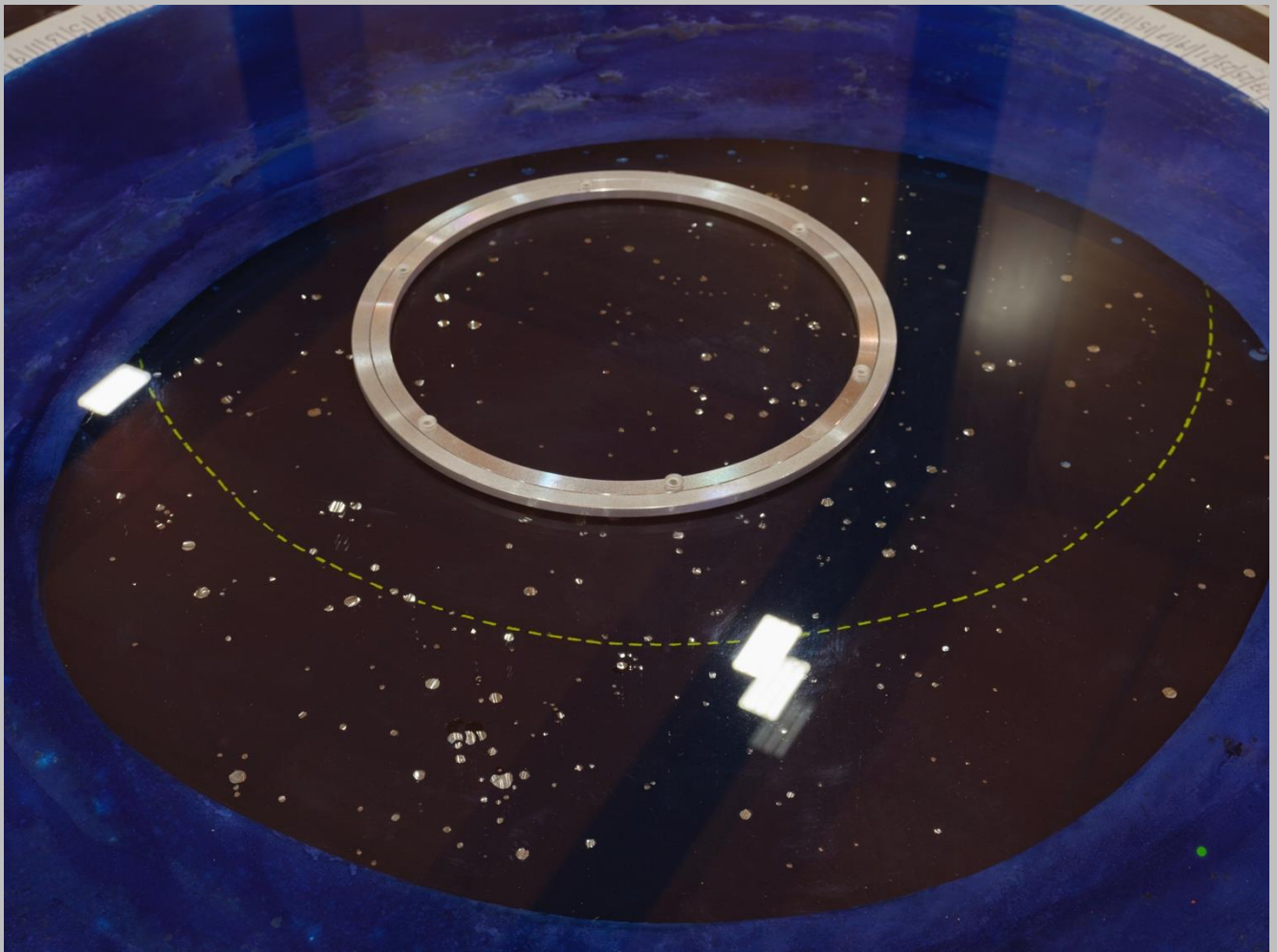
Installation shot with projection dome and planisphere photograph Simon Mills



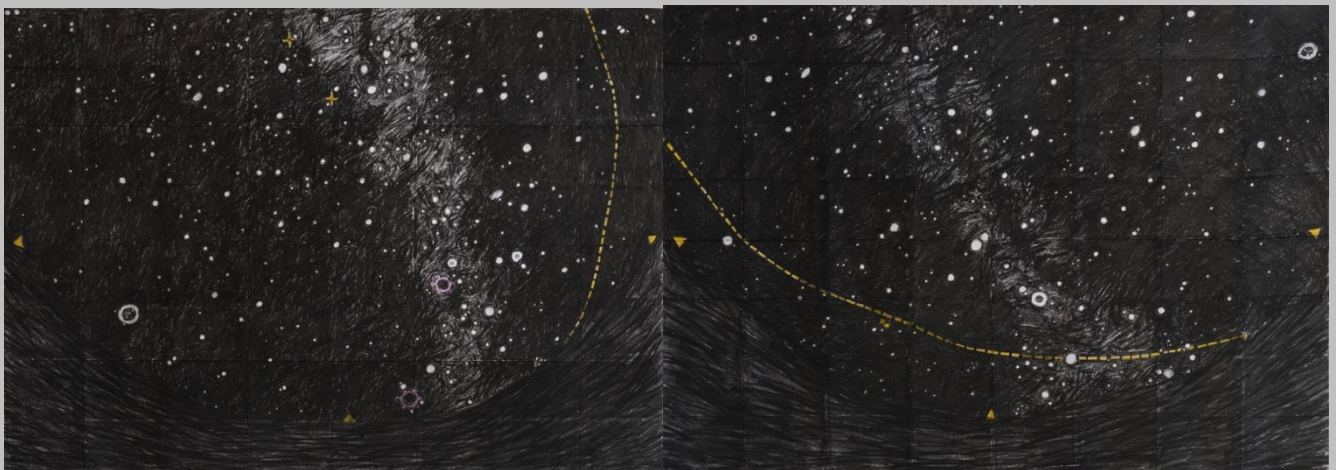
Immersive 360 degree projection inside dome photograph Simon Mills



Installation shot with wall projection of Structures animation, photograph Simon Mills



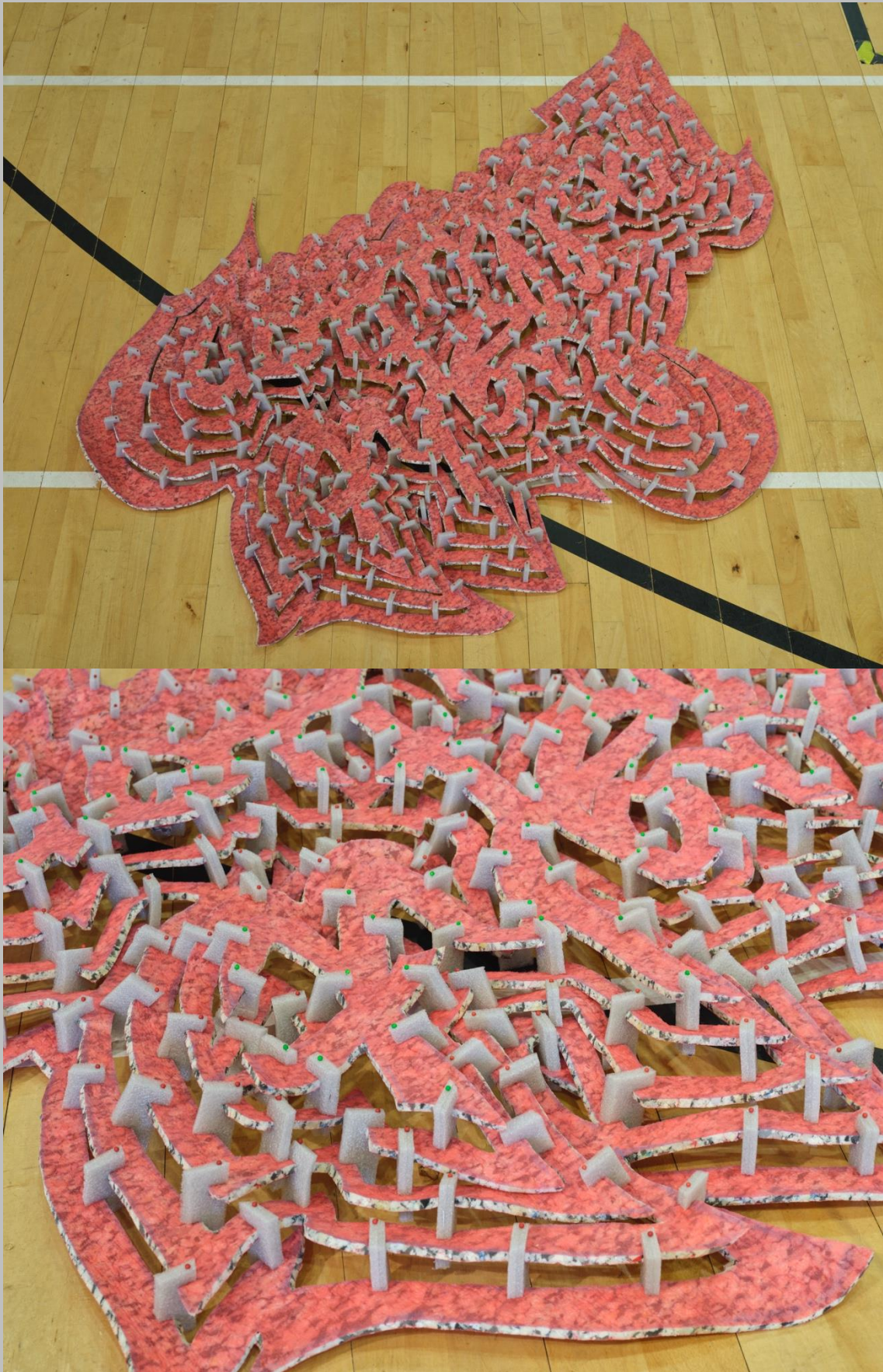
Detail of Planisphere, photograph Simon Mills



Second Hand Nightscares, 2024, Set of 24 charcoal drawings made from a stargazing almanac, mapping a year of the Night Sky seen from the Northern Hemisphere, photograph Simon Mills



Stars, The Ultimate Recycling Plants, 2003 ongoing selection of sculptures, recycled clothing, dimensions variable, photograph Simon Mills



Light Pollution, carpet underlay, foam & dressmaker pins, 150 co x 100 co x 20 cm, 2002, photograph Simon Mills



Light Pollution Glossary, 2023, Set of 99 A5 ink drawings of a glossary of light pollution terms from DarkSkies International, photograph Simon Mills

Right to the Night Talks Programme NI Science Festival, Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast, 2024, Feb 2024 5:30pm -7.00 pm Curated By Household

An interdisciplinary talks programme with speakers addressing the core question: How do we access the night sky in Belfast, and how can citizens get involved?

5:35pm - Household intro to Aisling and the speakers, overview of Creative Commission project and work with BCC, and run through of speaker schedule

5:40- 5:50pm - Aisling intro, brief overview of project and key aims of *Right to the Night*

5:50-6:05 - Terry Moseley, Irish Astronomical Association

6:10- 6:25 - Dr. Oliver Dunnett Queen's University Belfast

6:25-6:45 - Questions/open to audience

6:45 - Closing remarks & Call to action: how you can get involved