



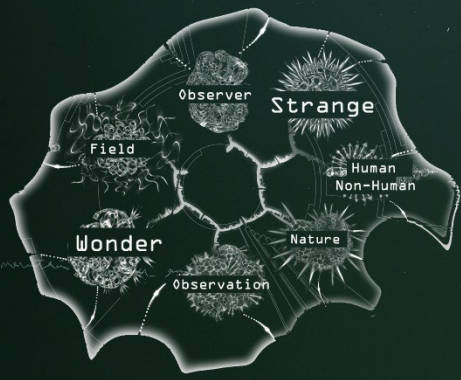
In a Mirror, Darkly:

Reading Observation through
Wonder and the Strange
in Fundamental Physics

Rohini Devasher

- 2 Control system
- Rotation + Translation
- Nixjo arrows ↔ Logo

file on the monitor



WONDER

THE STRANGE

ASTRONOMY

SPECULATIVE

AMATEUR ASTRONOMY

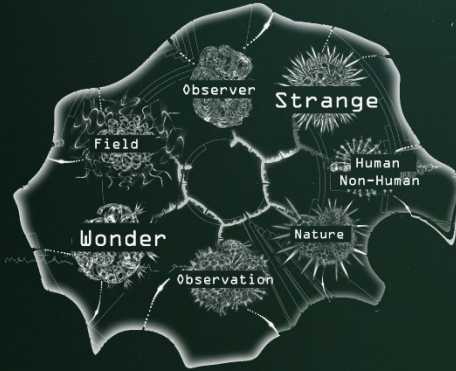
WEIRD/HORROR

OBSERVATIONS

EMERGENT SYSTEMS

THE OBSERVER

CHAOS



VIDEO-FEEDBACK

FIELD

TRANSITIONAL

SITE

ZONES

DATA

- 2 Central system
- Rotation + Translation
- Nixja arrows ↔ Logo

“Wonder energises the hope of transformation, and the will for politics. Wonder, as an affective relation to the world, is about seeing the world that one faces and is faced with 'as if' for the first time. What is the status of the 'as if'?”

To see the world as if for the first time is to notice that which is there, is made, has arrived, or is extraordinary. Wonder is about learning to see the world as something that does not have to be, and as something that came to be, over time, and with work.

As such, wonder involves learning.”

Ahmed Sara. *“The Cultural Politics of Emotion”*



ATMOSPHERES

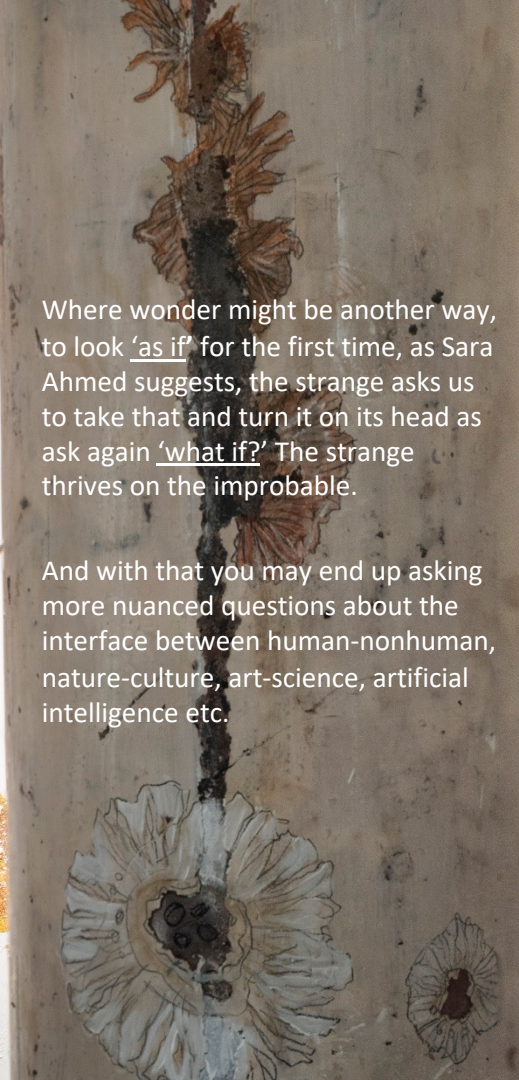
single channel video | 7 mins | 2015 single channel video | 7 mins | 2015

Installation view at the Bhau Daji Lad Museum Mumbai, image credit Anil Rane, courtesy Bhau Daji Lad Museum, 2015



Where wonder might be another way, to look 'as if' for the first time, as Sara Ahmed suggests, the strange asks us to take that and turn it on its head as ask again 'what if?' The strange thrives on the improbable.

And with that you may end up asking more nuanced questions about the interface between human-nonhuman, nature-culture, art-science, artificial intelligence etc.

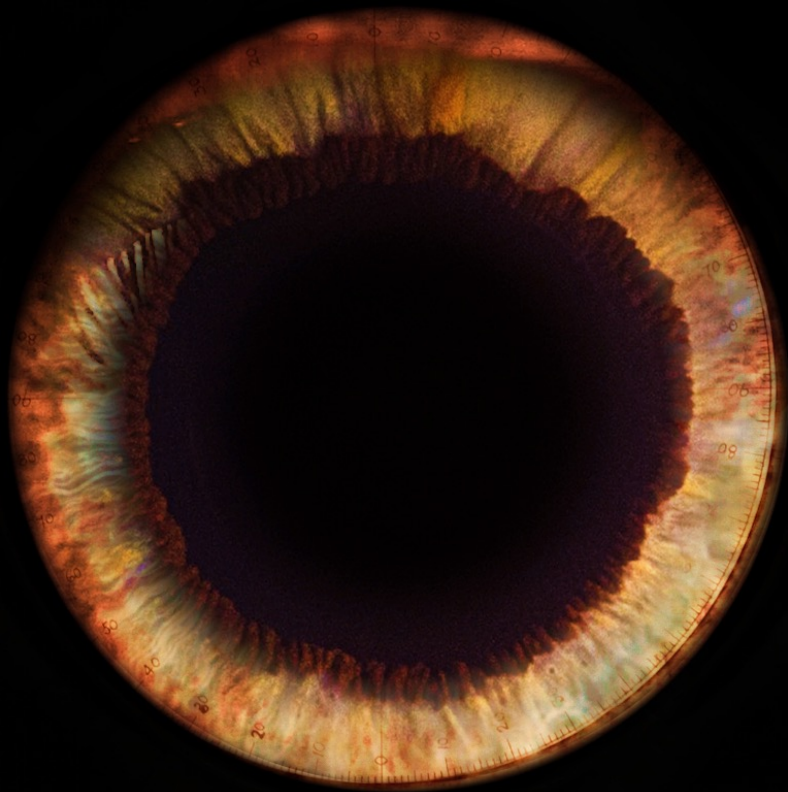


GENETIC DRIFT: SYMBIONT II

Colour pencil, pan pastel, acrylic paint, charcoal, dry pastel, print on vinyl, on wall

33.5 x 12.8 feet , 2018

Image credit Anil Rane, courtesy the artist and Project 88, Mumbai

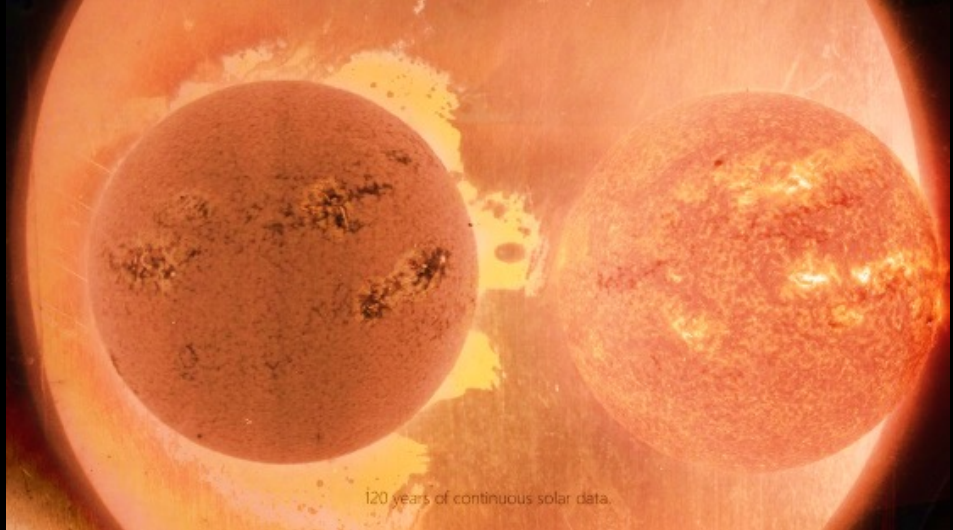


One Hundred Thousand Suns

Video still | four channel synced video | 2023 | duration 20 minutes.



The Solar Tunnel Telescope (left) and the H-alpha telescope (right) at KSO. Image credit Rohini Devasher courtesy Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore and the Kodalkanal Solar Observatory.
Le télescope tunnel solaire (à gauche) et le télescope H-alpha (à droite) au KSO. Crédit d'image Rohini Devasher avec l'aimable autorisation de l'Institut indien d'astrophysique de Bangalore et de l'Observatoire solaire de Kodaikanal.



Paradigm 3: Site

A history of the site as it was and as it stands today. The Kodaikanal Solar Observatory was established in 1899 as a Solar Physics Observatory, and it took over the observational activities of the Madras Observatory, founded by the British East India Company in 1786 to promote the knowledge of Astronomy, Geography and Navigation in India.

Paradigm 4: Eclipse

The Sun underground during the eclipse, in the middle of the Observatory's Solar tunnel telescope which uses a 60 cm diameter plane mirror mounted on 11 m tall tower platform to direct sunlight into a 60 m long underground horizontal 'tunnel'. As the sunlight shoots through the otherwise darkened tunnel it suddenly makes visible dancing motes of light, caught in this this beam. The voices of data of eclipse chasers who devote their lives to standing in the shadow of the Moon form the soundtrack.

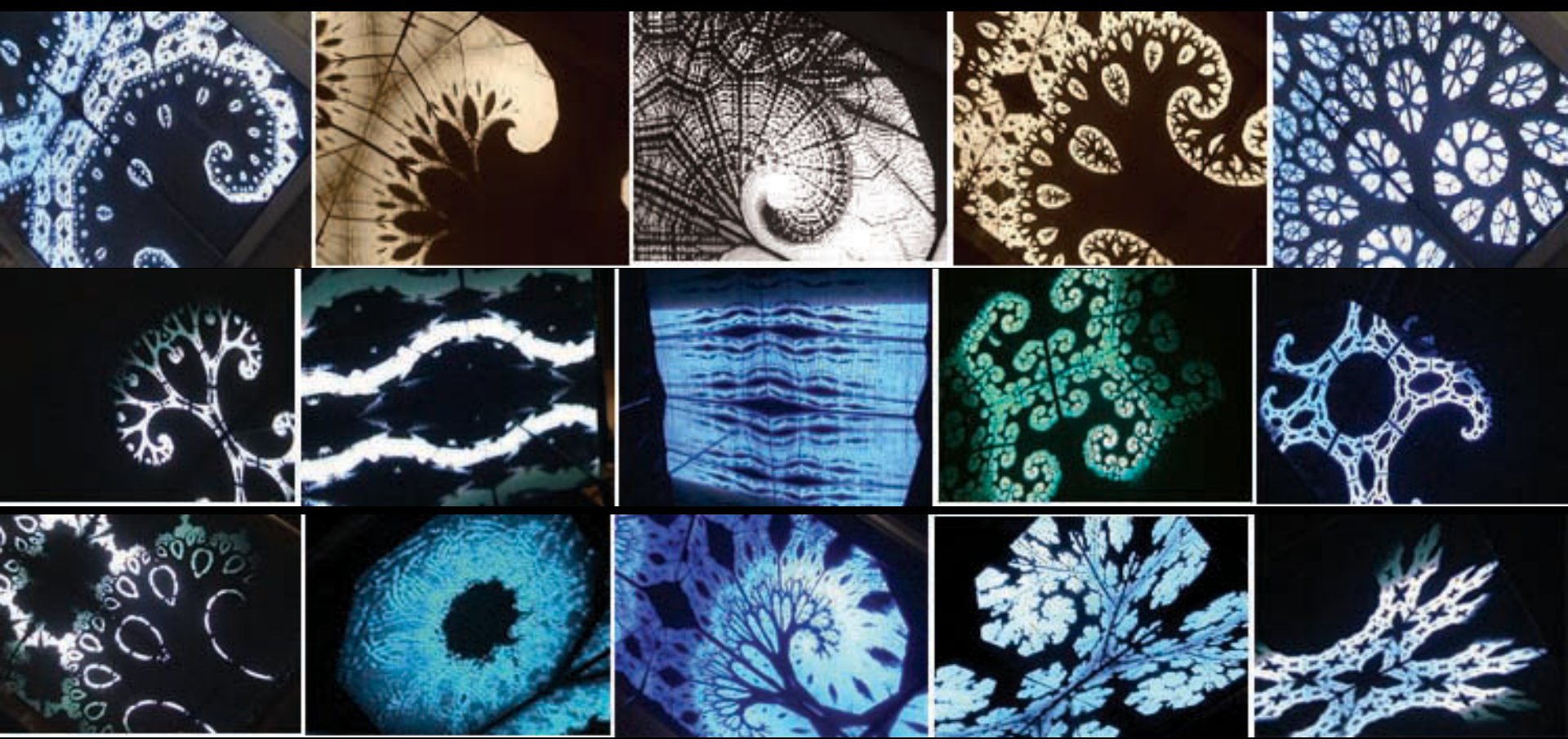




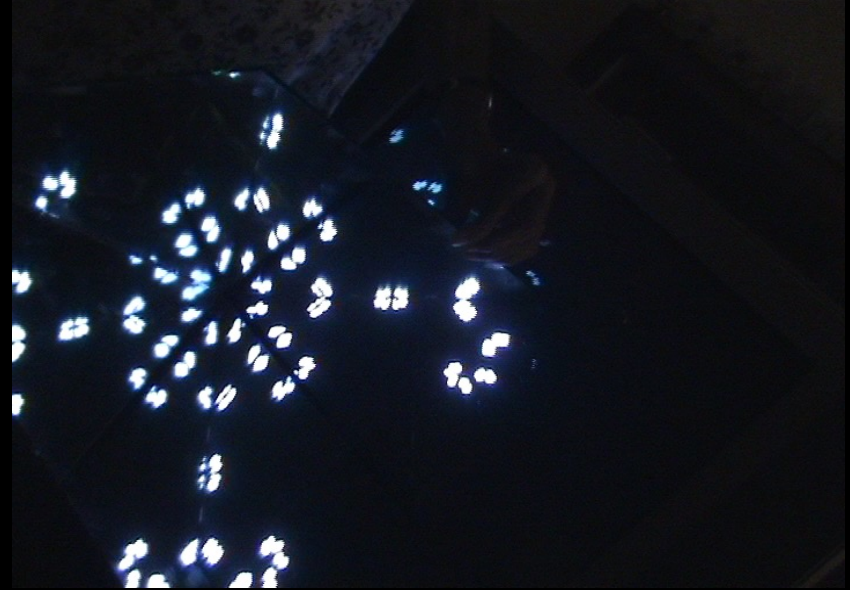
Basic Video-feedback set up. Mirrors at right angles to the TV add to the image complexity and are a way to create iterated function systems of fractals.

Video feedback demonstrates that some systems have the ability to spontaneously organize themselves into increasingly complex structures. At every higher level of complexity, there is greater potential for new structure and change. All the work explores the generative possibilities of video feedback, the optical equivalent of acoustic feedback, which occurs when a loop exists between a video camera and a television screen or monitor. In other words, when a camera (connected to the TV) is pointed at the TV it faces an infinite number of reflections of itself, like two mirrors facing each other. The image is doubled and the image interferes with itself.





Video feedback still frames



Example of Basic Video-feedback.

Mirrors at right angles to the TV add to the image complexity and are a way to create iterated function systems / fractals.

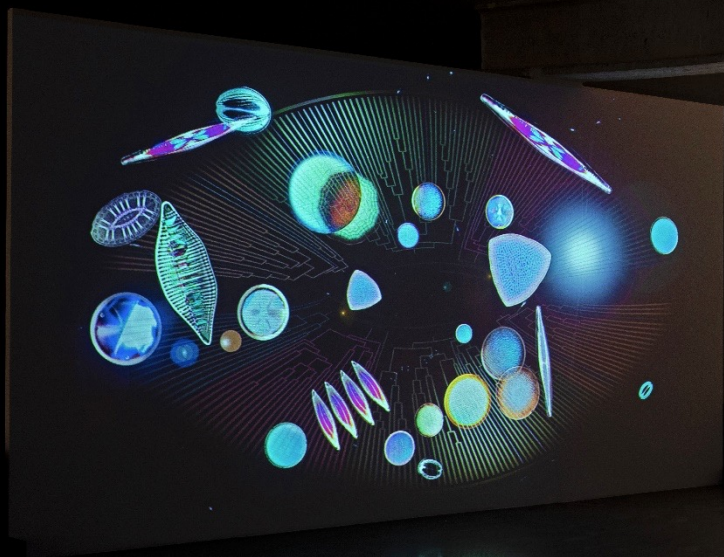


GLASSHOUSE DEEP

single channel video | sound | duration 14 minutes 28 seconds

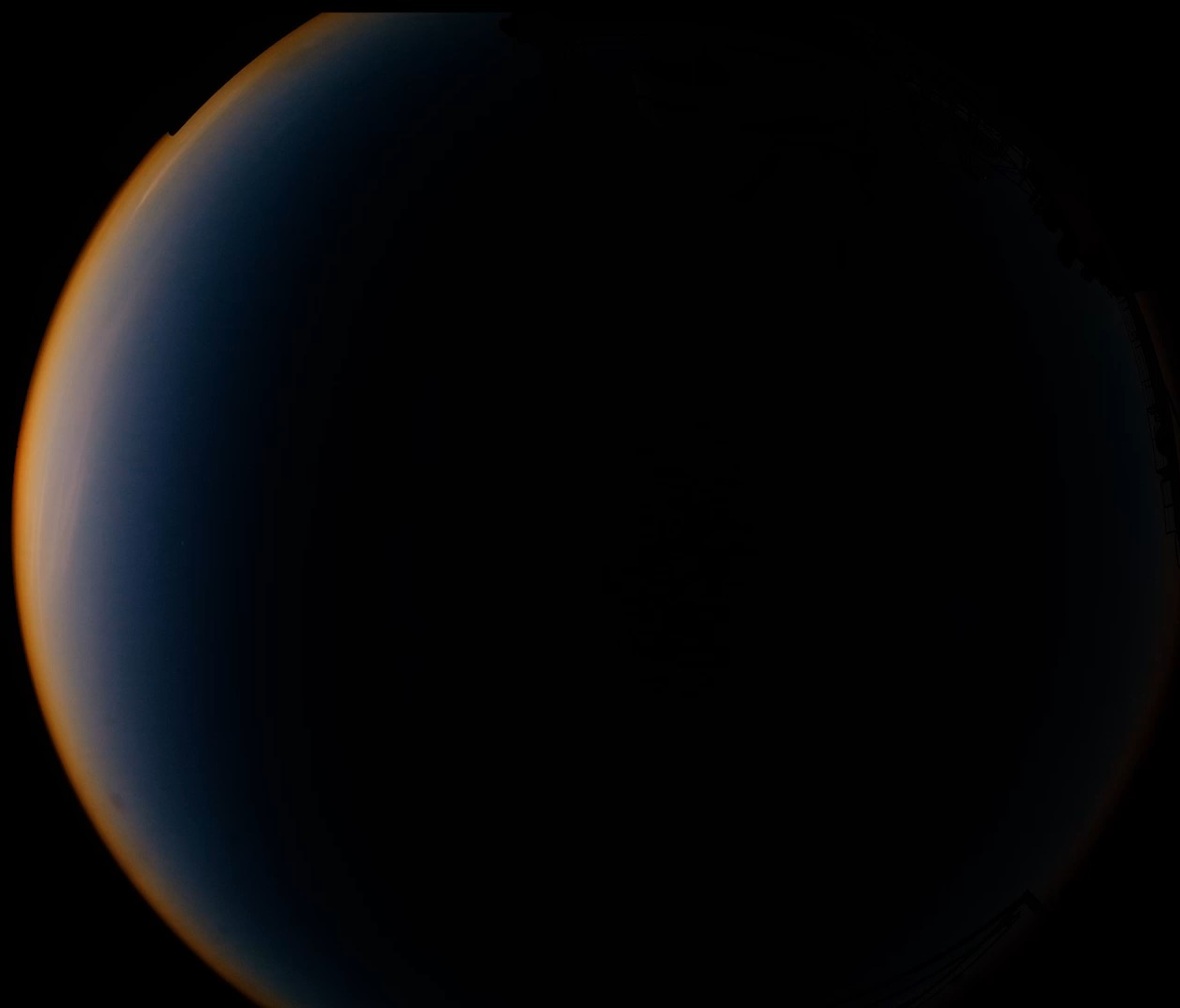
Glasshouse Deep was Commissioned by the Busan Biennale Organizing Committee, 2021

(Diatom Specimens collected and photographed by Minji Lee and Joonsang Park, Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology KIOST)



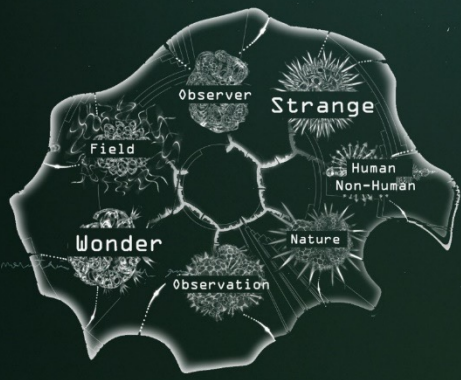
GLASSHOUSE DEEP

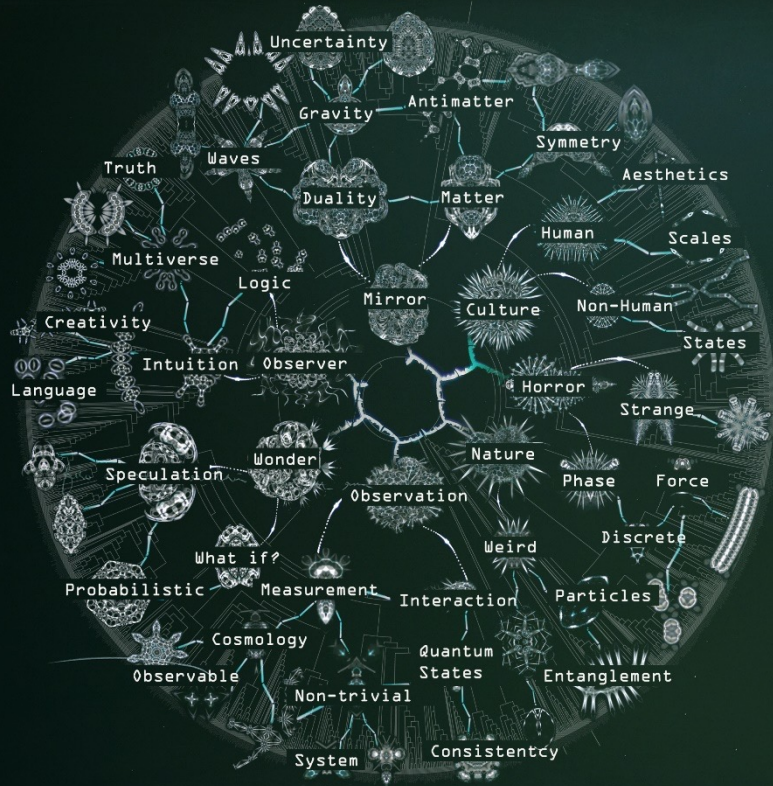
installation view | Project 88 | 2023 | image credit Anil Rane courtesy the artist and Project 88



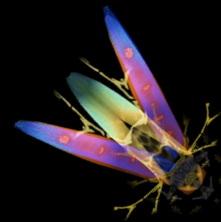
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field on the map





→ 2 control system
→ Rotation & Translation
→ Ninja arrows ↔ Logo



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