

Dark Matter: when art met science

Creative collisions on the DESY campus

Christian Schwanenberger and Barbara Warmbein, DESY
19 March 2018

ART

MEETS

13.10. - 09.11.17

dark matter

SCIENCE

DESY

DESY, Notkestraße 85, Hamburg
desy.de/artmeetsscience



Summary

- DESY's first art-meets-science project
 - 15 artists, 10 scientists
 - Topical artwork presented in a working laboratory
 - More than 2000 visitors, almost all new to campus, plus 20000 visitors during DESY DAY
- some very exciting artwork and a lot of new fans
- artmeetsscience.desy.de

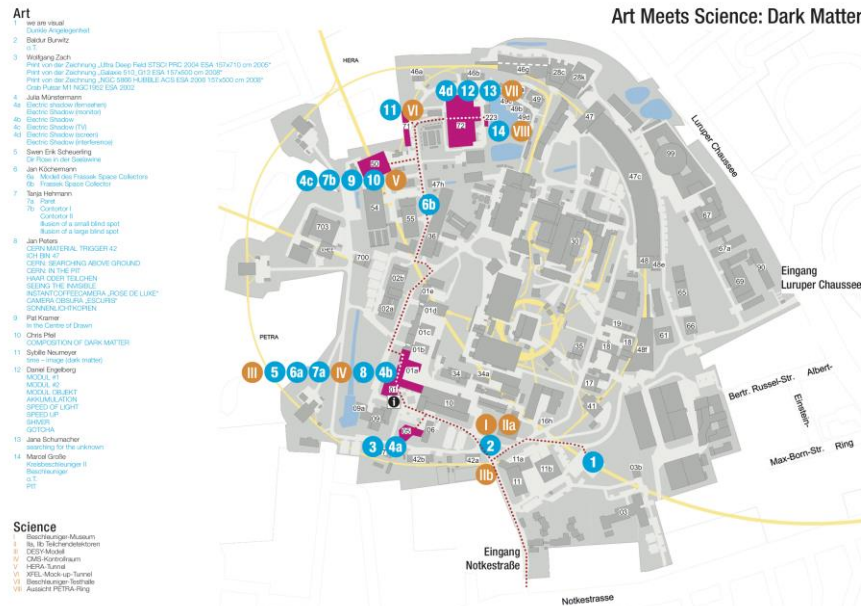
The idea

- A party in Hamburg
- One artist, one scientist...
- A brilliant idea: art and science are not different at all, on the contrary – let's explore the similarities:
- Scientists and artists have similar approaches and methods to their work, searching for something not knowing exactly for what
- Dark matter is a particularly striking example



The idea – develops

- Initiators contact DESY PR; a project is born
- DESY PR decides to carry out the project as a test for a potential art-meets-science programme at DESY to conquer new target audiences
- DESY is chosen as location: attractive for artists, attractive for new target audience
- The project is designed to truly bring art and science into collision
- Official ok in May 2017
- Next steps:
 - Contact a variety of artists
 - Scan possible locations on campus
 - Check how to keep visitors safe
 - Make sure visitors don't get lost
 - Find suitable partners
 - Organise kick-off meeting
 - Ensure balance between art and science



Who are the artists?

15 artists from all over Germany

Baldur Burwitz, Interventionen, Hamburg;

Marc Einsiedel und Felix Jung, we are visual, Installation, Hamburg;

Daniel Engelberg, Malerei, Objekte und Installation, München;

Marcel Große, Installation, Hamburg;

Tanja Hehmann, Malerei, Hamburg;

Jan Köchermann, begehbare Skulpturen, Hamburg;

Pat Kramer, Licht und Skulptur/Installation, Forbach

Julia Münstermann, Malerei, Berlin;

Sybille Neumeyer, Installation, Video, Berlin;

Prof. Jan Peters, Fotografie und Film, Kassel und Berlin;

Chris Pfeil, Sound Designer, Klanginstallation, Köln;

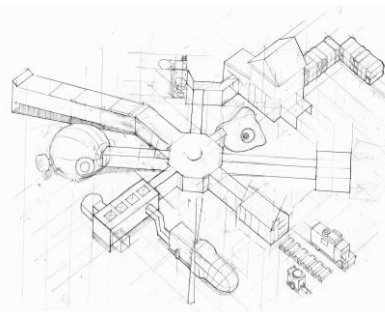
Swen-Erik Scheuerling, kinetische Objekte und Installation, Berlin;

Jana Schumacher, Grafik, Installation, Hamburg;

Wolfgang Zach, Computergrafiken, Bremen;

Kurzfilmprogramm der Kurzfilmagentur Hamburg

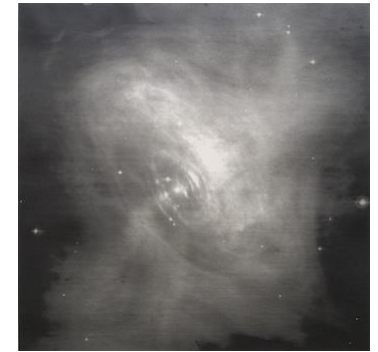
Baldur Burwitz,
Applause



Jan Köchermann,
Tunnelsystem 2



Swen Erik Scheuerling, *Dir Rose in der Seelawine*



Wolfgang Zach, *Crab Pulsar M1 NGC1952 ESA 2002*
Pat Kramer, *Prozess zu „Dark Matter“*



Julia Münstermann, *Electric Shadow*



Marcel Große, *Teilchenbeschleuniger*

Cooperation partners

Hamburger Kreativ Gesellschaft

Hamburger Kreativ Gesellschaft cooperation partner for the project: “a municipal institution founded to promote Hamburg’s creative industries”

- Thematic cooperation, documentation of “dark matter” trough EU EFRE project
- Financial support
- Future cooperation planned
- <http://kreativgesellschaft.org>

KurzFilm Agentur Hamburg

- Series of short films called “dark matters” shown on Dark Matter Day and DESY Open Day
- <http://agentur.shortfilm.com>

Renowned art scientist **Belinda Grace Gardner** gave introductory talk putting the project in context with the history of art an science

All images by architecture photography expert **Helge Mundt** who followed the project from the kick-off



Hamburg Kreativ Gesellschaft



EUROPÄISCHE UNION

Europäischer Fonds für regionale Entwicklung



**KURZ FILM AGENTUR
HAMBURG**



DON'T BE
AFRAID OF
THE DARK

The Kick-Off, April 2017

Vital statistics: 2 days, 11 artists, 10 scientists, 18 talks, a lot of coffee...

Theory

Scientists presented the basics of dark matter:

- Why do we know it must be there?
- What could it be?
- How do we look for it?
- Why is it important?

Practice

Artists presented their previous work and initial ideas for art-meets-science art

First discussions about content and practicability

Tourism

DESY site visit for information and location-scouting

Agenda: <https://indico.desy.de/indico/event/17495/>



The creative phase – impressions



Tanja Hehmann in her studio;
sketches by Baldur Burwitz and Pat
Kramer



The creative phase – hurdles

How can we get our science across?



Can we hang huge canvases on tunnel shaft walls?

Where do we find a location at DESY that has enough wall space for all the two-dimensional artworks?

What training do the artists need in order to be able to work in halls with cryogenics or other restrictions?

Art meets Science coincides with the DESY Open Day with 20000 expected visitors. How do we make sure the science exhibits and the art exhibits both have enough space?



How do we take visitors to the HERA tunnel? It features a sound installation but access is restricted.



How do visitors find their way to the art that is scattered over various buildings on campus?



Where do we get the money from?

How do we reach the art crowd? And will they come?

How do we reimburse artists for their material costs?

Is it okay to stage a collision between two cars on the DESY roundabout?

Do we have a crane that can arrange shielding blocks into a safe walk-in construction?

Setting up – impressions



Setting up – impressions



The collision

Science and art are everything but worlds apart

What we learned during the process:

Scientists and artists have very similar approaches to their work:

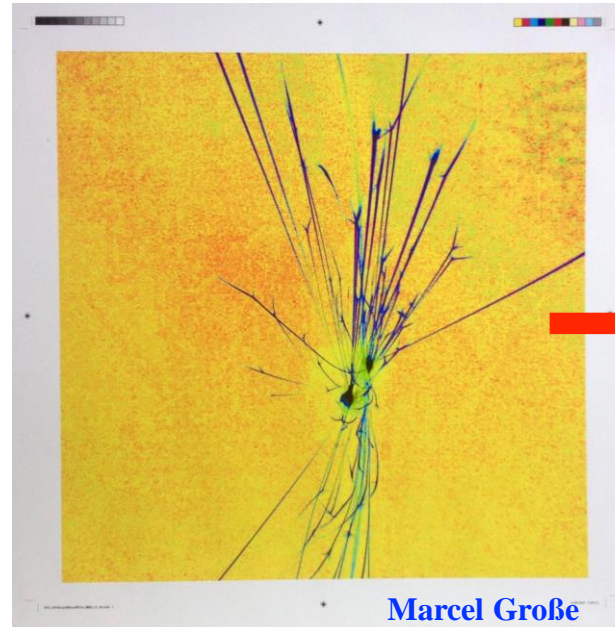
- unbiased
- flexible
- driven by curiosity
- limited by technology
- inventive

Main challenge was to find a common language

How can science inspire art?

How can art inspire science?
Can art become part of science?

We are still digesting the results.



The exhibition

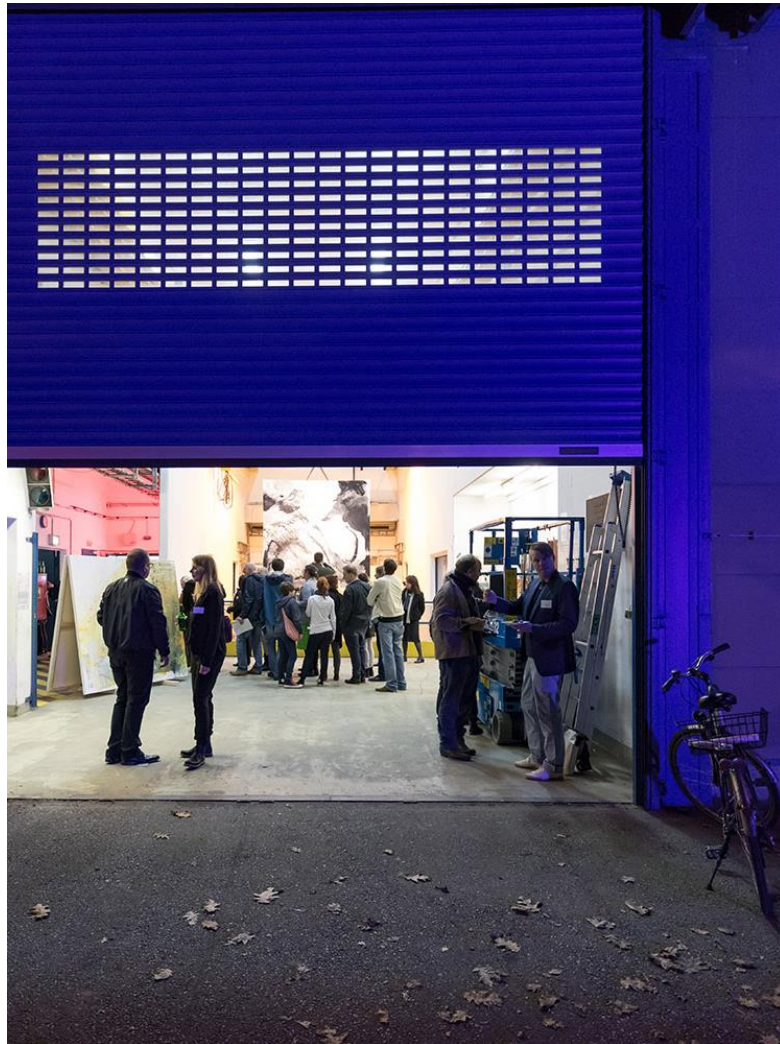
Dates: from 13 October to 9 November

13 October: Vernissage	500
18 October: Lecture Performance and Visit	250
25 October: Lecture, Discussion and Visit	350
31 October: Dark Matter Day	500
4 November: DESY open day	20 000
8 November: Lecture, Discussion and Visit	300
9 November: Finissage	200

70 % of visitors had never set foot on the DESY campus before

The exhibition - impressions

Scientific programme | Guided tours, talks, short films



Quelle: You Tube, Till Nowak – The Centrifuge Brain Project

Dark Matter

The exhibition: impressions



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The exhibition: impressions



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The exhibition: impressions



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The exhibition: impressions



Dark Matter

The exhibition: impressions



Dark Matter

The exhibition: impressions



Dark Matter

Science places and artworks were sometimes hard to distinguish



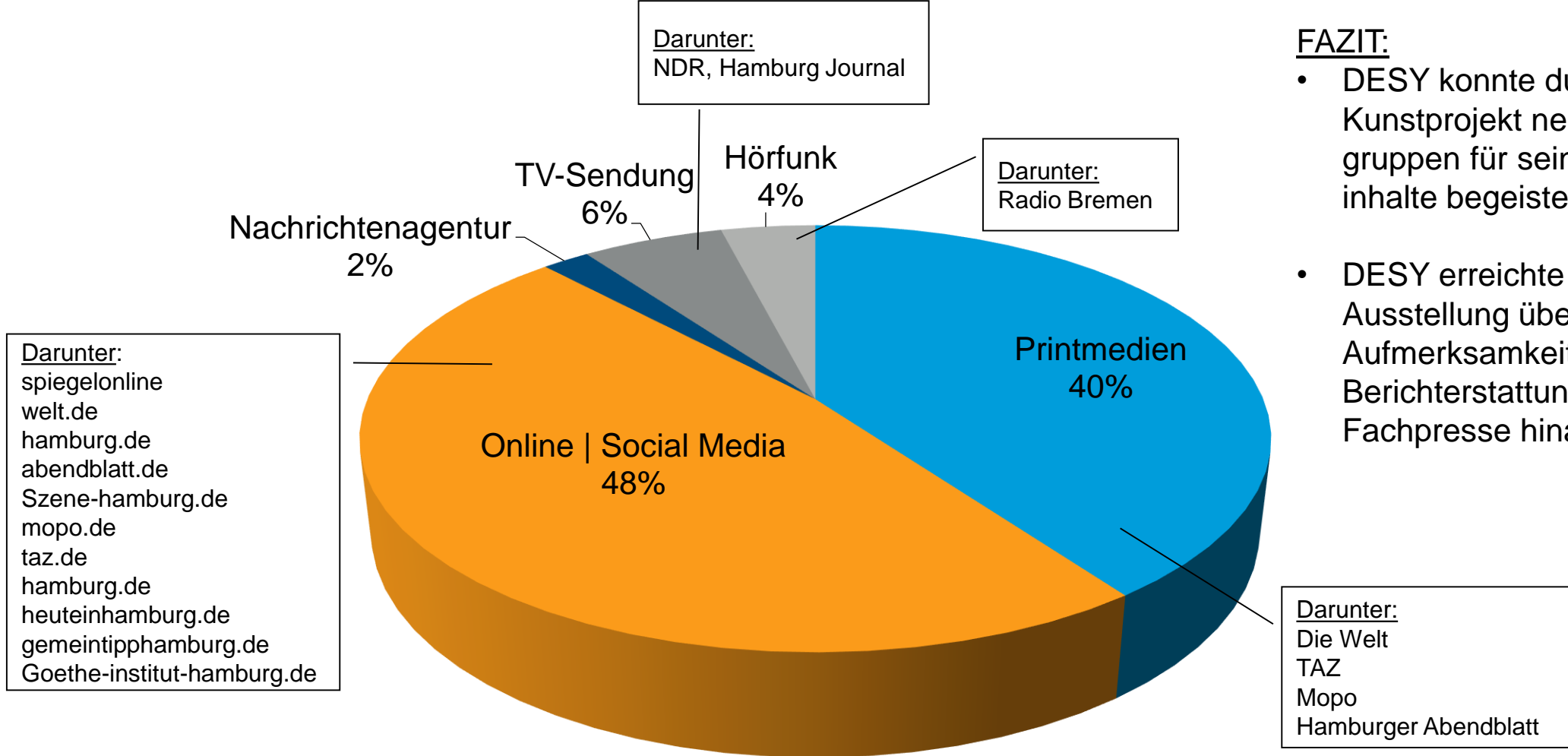
Dark Matter

Media interest for the exhibition was high



Media response Dark Matter

Berichterstattung | gesamt: 50 Beiträge



FAZIT:

- DESY konnte durch das Kunstprojekt neue Interessensgruppen für seine Forschungsinhalte begeistern.
- DESY erreichte durch die Ausstellung überregionale Aufmerksamkeit und positive Berichterstattung über die Fachpresse hinaus.

Outlook

More art will meet more science

The pilot project was very successful. DESY will build on this success:

- DESY is working on a concept for a sustainable art-meets-science project
 - Several ideas for follow-up projects already in the pipeline
 - Board of curators to be founded
 - DESY starts its own art collection
 - Artists in residence
 - ... and more

Backup: Video

Documentation video by Kreativ Gesellschaft



<https://vimeo.com/247946339>