

# CITY DOME

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Julijonas Urbonas

*Planet of People*

29.02.20 — 08.05.20

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*Planet of People* is an exhibition by Lithuanian artist Julijonas Urbonas, who develops tools to negotiate gravity in his work. Julijonas' research considers how gravity can be manipulated to create extreme bodily, imaginative experiences that challenge our understanding of space and gravity; he uses the term 'gravitational aesthetics' to describe this practice.

This new iteration of *Planet of People* in our City Dome is an artistic and scientific study that proposes how an artificial planet could be created entirely from human bodies. Grounded in astrophysics, this hypothetical scenario would see humans sent to L2, one of the 'Lagrangian points' in space, where gravity is absent. In these gravitational conditions, frozen bodies would float freely until they converge into a blob, forming a *Planet of People*.

By playing with the variables of this proposed planet, such as the quantity of people and duration of time, the exhibition considers what spatial structures could be choreographed. The form could be a cosmic fossil of humanity, a monument of humans to humans.

The project raises questions of human species' place and purpose within the universe. It speculates upon the resulting change of discourse when humans cross the Kármán line, which attempts to mark the border between our ecosystem and outer space, and become part of it in the form of a new planet. What would the ethical, cultural and political implications of this planet be, both on Earth and in outer space?

Join others in this creation of this simulated *Planet of People*, which is currently forming on the ceiling of the City Dome.

Six 3D scanners are in the centre of the exhibition in which you can choose to be scanned, then watch as your body forms a new celestial object.

- First, imagine the best pose that your body could make to form a new planet
- Enter the scanner and pose, to be scanned will take 3 seconds, then it will take 10–15 seconds to upload image.
- Up to 4 people can be scanned at a time, ensuring that you can all fit in the range of the scanner.

Our Visitor Assistant is here to help you take part in this work, please ask for help with the scanner if you need to.

Once scanned, your image cannot be deleted. You are welcome to experience the installation without being scanned.

Julijonas Urbonas' work has been shown in a variety of venues including: art, design, architecture biennials, academic and non-academic publications, TV and Radio shows. Most recently his works have been shown at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, the Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art (Warsaw), RIBOCA (The Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art), Science Gallery Dublin, the Singapore ArtScience Museum, and Design Museum Holon. Julijonas is the Lithuanian representative at the 17th Venice Architecture Biennale, as well as founder of the Lithuanian Space Agency.

COLLECTIVE

# CITY DOME

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6 x 3D human scanner, custom electronics, custom software, sandblast stainless steel.

Programming: Studio Pointer\*

Electronics: Dmitrij Snegin

Part of the Edinburgh International Science Festival 2020. After showing at Collective, the project will be presented at the 17th Venice Architecture Biennale 2020 as the special programme of the Lithuanian Space Agency, which was founded by Julijonas Urbonas, the representative of Lithuania.

