



WINTER LIGHTS

Spectacular light installations
and immersive art

Tuesday 21 January – Saturday 1 February
Throughout Canary Wharf
5-10pm Daily
Free

Scroll down to find out
more about the
artists & installations



INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to welcome you once again to our spectacular Winter Lights festival.

For our ninth edition, the trail will take you on a journey through 12 spectacular temporary installations, as well as our ever-popular permanent light artworks.

Showcasing some of the most innovative light artists across the globe, our 2025 festival explores the transformative and other-worldly qualities of art and light, featuring portals, black holes and mirages. Throughout the trail, you'll encounter different worlds – imagined, real and digital – and witness how these worlds intercept and collide.

On the boundary between real and surreal, the line-up will take you from a towering stack of bathtubs pulsing with light and sound, through to Westferry Circus where you can encounter a mesmerising tornado of lights orbiting a pylon.

You can also immerse yourself amongst panels of sari fabric and luminous threads on Wren Landing, be dazzled by an iridescent mirage on Montgomery Square, experience a bird in flight and be transported through a portal in Wood Wharf. Finish up the tour at our newly opened Eden Dock, where you can marvel at a 20m wide sink hole encircled by light.

Winter Lights is free to visit, simply [download the map](#) to help guide you around the installations or pick one up from our friendly event stewards when you arrive. As well as the stunning artworks, you can enjoy delicious food and drink from one of the many cafés, bars and restaurants at Canary Wharf – warm up with a hot drink or hearty meal or opt for a refreshing cocktail.

We recommend booking as it can get very busy during the event, especially on the weekend dates. You can also make a day of it by visiting Canary Wharf's magical ice rink in Canada Square Park, or by checking out our permanent collection of over 100 artworks.



TRAIL INSTALLATIONS

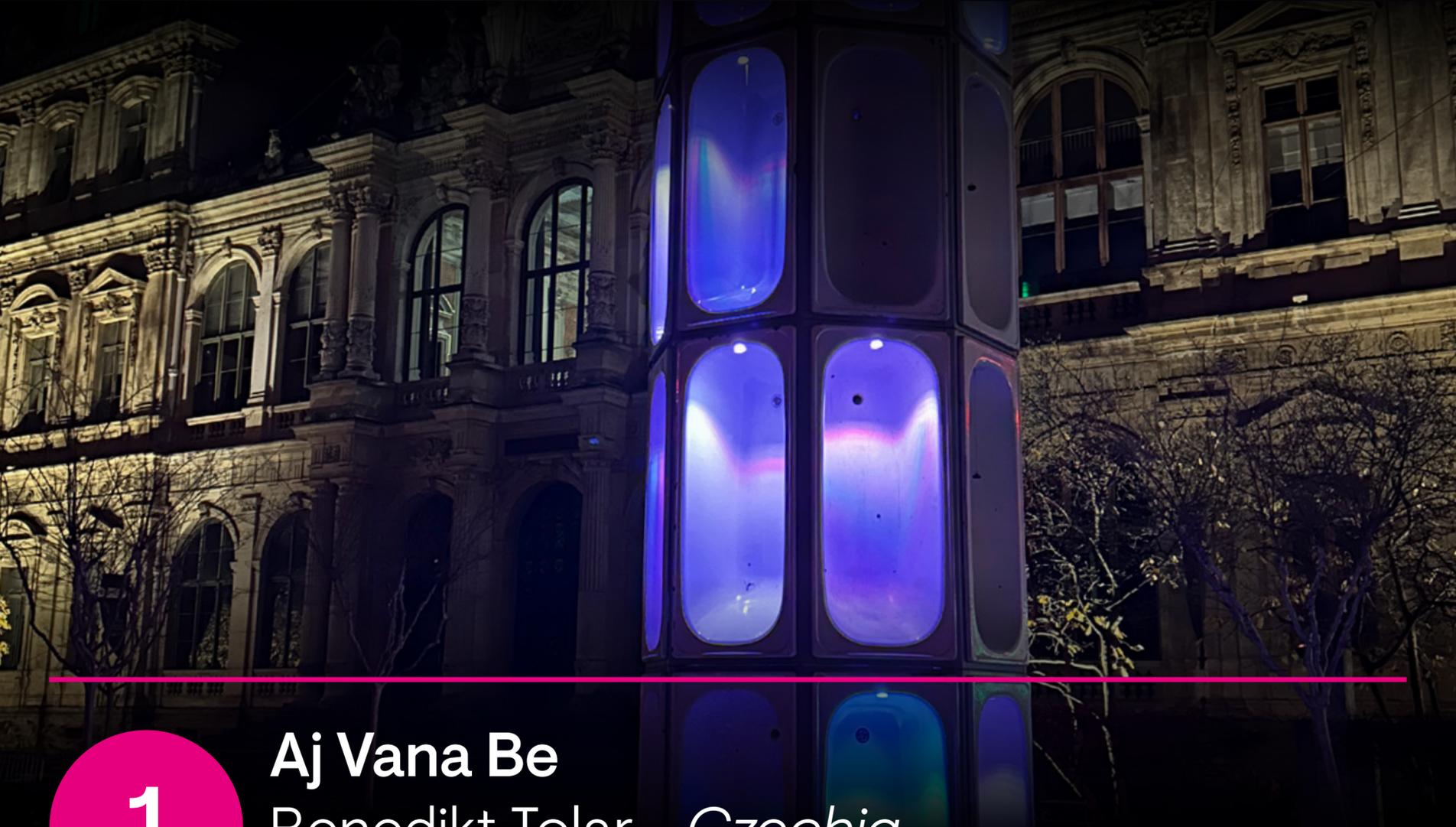
-  Winter Lights installation
-  Permanent collection installation

Tap on an installation below
to find out more

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Crossrail Place, Level -1 Quayside
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Crossrail Place, Level -1 Quayside
- G** **Lightbenches 'Classic'**
LBO Lichtbank - *Germany*
Jubilee Park





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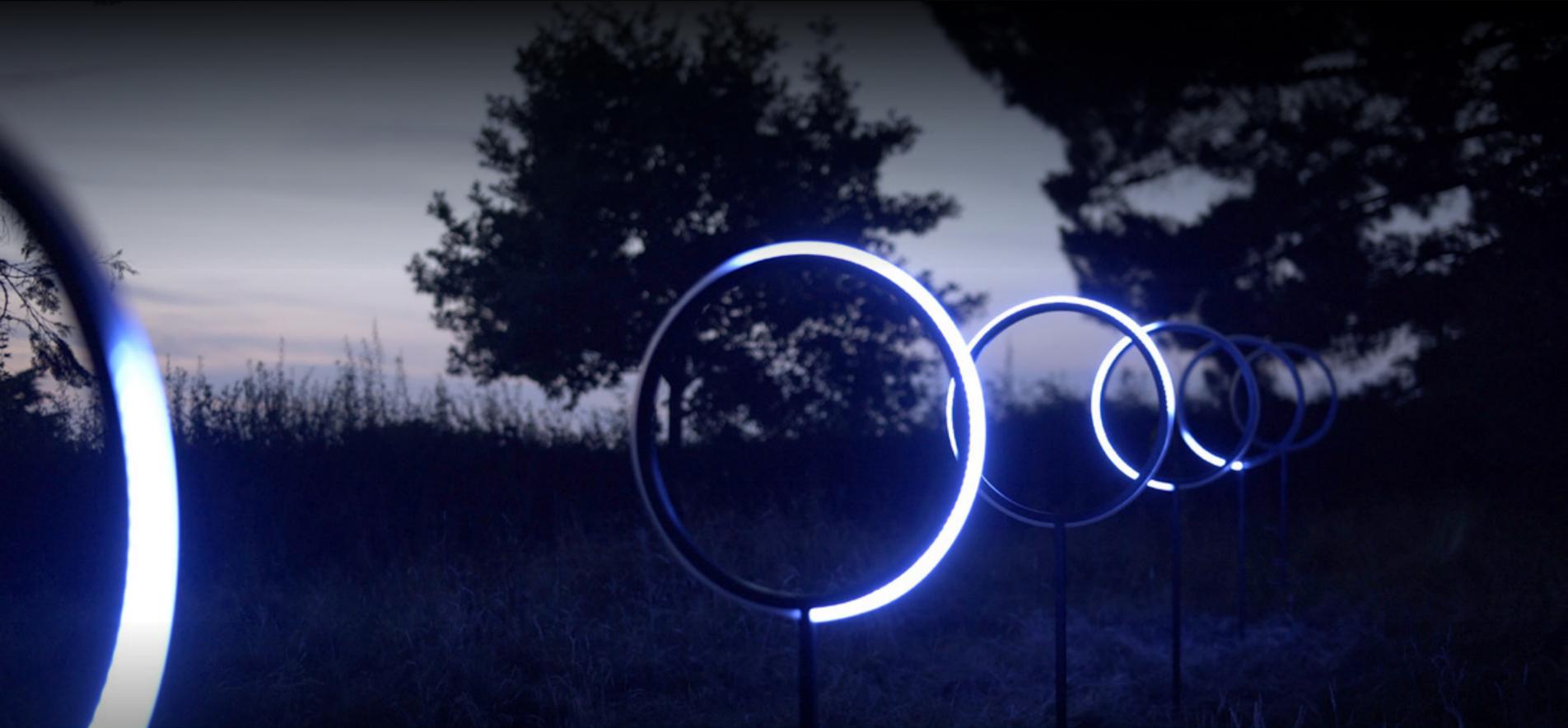
Aj Vana Be

Benedikt Tolar – *Czechia*

Mackenzie Walk

Using 32 stacked bathtubs reclaimed from socialist housing in high-rise blocks, *Aj Vana Be* aims to highlight the urgent need to protect our water resource. The playful yet thought provoking installation allows people to engage and interact with the artwork, turning the monotonous, everyday occurrence of bathing into a novel act, emphasising what a privilege it is to have clean, running water on tap.





Circa
Limbic Cinema - *UK*
Riverside

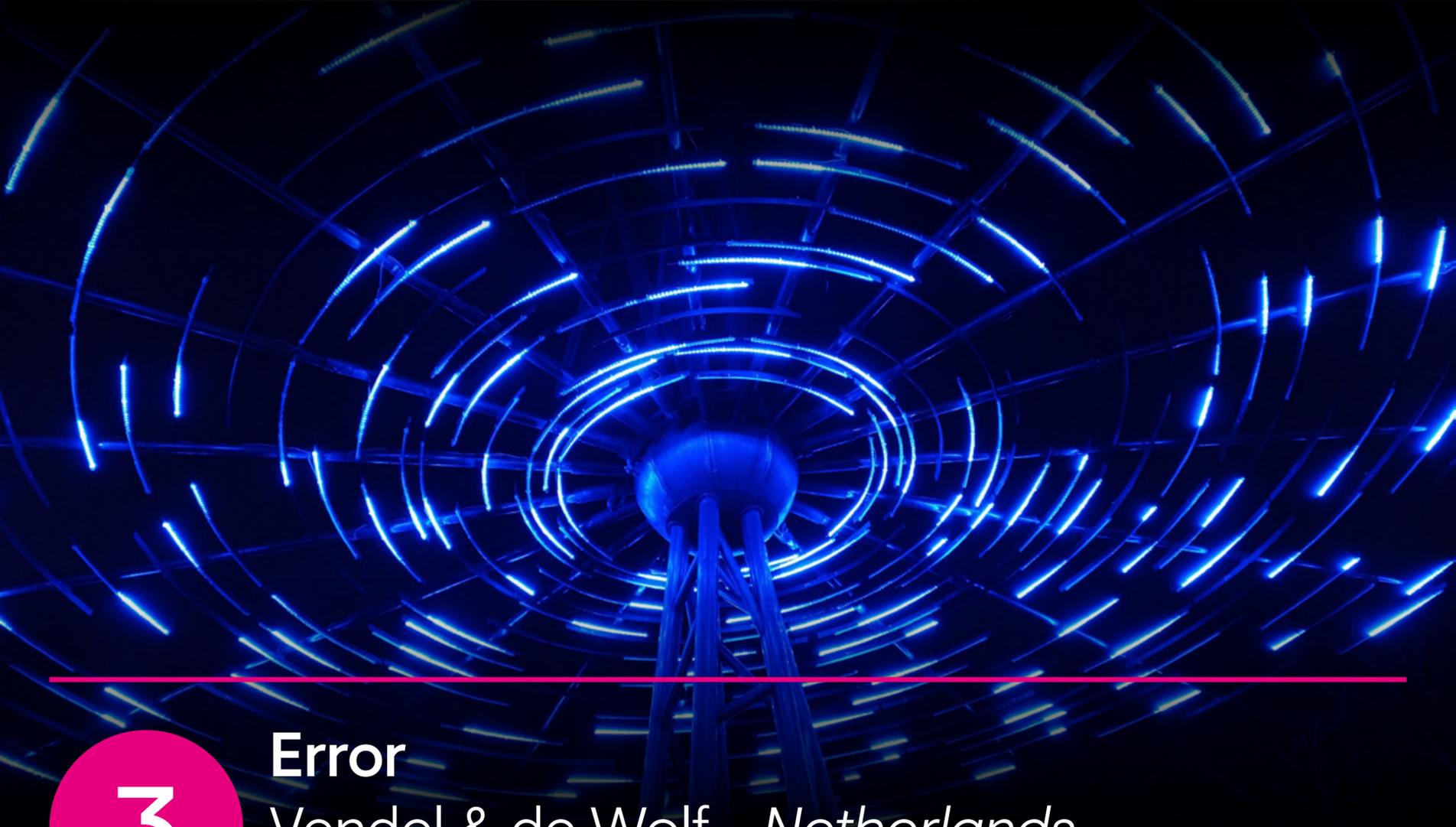
Circa is a light sculpture that represents circadian rhythms and circannual light levels at any given location. Each of the twelve light fixtures represents the average light fall over one month of the year, creating a three-dimensional clock that reflects the location's light and dark cycles.

The sculpture draws attention to our relationship with light, creating a mesmerising display that reflects the awe-inspiring systems in nature that affect human, animal, and plant behaviour. It reveals invisible and overlooked mathematics in biology.

Originally commissioned as part of The Wonder Project at Wakehurst Gardens and developed with the support of scientist Anne Vischer at Kew Gardens.

Sound design by Joe Acheson (Hidden Orchestra).





3

Error

Vendel & de Wolf – Netherlands Westferry Circus

Typical in all of Vendel & de Wolf's work is their use of materials that are mass-produced and turned into something that resembles the natural forms of the universe. They frequently use standard, units of prefabricated consumer light fixtures, which possess an onboard chip that in turn generates a flickering, resulting in a random and out of sync effect. Their work exhibits a natural born randomness within the supposed 'faultless precision' of technology.

Our evolution is often the result of errors in the reading of DNA which create new mutations and impact natural selection. This is what makes us human, our diversity. The swirling blackhole in the work *Error* is then a striking, abstract visual representation connecting the randomness of the universe with the randomness of technology - sucking us all into the unknown. People often turn to technology and more recently, AI to answer these unknowns but will technology remedy all of these errors? Or does it have its own inbuilt flaws?

Vendel & de Wolf's unique take on the theme of AI invites audiences to question whether technology can break the laws of nature, or is it like us, eternally bound by it... imperfections and all.



light art
collection





4

Wave

Squidsoup – UK

Columbus Courtyard

Wave consists of some five hundred individual suspended orbs. Points of presence brought to life through light and sound, suspended in the form of a breaking ocean wave. The orbs collectively create a resonant and dynamic audiovisual experience – a sustaining space within which each orb resonates in changing harmonies to create an enveloping and entrancing physical presence; a cleansing wave of renewal...

The work continues Squidsoup's ongoing explorations and obsession with elemental themes, particularly water.

This is a touring version of a project initially commissioned by Salisbury Cathedral as part of the exhibition "From Darkness to Light" in 2019.

squidsoup





5

Evanescent Droplets

Atelier Sisu - Australia/Peru

Cabot Square

Evanescent Droplets are part of Atelier Sisu's Ephemeral 'Bubble-tecture' collection. Ephemeral is an adjective, meaning the quality of being fleeting or vanishing quickly- a state of impermanence.

Evanescent Droplets is a temporary immersive, light and sound environment that aims to capture the concept of ephemerality and transience as a visual, tangible form: the bubble. By emulating the ethereal quality and magic of bubbles, Atelier Sisu's *Evanescent Droplets* appeals to our universal playfulness and childlike wonder, the work encourages the audience to consider the world around them as a space of transience and fragility, like that of a bubble.





6

Stitching Light

Emergency Exit Arts with

Ruhul Abdin & Oitij-jo - UK/Bangladesh

Wren Landing

Stitching Light gathers real life histories of Bangladeshi women who have migrated to England and weaves their stories together into an immersive sound and light installation. Using traditional fabrics, saris, jute and illuminated thread, women in Tower Hamlets and Bangladesh have been rediscovering Kantha; a story sharing and embroidery technique traditionally used in Bangladesh and other southeast Asian countries. This accessible format encourages audiences to learn more about the unique historical relationship between England & Bangladesh. These women's stories are rarely gathered, told or heard and through this format will be preserved for future generations.

The stories gathered have been transcribed into a narrative that runs through eight fabric panels that make up the installation, the audience will be immersed into the world of the women who have migrated from the place that they call home, to the place that is home now. The installation will be a glimmering light and sound piece revealing the journey of migration to the UK.

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7a

Artificial Humans

Atelier Haute Cuisine – Belgium

Adams Plaza

Benny Connings and Bernd Tyskens of Atelier Haute Cuisine asked the AI generator DALL-E to create a concept for a light art installation: an interesting and timely experiment.

Since the explosion of AI image generating tools, light festivals have seen a dramatic increase in the number of AI generated images used as artist impressions in the open calls for concepts. Many of these tools work via text prompts which proceed to interpret the text into an image. That's exactly what Benny & Bernd wanted to draw attention to.

For this work, they asked AI to generate an image of a light art installation for a light festival. But this was only an image. What interested the artists was how this image could be brought to life.

Please note this artwork has been split across two locations, you can either view this piece in Adams Plaza or Crossrail Place Roof Garden.





7b

Artificial Humans

Atelier Haute Cuisine – Belgium

Crossrail Place Roof Garden

The resulting artwork is a combination of an AI impression and the real techniques, hands and materials that bring that vision to life. AI envisaged the humans all looking down, hunched over and weighed down by something and they seem to be following each other in a herd-like manner: a rather shockingly accurate yet scathing critique of our modern lives.

However, the AI put nothing in the figure's hands, even though it looks like they're all gazing at their phones. Was it a mistake? Can AI not see the relevance of this device in the overall impression? Or was it a creative choice on the part of the AI? That was an important thing to maintain in the overall concept: that the form of the bodies drew attention to a general feeling and not a specific behaviour. These warm, glowing figures are lifelike but are also cold and distant: flesh detached from feeling.

Modelled from real people, the AI's concept has been given a living form through the masterful human hands of Benny & Bernd. Is this our future? Does the warmth we feel within still come from the people around us, or are we slowly being dragged down into the world within our devices?

Please note this artwork has been split across two locations, you can either view this piece in Adams Plaza or Crossrail Place Roof Garden.



light art
collection





8

Mirage

Atelier Sisu – Australia/Peru
Montgomery Square

Mirage is an immersive, temporary artwork. The work is a metaphor, examining our relationship with the fabricated mirage of social media. We live in a world where doctored images are the norm, where fake news masquerades as facts and where we must be forgiven for mistaking the glossy polished lives of Instagram as reality.

The fog of the digital world influences all facets of our lives, and it is important now, more than ever, to recognise it as what it is, a mirage. The way that we perceive and understand the images that we see on social media changes depending on our background, our culture, our age and our lived experiences. This fluid perception is mimicked in the way that the dichroic film used in the artwork reacts with light.

The film filters and reacts to light differently, depending on where it originates from, and where you, the audience, are perceiving it from. During the daylight hours, the disks of dichroic treated acrylic reflect and refract the sunlight as it moves across the sky. Depending on the time of day, this will be different for each audience member.

During the night, the pre-choreographed light show will illuminate the artwork in an ethereal and mirage-like way. Accompanied by a unique soundscape, the audience is invited to move through the two halves of the work, experiencing the form, light and sounds from different perspectives.





9

Bird Passing By
Luminariste - Benjamin Nesme
& Marc Sicard - *France*

Water Street

In response to our declining bird population, Luminariste have created a giant bird designed to sit in urban spaces and encourage us to look up at the sky.

Bird Passing By, made up of sixty-four sections modelled on birds whose flight was captured at different phases, and inspired by the research of Etienne-Jules Marey and Clément Ader, as well as the pre-film animation device, the Zoetrope, paints a picture of a bird's complete movement when in flight.

Trajectories of light and sound, animate the sixty-four frames into a narrative which recounts the migration of a bird crossing different environments, natural or built, peaceful or tumultuous, solo or in a flock. The public is invited to discover the work in its entirety, and from multiple viewpoints.





10

PORTAL

Lucid Creates - UK
Union Square

PORTAL is a monumental public art installation designed to evoke awe and wonder. The artwork stands 13m high, towering above the viewers below. The inside of the giant archway is lined with diffused LED that moves and shifts to create an otherworldly, ethereal display of glowing light. Transporting viewers to a place where anything can happen, where unexpected apparitions appear among the well-known landscapes and spaces the viewers are accustomed to experiencing every day.

PORTAL is both delicate in feel and dramatic in scale. Contrasting with, whilst simultaneously framing, its surroundings & backdrop - it captures a surreal, breathtaking moment in time, resulting in a dreamlike vision. The artwork can be enjoyed from afar as well as from within. Viewers are drawn to the towering light display, and invited to enter, allowing them to experience the transcendental audio-visual show from inside the sculpture.

Inspired by our interaction with monuments and megaliths, and how these objects alter human behaviour, energy and emotion. We are naturally drawn to such objects and have been throughout history, the aim was to create something conducive to the same shift in energy and emotional response.





11

Positive Spin

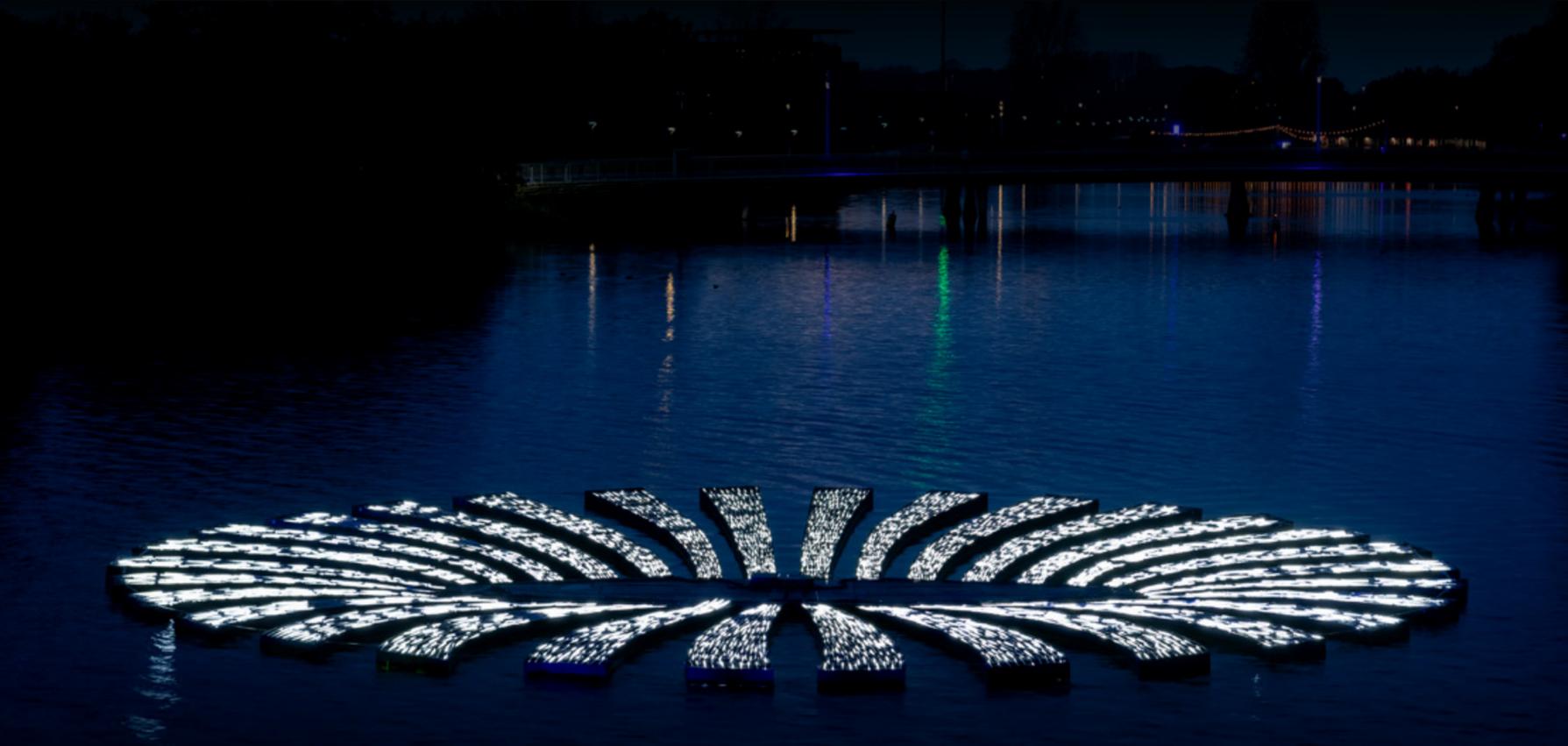
Liz Harry & Kazimier Productions – UK
Jubilee Place, Level -1 (indoors)

Positive Spin is a 5.5m high machine from the collective minds of artistic experience creators, Invisible Wind Factory and illustrator, Liz Harry that invites you to step up and receive a random fortune.

Inspired by a love of summers spent at beach front arcades, it is part immersive experience and part spectacle, the piece aims to share the importance of looking forward positively.

Produced by: Kazimier Productions at Invisible Wind Factory





12

Illusion Hole

UxU Studio - Taiwan
Eden Dock

Illusion Hole is the sixth artwork in UxU Studio's "Use Your Illusion" series: where meteor lights are arranged to create a flowing, almost hypnotic experience for viewers. In this piece, light becomes more than a visual effect; it embodies the illusion of tangible substance, blurring the boundary between what we perceive and what exists.

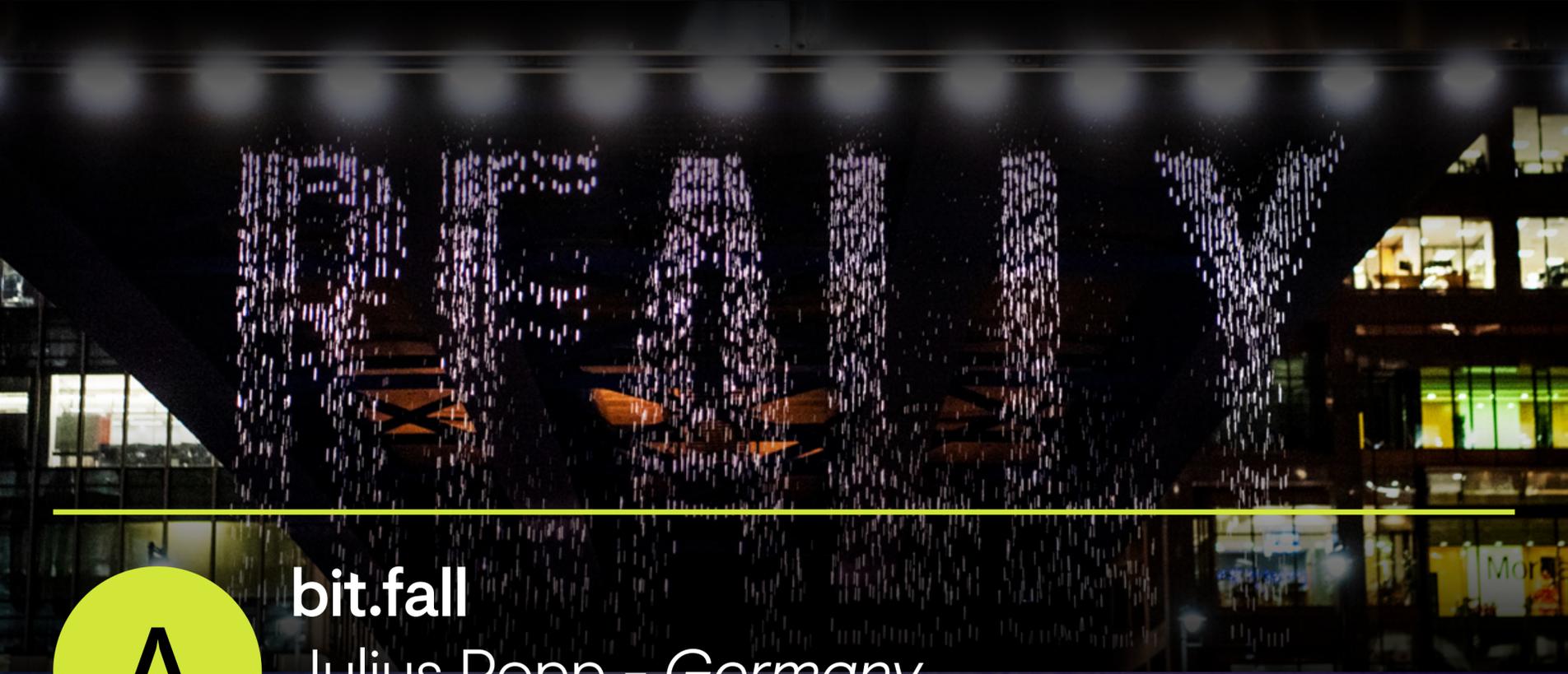
Through precise, geometric arrangements, *Illusion Hole* appears to channel light into a swirling black hole. UxU explores whether viewers can distinguish between what is real and what is illusion, prompting a deeper question: do we accept the sight of the flowing light as truth? In this way, UxU invites us to consider the duality of perception—how the false can seem true, and how, in turn, truth can fade into uncertainty.

This exploration of light as a medium of both substance and illusion encourages us to reflect on how we interpret the world around us, urging us to question where reality ends and perception begins. Through *Illusion Hole*, UxU challenges the viewer's grasp on reality, allowing them to confront the ways in which sight and belief intertwine in shaping our understanding of truth.

If you require step-free access, we have an accessible viewing area for this artwork on Mackenzie Walk.

 light art
collection





bit.fall

Julius Popp - *Germany*

Chancellor Passage

An ever-changing cascade of words created by thousands of perfectly timed falling water droplets. The words are derived from a number of live news sources including The Times, The Guardian and the BBC News. The speed at which information is sourced, exchanged and updated is almost inconceivable, and more fleeting than ever before.

The work effectively translates this abstract phenomenon into a visual experience. The isolation of the words from their context is also indicative of how easily meaning can be distorted.



The Clew

Ottotto - *Portugal*

Cubitt Bridge

The Clew is made from 100 circles of red light to create a beautiful structure around the Cubitt Steps Bridge. The minimal and elegant structure creates stunning reflections on the water and frame the bridge, making visitors appreciate this every-day object in a new way.





Shine Your Colours
Tine Bech - *Denmark*
Riverside

Originally commissioned for Summer Lights 2021, *Shine Your Colours*, is a multifaceted artwork that allows visitors to see themselves and the world through different colours. For Winter Lights only, these 6 transparent coloured glass panels are illuminated, lending this artwork a new, exciting dimension.



Captivated by Colour
Camille Walala - *France*
Adams Plaza Bridge

Originally designed as part of the London Mural Festival, Walala's *Captivated by Colour* has now become a permanent feature of our public art collection. Playing with the long perspective of the tunnel, the colourful design shows an optical pattern that shrinks and elongates as it moves across the bridge. See this iconic piece transformed for our Winter Lights festival. Rhythmic coloured lights mimic and enhance the optical patterns, bringing this spectacular mural to life.





Elantica 'The Boulder'

Tom & Lien Dekyvere - *Belgium*

Crossrail Place, Level -1 Quayside

Elantica uses discarded circuit-boards to fuse nature and artifice. By mimicking a natural rock formation with electronic materials, the boulder seeks to demonstrate our world's tendency to create a digital version of reality. The repurposing of e-waste as the art medium for this geometric form indicates a desired pursuit of harmony between nature and technology.



We Could Meet

Martin Richman - *UK*

Crossrail Place, Level -1 Quayside

A permanent installation of more than 500 illuminated acrylic rods installed in a water channel. Viewed from above, the programmed illumination regularly changes colour and frequency throughout the day and evening, mimicking the changing environment and seamlessly fusing art and life.





Lightbenches 'Classic'

LBO Lichtbank – *Germany*
Jubilee Park

Our stunning *Lightbenches* are firm favourites within the permanent art collection. The colours change, glow and illuminate their surroundings proving that the functional can also be beautiful. Take the weight off your feet as you near the end of our trail.

ART ON THE WHARF

These are just seven of 100 artworks that make up our permanent collection.

Click [here](#) to download a free art map and start planning your next trip.



FAQS & INFORMATION

ADMISSION

Winter Lights is free to attend, no ticket or pre-booking required, just turn up and enjoy.

OPENING HOURS

The installations will be switched on between 5-10pm daily. The festival can be extremely busy at weekends, so we strongly encourage you to visit during the week for the best experience.

MAP

[Download our map here](#) to help guide you or pick one up from our event stewards when you arrive. The map lists the locations of our artworks as well as all the important things you might need whilst you are here such as our toilets and baby changing facilities.

ROUTE

The map suggests a route which will take approximately 2 hours to complete (depending on crowd numbers and how many photos you want to take). We recommend you allow at least 3 hours on weekends due to queues to view installations.

ACCESSIBILITY

The trail is fully accessible. For accessibility information about each installation please speak to the event steward on site. An accessible map will be available to download from our website, or alternatively, pick up an A3 printout from our Info Point on Jubilee Plaza, outside the Jubilee Line station during festival hours.

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

Canary Wharf is home to hundreds of cafés, bars and restaurants. Grab quick bite on-the-go from Greggs or Itsu, warm up with a delicious sit-down dinner in Kricknet, Hawksmoor, or Dishoom, feed the family at Nando's, Gallio or Franco Manca, or simply enjoy a refreshing cocktail enroute from The Alchemist or The Cocktail Club. Due to the popularity of the event, we advise you book ahead to avoid disappointment.

[Click here to download our Food and Drink Map](#)

[Explore our full Foodie Directory here](#)

GETTING HERE

Getting to Canary Wharf is easy with a vast number of transport options and car parks. Visit our transport page for full details:

canarywharf.com/getting-here



FAQS & INFORMATION

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- Warm & water-proof clothing
- Comfy shoes for walking
- The Canary Wharf app downloaded for the most up-to-date information, offers and promotions

WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

Due to the number of people expected to attend, we kindly ask you to travel light and if possible, leave behind:

- Pushchairs
- Large bags
- Umbrellas
- Dogs & other pets (excluding assistance animals)
- Bicycles, skateboards & scooters

ADVERSE WEATHER

Our event is outdoors so please wrap up warm as we aim to go ahead with the event whatever the weather. In extreme weather conditions we may have to close certain installations or amend our opening hours. For the most up to date information please check our Instagram [@canarywharflondon](https://www.instagram.com/canarywharflondon), as well as keeping an eye on our website and app. If you are already at the event, please ask our stewards for further information.

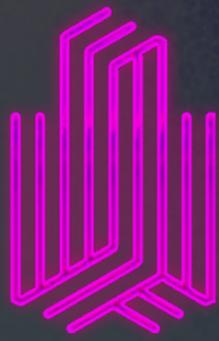
SUSTAINABILITY

At Canary Wharf, we are committed to turning sustainability ambition into impactful action. Examples include purchasing 100% electricity from renewable sources since 2012, our partnership with the Eden Project creating a place for nature and people.

Our Winter Lights installations need power; however, we try to reduce our environmental impact by always using mains power rather than generators and encouraging our artists and suppliers to combine resources and minimise transportation. The artworks on display are re-used at other festivals in whole or in parts, nothing goes to waste.

How you can help - Please use our recycling bins found both indoors and outdoors. These bins are clearly marked and allow for the responsible disposal of any items. Please consider bringing your own reusable cup or water bottle with you. Many of our retailers offer discounts to anyone who orders a hot drink using their own cup. We also have water refill stations in all of our shopping malls. We do offer printed Winter Lights maps, but also encourage you to use our downloadable map on your phone or device.





WINTER LIGHTS

FOLLOW US
@CANARYWHARFLONDON
on Instagram and TikTok and use
the hashtag *#winterlights2025*

STILL HAVE A QUESTION?
Please get in touch with us at
arts+events@canarywharf.com
we will do our best to answer them!

Please be aware that some installations have flashing lights. In adverse weather conditions we may close installations for safety reasons. All details correct at time of upload. The most up to date advice and event details can be found at canarywharf.com

