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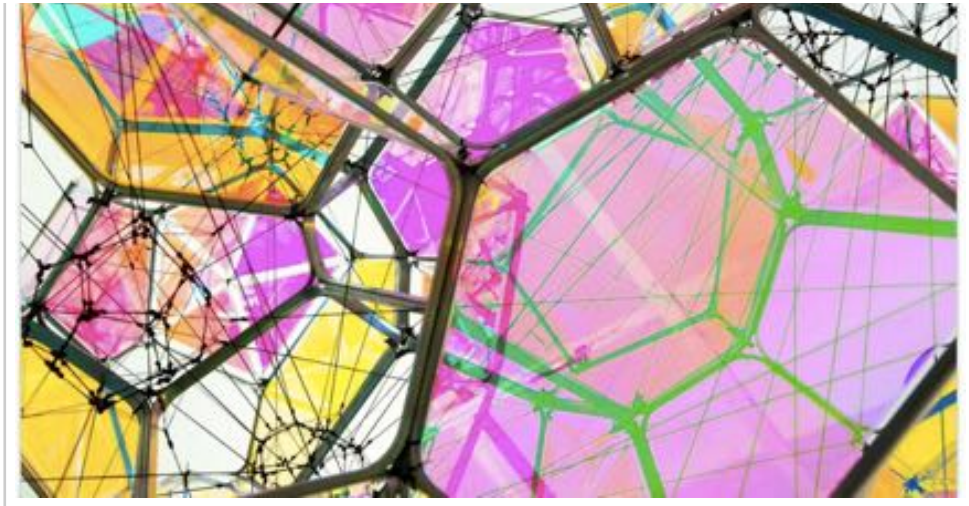
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Tomas Saraceno: « Aerocene » exhibition

Caroline d'Esneval / 9 novembre 2015

The Universe is his world...architect and artist, a utopian dreamer and modern adventurer with an interest in science, **Tomas Saraceno** derives inspiration from space, the sky, clouds, and also all things infinitely small like spider webs, soap foam, etc. He creates graceful works, suspended, floating and flying through the air.





Tomas Saraceno

LGC 396 –

© Photography by Studio Tomás Saraceno

With this new exhibition, curated by **Laurence Dreyfus, Caroline** and **Eric Freymond** offer us another exciting encounter with a fascinating artist at the **Espace Muraille**.

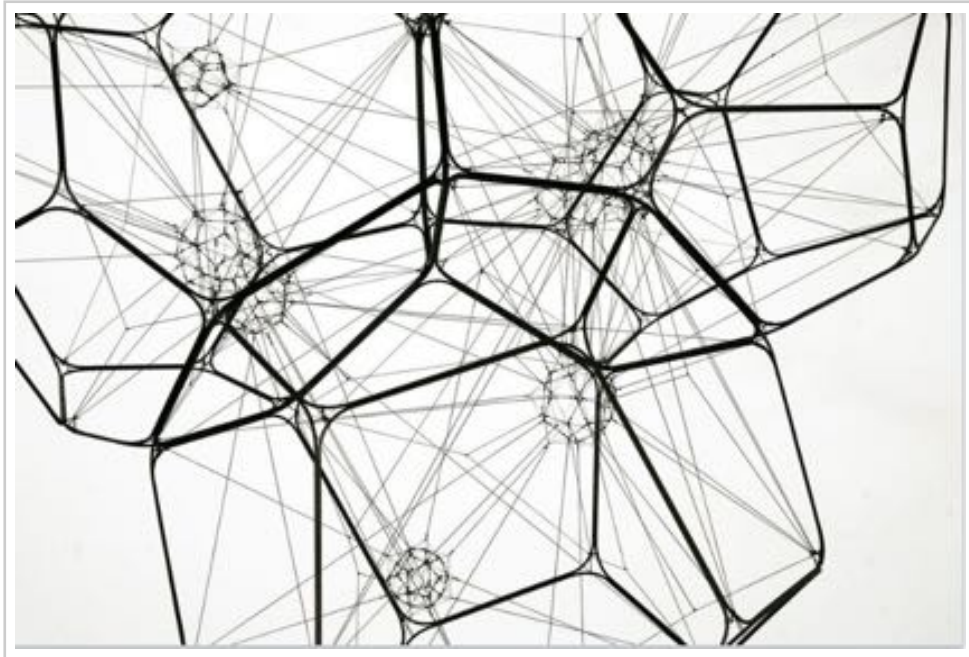
During his training as an architect and his Space studies at NASA and CNES in Paris, he's developed the know-how that enables him to design, in collaboration with engineers and experts, great experimental works. He uses ultra-light materials for his "Cloud Cities" -illustrating a world without gravity- that have been floating above big metropolises (Berlin, Tokyo, Rome, New York), as well as for his inflated balloons able to travel using nothing but wind energy. **Tomas Saraceno** is currently working on the "Air Port City" project, which appears as a spectacular transparent structure powered by solar energy. It would serve as a place of exchange without borders, where everyone could pass freely throughout the entire world.





Tomas Saraceno
below his « flying sculpture »
Espace Muraille
©Photography by Joachim Sommer

Through his works, the Argentin artist creates a world apart, where men would live in perfect harmony with each other and with nature. “Turn your life into a dream and your dream into reality”: there’s a bit of Saint Exupéry in the positive, engaging philosophy of Tomas Saraceno », as **Caroline Freymond** mentions. Indeed, his world resembles that of Le Petit Prince, of his planets where man and his environment live symbiotically.



5 CNC/M
Espace Muraille
© Photography by Studio Tomás Saraceno

With his dreamlike creations Saraceno researches alternative lifestyles to promote the preservation of natural resources and sustainable development. Invited to the United Nations COP21 conference in Paris, he has displayed “**Aerocene**” in the **Grand Palais**: a spectacular sculptural installation intended to fly and move with the sun and wind without using a drop of fuel.

Why “**Aerocene**?” This word makes reference to “Anthropocène,” which characterizes the

geological period of the Earth where human activities had a significant impact on the ecosystem. Tomas Saraceno's activity imprint will focus on air, space, and the sky, thanks to his suspended creations.

At the same time (and until Feb 2016), Tomas Saraceno showcases 15 pieces of Art representative of his thinking on the world of tomorrow, at the **Espace Muraille** in **Geneva**.



Foam, 2015
Espace Muraille
©Thegazeofaparisienne

Here, the artist has decided to play on the contrast between the minerality of the foundations of the Espace Muraille, and the lightness of his works, explains **Laurence Dreyfus**. In the entrance of the exhibition, I am amazed by a polygonal "flying sculpture" in bright shades. Turning around it, reflections on the ultra-fine, iridescent Plexiglas walls change one's perception of color. Sublime!





Tomas Saraceno
LGC 396 –
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Alveolar shapes are a recurring motif in his artistic work. They illustrate the particular structure of foam which results from an improbable and magical encounter between “air and liquid” in nature.



5CNC/M
Espace Muraille
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In the first room, several hanging works complement and interact with each other. One transparent, just hemmed carbon fiber but woven with intertwining threads, another filled with inflated balloons, referencing his “Cloud Cities”, etc. Each one brings an idea and an artistic value of its own. My absolute favorite is the suspension with the enigmatic name of “GJ 15.” A game of transparency between matter and emptiness—mirrored, metallic, monochrome reflections of jewels.

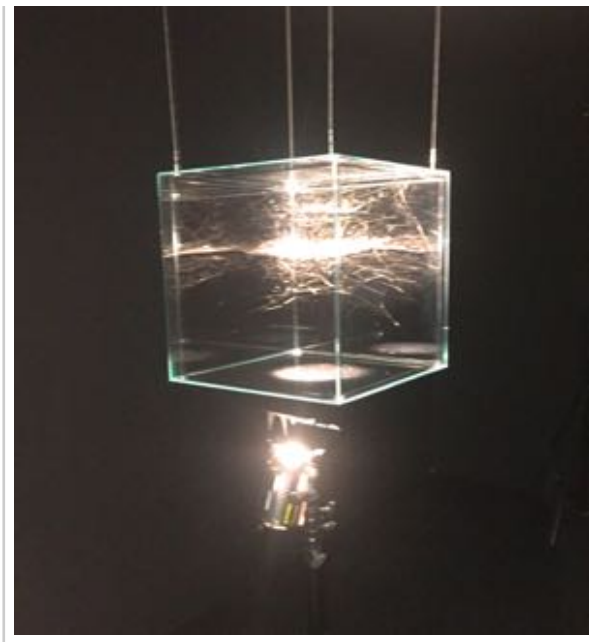


PRE-VERNISSAGE
Tomas Saraceno
Espace Muraille
Genève – 15 .11. 2015

Is it his architect background that has aroused Sarceno’s passion for spiders building incredibly fine and complex webs? Maybe, he says to me with a smile. Saraceno tells me about his fascination with spiders, ones that he feeds, heals, observes, and records.



He raises about 300 of them, of



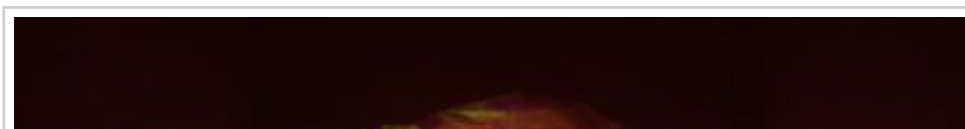
the “social” type, in the Ecuadorian forest. The artist places some of them in a big box and leaves them to weave their webs at their own will. Then sometimes, he turns the box gently in order to modify the gravitational conditions. By doing this, he obtains a new weavings that cannot be found in nature. To display these weavings, he chose a dark room in the basement of the Espace Muraille where only the spider webs, again suspended, are illuminated through Plexiglas boxes.

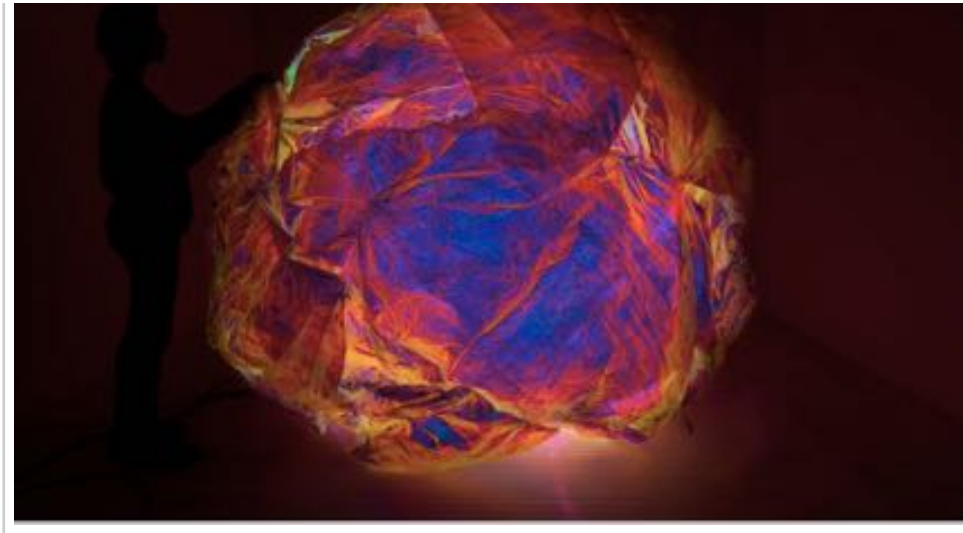
Semi social instrument 3C 273- built by 3 *Cyrtophora citricola*- in 5 weeks.
Espace Muraille
©Thegazeofaparisienne



3C 273 Semi social instrument
Tomas Saraceno montrant son oeuvre de toiles d’araignées à Bertrand Piccard.
©Photography by Joachim Sommer

The exhibition ends much as it began, with a powerful colored work called “Iridescent Planet,” a magical, fluorescent meteorite fallen on Earth.





Iresdescent planet, Espace Muraille
©Photography by Studio Tomás Saraceno

Thank You to Eric and Caroline Freymond for having once again surprised and amazed us in their unique Espace Muraille, to Laurence Dreyfus for her outstanding exhibitions, and to Tomas Saraceno, an enchanting artist who brings us into his dreams, suspended between the sky and the earth.

Caroline d'Esneval

Translated by **Erica DeMichel**, Wesleyan University, Vassar Wesleyan Program in Paris
Fall 2015

TOMAS Saraceno – ESPACE MURAILLE , Genève – until February 13th

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