



# PRESS RELEASE

## INFECTIOUS ART SPREADS FROM SCIENCE GALLERY

From Friday April 17th something contagious will be spreading from Science Gallery at Trinity College, Dublin. Stay away if you wish avoid exposure to infectious agents. If you are brave enough to enter the containment zone on Pearse Street you are advised to wear protective clothing.

As soon as you enter the gallery you will be screened for what you might be carrying and will be electronically tagged to monitor your state of infection. Whether you are addicted to brands, obsessed with an idea, coming out with a strange rash or just can't get that catchy jingle out of your head, you might be infected.

INFECTIOUS is a major new exhibition exploring mechanisms of contagion and strategies of containment through science and art including a live epidemic simulation, an opportunity to have your DNA swabbed from your cheek and analysed and to get up close and intimate with a Petri dish as you cultivate the bacteria from your lips in the Kiss Culture experiment.

INFECTIOUS opens with a three-day long festival of events, talks and performances from leading Irish and international viral gurus exploring the wider dimensions of contagion including viral media workshops with Jonah Peretti of BuzzFeed (creator of the Nike "sweatshop" email) and Ze Frank, creator of the famous How to Dance Properly viral hit.

A panel discussion on INFECTIOUS IDEAS on Saturday April 18 hosted by New Yorker writer and Pulitzer prize finalist Lawrence Weschler and involving leading immunologist Luke O'Neill will explore where we can apply models of contagious diseases to other areas of culture, ranging from viral marketing to financial panics.

Other INFECTIOUS festival events include a jazz quartet performance with microscopic so called water-fleas (*Daphnia*), an opportunity to meet the artists and scientists and workshops on designing your own disease and viral marketing. Full event schedule is available on [www.sciencegallery.com/events](http://www.sciencegallery.com/events)

INFECTIOUS will start spreading on April 17th and will hopefully be decontaminated by July 17th. It may be safer to stay away, but if you dare, find out more on [www.sciencegallery.com/infectious](http://www.sciencegallery.com/infectious)

INFECTIOUS is supported by the Wellcome Trust, and curated by Luke O'Neill, Cliona O'Farrelly and Michael John Gorman.

### **Artists and scientists participating in INFECTIOUS include:**

***Bacteriology Illustrated*** – Susie Freeman and Dr Liz Lee – a corseted dress made from fragments of a book illustrating the armoury we employ to defend ourselves against infection.

***Contagious Creativity*** – Alo Allik, Annika Koski and Simon Jermyn – an artistic experiment exposing three forms of creation to produce a mutating artwork.



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***Cybernetic Bacteria 2.0*** – Anna Dumitriu, Dr Simon Park, Dr Blay Whitby, Tom Keene and Lorenzo Greenspan – chemical communication of bacteria and our digital networks combine in this piece to generate a brand new artificial life-form.

***Epidemic Planet*** – Vittoria Colizza, Wouter Van den Broeck, D. Balcan, B Goncalves, H. Hu J.J. Ramasco, A Vespignani – explore how high-speed air-travel whisks new strains of influenza around the globe

***Fugue*** – Gordana Novakovic – this work reflects the changes and responses occurring in the human immune system expressed through images and sound.

***Glass Viruses*** – Luke Jerram – these transparent sculptures challenge our received notions of media images of coloured viruses asking if these images are designed to instill fear.

***Horde*** – David Bickley, Tom Green, Dr John Mac Sharry – an audio visual installation representing the workings of the immune system in the style of an epic Irish myth.

***Kiss Culture*** - Maria Phelan – kiss the agar plate and leave more than the imprint of your lips behind to cultivate and contribute to a growing wall of kisses.

***SocioPatterns*** – Ciro Cattuto and Wouter Van den Broeck – find out how network scientists are using radio frequency tagging to understand the pattern of human interaction.

***Stigmatised*** - Karl Grimes – exploring how visual representations inform our knowledge, inner fears and aversion to illness.

INFECTIOUS EXHIBITION Tuesday – Friday 12:00-20:00 and Saturday – Sunday 12:00-18:00  
Admission Free. Open until 22:00 on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th of April. Please note that INFECTIOUS is not suitable for visitors under 15 years of age. Science Gallery, Trinity College, Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

## ENDS

**For more details, interviews or images please contact Anja Ekelof, Marketing and Communications Manager, Science Gallery. E: [marketing@sciencegallery.com](mailto:marketing@sciencegallery.com)  
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## Editor's Note:

Science Gallery, an initiative of Trinity College Dublin, has hosted nearly 150,000 visitors since opening last February, and is supported by Ulster Bank and the Wellcome Trust, and members of the Science Gallery Science Circle: Dell, Google, ICON, Paccar and Wyeth.