

Exhibition

Here Comes the Sun

Art, Energy and Natural
Intelligence

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Press kit

Here Comes the Sun

Art, Energy and Natural Intelligence

06/02/2026
— 05/04/2026
11:00 - 19:00

Cercle Cité
Luxembourg

Free entry

We have built systems of extraordinary complexity to predict, control and optimize our world. Artificial intelligence, we are told, will solve our greatest challenges. Yet the smarter our machines become, the more we seem to forget the oldest forms of intelligence: that of the sun diffusing its energy with perfect constancy for billions of years, that of marine microorganisms perfecting their luminous architectures.

Intelligence is not a human invention. It exists in the bacterial colonies that keep us alive, in the collective decision-making of bee swarms, in the photosynthetic processes that made our atmosphere breathable. And it also exists in human communities when they choose cooperation over competition, when they build networks of mutual aid rather than extraction – when they dare to imagine other possibilities together. For imagination is that distinctly human faculty that allows us to understand through speculative leaps, through empathy and creativity, to expand our understanding of the world.

The three works in this exhibition explore these entanglements. Through the visual languages of cinema – narration, montage, the power of the moving image – they activate our imagination, make visible the invisible intelligences that sustain life on this planet, and imagine technologies that work with them rather than against them.

Alice Bucknell projects us into *Staring at the Sun*, a near future where geoengineering – those technologies that aim to deliberately modify the climate – has become our last desperate gamble with planetary systems. The film doesn't simply warn us of dangers nor promise salvation. It maps the complex territory where technological intervention meets ecological consequences, where human vanity confronts the overwhelming complexity of climate systems.

Solar Protocol by the collective of the same name, led by **Tega Brain**, **Alex Nathanson** and **Benedetta Piantella** demonstrates that another internet is possible – an internet running entirely on solar energy, accepting the natural rhythms of day and night. But this work reveals something more fundamental: technology is never merely technical. Solar Protocol only functions thanks to a worldwide network of volunteers maintaining solar servers in their local communities. The system is deliberately fragile, dependent on human care and attention. It refuses the fantasy of transparent, always-on connectivity, offering instead a technology that acknowledges its dependence on both solar cycles and human cooperation.

In **James Bridle's** *Solar panels (Radiolaria series)*, the ocean reveals its microscopic architects. Radiolarians have spent hundreds of millions of years perfecting geometric forms that capture light with extraordinary efficiency. Their silica skeletons, of a complexity that surpasses human imagination, are superimposed on solar panels. This visual encounter is not engineering but revelation: it shows us that evolution is the most sophisticated research and development program on Earth, working through deep time to solve problems we are only beginning to understand.

These works don't offer solutions. They offer something more precious: they expand the territory of what we can imagine. They show us that innovation doesn't mean domination, that technology can be designed to integrate into ecological and social systems rather than supplant them, that the intelligence we need is already there – in sunlight, in microorganisms, in human communities choosing to work together.

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Here Comes the Sun: Art, Energy and Natural Intelligence

The sun has been teaching for four and a half billion years. It powers almost all life on Earth through an alchemy of fusion and radiation. It asks nothing in return. It doesn't optimize, monetize, or seek to expand its market share. It simply gives.

Perhaps this is the most radical lesson these works offer us: the intelligence we need to navigate our current crisis isn't artificial at all. It's the ancient, patient and generous intelligence of the systems that sustain life. Our task is not to build something new from nothing, but to learn to listen, to participate, to allow ourselves to be guided by the intelligences that surround us.

Françoise Poos and Vincent Crapon
Elektron

Organisation	Cercle Cité
with the support of	the Luxembourg City Film Festival and the Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity
Curators	Françoise Poos et Vincent Crapon Elektron
Artists	James Bridle, Alice Bucknell, Solar Protocol (Tega Brain, Alex Nathanson et Benedetta Piantella)
Special thanks to	Thomas Schwab and Rhizome

About Elektron

Elektron is a platform dedicated to exploring the intersections of art, digital technologies, science and societal challenges.

Established in 2023 following Esch2022 European Capital of Culture, and based in Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, Elektron supports digital creativity and encourages public debate on emerging technologies through exhibitions, workshops and open events for all.

Elektron is supported by Ville d'Esch-sur-Alzette
elektron.lu



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The City of Luxembourg
has entrusted the
management of Cercle

Cité to the "Agence
luxembourgeoise
d'action culturelle"



Here Comes the Sun: Art, Energy and Natural Intelligence

Artists' biographies

James Bridle is a writer, artist and technologist. Their artworks have been commissioned by galleries and institutions and exhibited worldwide and on the internet. Their writing has appeared in magazines and newspapers including *Wired*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Statesman*, *The Guardian*, and the *Financial Times*. They are the author of *New Dark Age* (2018) and *Ways of Being* (2022), and they wrote and presented *New Ways of Seeing* for BBC Radio 4 in 2019.

Alice Bucknell is an artist, writer, and educator based in Los Angeles. Their work explores the affective dimensions of video games as interfaces for understanding complex systems, relationships, and forms of knowledge. They have exhibited internationally, including at Kunsthalle Praha (Prague), Ars Electronica (Linz), transmediale (Berlin), Arcade Seoul, the Venice Architecture Biennale, Gray Area (San Francisco), the Singapore Art Museum and the Serpentine (London). Their writing has appeared in *ArtReview*, *e-flux architecture*, *frieze*, *Flash Art*, *Harvard Design Magazine* and *Mousse*. A recipient of the 2025 Creative Capital Award and former CERN/CC resident, they teach world-building, game design and the philosophies of technology at SCI-Arc and UCLA (Los Angeles).

Solar Protocol is a collective led by Tega Brain, Alex Nathanson and Benedetta Piantella. **Tega Brain** is an Australian born artist and environmental engineer exploring issues of ecology, data, automation, and infrastructure.

Alex Nathanson is a designer, technologist, artist, and educator whose work is primarily focused on exploring both the experimental and practical applications of sustainable energy technologies, particularly photovoltaic solar power.

Benedetta Piantella is a designer turned educator and humanitarian technologist and has been involved in international development projects for the past twenty years.

Programm around the exhibition

LECTURE

The Sun in Cinematic Imagery

by Yves Steichen

26.02.2026 at 6:00 PM

Henri Beck Auditorium (entrance: 2, rue Genistre)

In French

This lecture will explore how filmmakers transform the sun into a complex cinematic language. From the transcendent golden hour of Terrence Malick in *Days of Heaven* (1978) to the cosmic eye witnessing creation in *The Tree of Life* (2011), and the dying star of Danny Boyle's *Sunshine* (2007), the sun becomes alternately a source of spiritual illumination or an existential threat.

Lecture organised in collaboration with the CNA – Centre national de l'audiovisuel

Free entry, registration on cerclecite.lu

Here Comes the Sun: Art, Energy and Natural Intelligence

CONCERT

Chef meets Chef – music & cinema

In Search of the Lost Original Soundtrack

with Bertie Baigent, conductor, and Céline Camara, screenwriter and actress

13.03.2026 at 12:00 PM and at 7:30 PM

Cercle Cité, Grande Salle (entrance: place d'Armes)

In French

In just a few hours, the new film by renowned filmmaker Céline Camara will be unveiled to the world at a highly anticipated premiere. The spotlights are already warming up, guests are arriving... but behind the scenes, panic sets in: the original soundtrack has vanished!

To save the film from silence, Céline calls on Bertie Baigent, a conductor as brilliant as he is unpredictable. As artistic visions clash and egos collide, tension rises.

Recomposing an entire soundtrack in record time seems impossible... yet one thing quickly becomes clear: the audience must take sides. Suddenly promoted to artistic director, the public becomes responsible for the film's fate and is entrusted with the weighty task of choosing the music, performed live by the musicians.

Concert produced by the Orchestre de Chambre du Luxembourg, in partnership with Cercle Cité

Pricing and registration at cerclecite.lu

WORKSHOPS

The city of tomorrow

by Manuela Torre

21.03.2026, from 14:00 PM to 16:00 PM

Ratskeller exhibition space (rue du Curé)

In French

Let's imagine an eco-sustainable future together by shaping accordion-style cities. Drawing inspiration from the works on display, we will reflect on the use of renewable energy and the essential role of nature at the heart of urban spaces.

Let your imagination run free and enjoy decorating your paper cities by experimenting with different techniques, transforming each creation into a personal and poetic vision of the future we wish to build.

All material is provided.

From age 6 and up.

Free entry, registration on cerclecite.lu

Drawing the invisible: discovering radiolarians

by Chloé Sobczyk

04.04.2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Conference center, room 503 (entrance: 2, rue Genistre)

Multilingual (FR/EN/LU/DE)

In dialogue with James Bridle's artwork *Solar Panels (Radiolaria Series)*, dive into the fascinating world of radiolarians.

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Through the observation of these marine microorganisms, invisible to the naked eye, you will be invited to explore the connections between science and the aesthetic beauty of these natural geometric structures.

At the crossroads of science, art, and imagination, the workshop will allow you to use drawing as a tool for observing and interpreting the complexity of the world.

All material is provided.

From age 8 and up.

Free entry, registration on cerclecite.lu

PROJECTION DE FILM ET RENCONTRE

Terraforming: Historical Vision, Stakes, and Limits

by Kevin Brennan and Laurence Durkin

25.03.2026, at 6:00 PM

Henri Beck Auditorium (entrance: 2, rue Genistre)

In English

TerraForma tells the remarkable story of Ascension Island, a remote volcanic outcrop in the South Atlantic Ocean that emerged from the sea just over a million years ago a geological infant in Earth's 4.6-billion-year history.

With the help of experts in the fields of geo-engineering, ecology, politics, and design, the documentary *TerraForma* explores the lessons we could learn from Ascension Island's unique history. What does its story mean for our planet in a future where terraformed landscapes and human-engineered environments may come to warp our understanding of 'nature' itself?

The screening will be followed by an Art Talk with the film directors, Kevin Brennan and Laurence Durkin.

Lecture organised in collaboration with LUCA – Luxembourg Center for Architecture.

Free entry, registration on cerclecite.lu

GUIDED TOURS

Free guided tour every Saturday at 15:00 PM

07.02.2026 (FR)

14.02.2026 (EN)

21.02.2026 (LU/DE)

28.02.2026 (FR)

07.03.2026 (EN)

14.03.2026 (LU/DE)

21.03.2026 (FR)

28.03.2026 (EN)

04.04.2026 (FR) : curator tour by Françoise Poos and Vincent Cragon

For all guided tours: free entry, no registration required



Exhibition

Here Comes the Sun: Art, Energy and Natural Intelligence

Practical information and press contact

Exhibition	« Here Comes the Sun: Art, Energy and Natural Intelligence »
Dates	From February 6 th until April 5 th 2026
Opening hours	Free entry, every day from 11:00 to 19:00
Venue	<i>Ratskeller</i> exhibition space, entrance on rue du Curé
Accessibility	Exhibition accessible to people with motor disabilities and reduced mobility
Press visuals	cerclecite.lu/en/press
More information	cerclecite.lu
Press contact	Iyoshi Kreutz, Communications manager T : +352 46 49 46-25 iyoshi.kreutz@cerclecite.lu

