

Media information: Thursday 27 May 2010

# BALTIC

**TOMÁS SARACENO**  
***14 BILLIONS (WORKING TITLE)***

**Saturday 17 July- Sunday 10 October 2010**

**BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art** is delighted to present a new work by renowned Argentinean artist and architect **Tomás Saraceno**. For ***14 Billion (Working Title)*** **Saraceno** enlisted the aid of spider experts to create an oversized model of the web of the ***Latrodectus mactans*** (Black Widow) spider. This new work, previously unseen in the UK, will open at **BALTIC** on **Saturday 17 July**.

Through his work **Saraceno** explores possible visions of a better world; his interest in architectural projects is part of this ongoing fascination with utopian theories and astronomical constellations. Taking his inspiration from the natural environment he rethinks how we live and our relation to one another; reshaping ideas and perceptions on ownership, property and even nationality. He challenges our ideas about the stability of the built environment and the structure of urban environments. Occupying the border regions between science, art and architecture his works include anything from spheres and cloud creations to flying gardens, space elevators and futuristic dwellings.

In collaboration with arachnologists, astrophysicists, architects and engineers, **Saraceno** has spent two years developing ***14 Billion (Working Title)***. His point of departure for this new work was science's use of spiders' webs when describing the origin and structure of the universe. The resulting installation spans an enormous 400 cubic metres, is composed of 8000 black strings connected by over 23,000 individually tied knots and depicts a monstrous Black Widow spider's web. At **BALTIC** the work will be housed within a specially created white cube space located in the **Level 2 gallery** enabling visitors to walk through and around the installation.

***14 Billion (Working Title)*** is a development of the work ***Galaxy Forming along Filaments, like Droplets along the Strands of a Spider's Web*** which he presented at the **53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale** in 2009. Thomas Saraceno is guest artist for 2010 at **Bonnier Konsthall**, Stockholm where ***14 Billion (Working Title)*** was previously exhibited.

Support for this exhibition has been generously provided by Ryder Architecture.

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For further information on the exhibition, please contact:

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### TOMÁS SARACENO BIOGRAPHY

Tomás Saraceno was born in 1973 in Argentina and lives and works in Frankfurt. He has participated in numerous exhibitions world-wide, including solo presentations at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA, 2009; the Mudam, Musée d'Art Moderne, Luxemburg, 2009; and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, 2008. He participated in the 53rd Venice Biennale 2009 and group exhibitions at the Barbican, London, 2009; Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen, 2009; Wanås, Sweden; and Life Forms at Bonniers Konsthall, 2009. In 2009, the artist received the Calder Prize.

**BALTIC** is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. BALTIC presents a constantly changing, distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation, commissioning and communication of contemporary visual art. BALTIC has welcomed over 3 million visitors, since opening to the public in July 2002.

### GALLERY INFORMATION:

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ADMISSION FREE

### Opening hours:

Monday - Sunday 10.00 - 18.00 except Tuesdays 10.30 – 18.00

Exhibition Sponsor:

**Ryder**

[www.ryderarchitecture.com](http://www.ryderarchitecture.com)

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