

**Exhibition:** *John Gerrard: Solar Reserve*

**On View:** July 12, 2018–September 3, 2018

**Location:** Resnick Lawn



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(Los Angeles—July 2, 2018) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), in collaboration with the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, presents *John Gerrard: Solar Reserve*, the first Los Angeles presentation of *Solar Reserve (Tonopah, Nevada) 2014* since it was purchased with funds donated by Leonardo DiCaprio in 2015. The installation was first presented in New York City in 2014 by Lincoln Center in association with Public Art Fund. This monumental digital simulation recreates a solar thermal power plant in Nevada and the surrounding desert on a frameless LED wall. At the center of this virtual world is a tower encircled by 10,000 mirrors that adjust their positions in real time according to the location of the sun, and reflect light on the tower to generate electricity.

John Gerrard, a 2016 LACMA Art + Technology Lab grant recipient, is best known for artworks featuring real-time computer simulations that explore geographically isolated locations and examine networks of energy. Working in painstaking detail with a team of programmers, he created *Solar Reserve (Tonopah, Nevada) 2014* using a sophisticated video game engine that situates the sun, moon, and stars as they would appear at the actual Nevada site over the course of a year. As this virtual world rotates on the earth's axis through a 24-hour day, the perspective of the viewer gradually shifts from ground level to satellite view every 60 minutes, so that no view is precisely the same at any point during the course of the exhibition.

"This is the first time John's *Solar Reserve (Tonopah, Nevada) 2014* will be presented at LACMA since Leonardo DiCaprio so generously purchased the work for

the museum in 2015,” said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. “As an artist who embraces technology and experimentation in his practice, John explores light and space in this piece, and we're thrilled to share this important work from our collection with audiences in Los Angeles, where the Light and Space movement launched.”

“*Solar Reserve* grew out of two interests: historic representations of the sun and the manner in which petroleum eclipsed the sun as an energy source in the 20th century,” said the artist. “Climate change now forces us to address a legacy of extreme energy consumption in the last century, and it is interesting for me to show this simulation in L.A., one of the sunniest yet most energy-consuming cities on earth. The work radiates hope and beauty, but it is also an apparition, existing solely as software code. One of the questions it seeks to ask is: to what degree will the energy crisis be addressed by solar facilities, and to what degree is the optimism of renewable energy itself an apparition if we do not reduce global energy consumption?”

*John Gerrard: Solar Reserve* is co-curated by Jennifer King, Associate Curator of Contemporary Projects, and Meghan Doherty, Curatorial Assistant, Contemporary Art.

### **About the Artist**

John Gerrard (Ireland, b. 1974) lives and works between Dublin and Vienna. His work is included in museum collections worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich; and Tate, London. Recent exhibitions include Manifesta 12, Palermo (2018); EVA International, Limerick (2018); Mardin Biennial, Mardin (2018); CCS Bard, New York (2018); *Western Flag (Spindletop, Texas) 2017*, Somerset House, London (2017); *John Gerrard: Power.Play*, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2016); The 11th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai (2016); and *Solar Reserve*, Lincoln Center, New York, presented by the Public Art Fund (2014).

### **Production Credits for *Solar Reserve (Tonopah, Nevada) 2014***

Producer: Werner Poetzlberger; Programmer: Helmut Bressler; Modeler (terrain and landscape): Adam Donovan; Modeler (facility and heliostat): Markus Bliem; Project Photographer (U.S.): Travis Hall; Installation Development/Technical Design: Jakob Illera/Inseq Design; Game Engine: Unigine

## **Public Programming**

Walking tour of the La Brea Tar Pits and *John Gerrard: Solar Reserve*

Thursday, July 12, 2018 | 6:30 pm

Lake Pit, Hancock Park

Free, tickets required

Past and present come together in this stroll through Hancock Park with artist John Gerrard and Dr. Emily Lindsey, assistant curator at the La Brea Tar Pits. Join them in a discussion moderated by Terry Tamminen, CEO of the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, as they walk visitors through the still-active asphalt seeps on a tour that will culminate in a sunset viewing of *Solar Reserve (Tonopah, Nevada) 2014*. Dr. Lindsey will explain how scientists are using the exquisitely detailed paleontological record from the La Brea Tar Pits to learn about the impacts of climate change, while Gerrard will share his thinking behind *Solar Reserve* as it relates to both the history and future of global energy production and consumption.

**Credit:** This installation was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in collaboration with the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation.

Sponsored by Jackson Family Wines.

### **About LACMA**

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, mirroring Los Angeles's rich cultural heritage and uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of over 135,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of art history from new and unexpected points of view. A museum of international stature as well as a vital cultural center for Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collection with the Greater Los Angeles County and beyond through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over 1.5 million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions more through community partnerships, school outreach programs, and creative digital initiatives. LACMA's main campus is located halfway between the ocean and downtown, adjacent to the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum and the future home of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Dedicated to serving all of Los Angeles, LACMA collaborates with a range of curators, educators, and artists on exhibitions and programs at various sites throughout the County.

**Location:** 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. [lacma.org](http://lacma.org)

### **About the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation**

The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (LDF) is dedicated to the long-term health and wellbeing of all Earth's inhabitants. LDF supports projects around the world that build climate resiliency, protect vulnerable wildlife from extinction, and restore balance to threatened ecosystems and communities.

To date, LDF has provided grants of more than \$80 million USD to support critical environmental work in over 60 countries.

We are now experiencing what can only be called a planetary crisis—a convergence of accelerating climate change, unprecedented loss of biodiversity, and increasing human health issues caused by a toxic environment. The diverse range of projects supported by LDF—from efforts to create and expand protected areas on land and in our oceans, to initiatives to protect and recover species on the brink like elephants, sharks, lions, and orangutans, to supporting grassroots and indigenous organizations working to secure environmental protections and implement sustainable solutions at the local level—are a direct reflection of the array of efforts that are needed to turn the tide. LDF believes that we can create a world where both nature and humanity coexist in harmony. Not only do we believe this can be done, we know it must be done in order to ensure the long-term survival of both our planet’s magnificent biodiversity, and humanity.

Visit [www.leonardodicaprio.org](http://www.leonardodicaprio.org) to learn more.

**Image captions:** (Left and right) John Gerrard, *Solar Reserve (Tonopah, Nevada) 2014* (still), 2014, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, purchased with funds provided by Leonardo DiCaprio, © John Gerrard, photo courtesy of Simon Preston Gallery, New York and Thomas Dane Gallery, London

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