

NEWS RELEASE

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Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences

Mathemalchemy to Open at NAS

WASHINGTON — Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “Mathemalchemy,” a collaborative art installation conceived as the brainchild of mathematician and NAS member Ingrid Daubechies and fiber artist Dominique Ehrmann, and driven by the energy and enthusiasm of 24 mathematical artists and artistic mathematicians. The installation celebrates the creativity and beauty of mathematics. “Mathemalchemy” will be on view Jan. 24 through June 13, 2022 at the National Academy of Sciences.

Developed by Daubechies and Ehrmann as a series of workshops in fall 2019, they presented the project in the Math & Art Special Session at the Jan. 2020 Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) in Denver, Colorado. To their delight, 14 talented mathematicians/artists signed up and suggested others not at the JMM, who also joined enthusiastically, completing the group. After more than a year of meeting only remotely because of the COVID pandemic and fabricating components in their separate locations, the contributors met in the summer of 2021, all duly vaccinated, and assembled the components of the installation.

The artists and mathematicians work in fabric, yarn and string, metal, glass, paper, ceramics, wood, printed plastic, and light; and depict or employ mathematical concepts such as symmetry, topology, optimization, tessellations, fractals, hyperbolic plane, and stereographic projection. Playful constructs include a flurry of Koch snowflakes, Riemann basalt cliffs and Lebesgue terraces. Additionally, the exhibition pays homage to mathematicians and mathematical ideas from many different origins and backgrounds, ranging from amateur mathematician Marjorie Rice to Fields Medalist and NAS member Maryam Mirzakhani. For more information about the exhibition, visit <https://mathemalchemy.org/>.

“Mathemalchemy” will be on exhibit at the National Academy of Sciences building, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Although the building is closed due to the ongoing pandemic, members of the public can make reservations to visit the building to see the special exhibitions on view. Masks and proof of full COVID-19 vaccination are required. We regret that children who are not fully vaccinated cannot be admitted. For more information and to register, visit www.cpnas.org.

Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences sponsors exhibitions, the D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous salon, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and — with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine — provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations. **(Continues on page 2)**

Press Images of the Mathemalchemy Installation



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