

Aerocene – Around the world to change the world

An open project by Tomás Saraceno*

First presentation at Grand Palais and Palais de Tokyo during the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP21

December 4 – 12pm: guided visit for press, *Aerocene* booth, Grand Palais.

December 4 – 11: *Aerocene* sculptural installation at Grand Palais, Solutions COP21, part of Artists4Paris Climate 2015, Paris

December 5, 6pm: Artist talk at Grand Palais, Paris

December 6, 3pm: Symposium at Palais de Tokyo, Paris

Tomás Saraceno's artistic project *Aerocene* is a series of air-fueled sculptures that will float in the longest, most sustainable journey around the world without engines, becoming buoyant only by the heat of the Sun and infrared radiation from the surface of Earth. The project floats in the air without burning of fossil fuels, using solar panels, batteries; or helium, hydrogen and other rare gases from the ground re-sensing the circulation of energy and resources.

The material realization is surpassed by the message it bears: *Its aesthetic form follows a both utopian and real idea of open source force of movement.* Inflated by the air, lifted by the sun, carried by the wind, the project questions and seeks answers to our current and troublesome dependency on fossil and hydrocarbon fuels and pollution – the topics that places *Aerocene* at the core of the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP21 topical framework. In a world divided by geopolitics, *Aerocene* calls for participation and do-it-together actions. Crossing the frontiers between art, science and education, it becomes a visionary and open platform of shared knowledge. Thus it seeks for the deep understanding of our planet and all its physical, natural and social entanglements in order to project new ways of how we can move, dwell and be-together here on Earth.

For COP21 Paris, the artist will present the first *Aerocene* prototype at Grand Palais that will be able to circumnavigate the earth many times. At Palais de Tokyo, a symposium and a demonstrative workshop will be organized, and a series of actions and collective performances, based on open-source collaborative principles, will take place. Conformed participants of three panels' event include Leila W. Kinney (MIT CAST), Marion Ackermann (Kunstsammlung NRW, K21 Düsseldorf), Oliver Morton (The Economist), Bronislaw Szerszynski (Lancaster University) and others. [Symposium's information.](#)

Participatory actions - From reused plastic bags, to the journey around the world, Cloud Cities on the making.

A demonstration of the principles of #Aerocene

17.11-6.12.2015 – Be part of a movement that has traveled to over 21 countries around the world and reused more than 30 000 plastic, while building “*Museo Aero Solar*”, a flying museum. **Bring your re-used plastic bags**, and participate in the do-it-together. Bring 10 plastic bags, glued together in a single sheet, and get a free access to the symposium and workshop, organised together with [Palais de Tokyo](#). Or download the instructions and send a video of your flying sculpture at www.aerocene.org

Propose a payload for #Aerocene

From 3.12.2015-ongoing – propose a payload. Write a message or suggest an idea for the payload that will be carried up with the next aerosolar flight. Up to 5 grams of imagination will be lifted by the sun, no helium, burners, panels or batteries used. Foster your imagination towards the unexplored heights of the sky.www.aerocene.com

Be lifted by the sun #Aerocene #flysharing

From 3.12.2015 –ongoing – Collect your new, fossil fuel-free ‘miles and more.’ Become a part of #flyforchange: visit www.aerocene.com and help to build a new fleet of air-fueled vehicles, share one with friends, and start your pilot license course.

Forecast the trajectory of the free-flight

From 11.01.2016 – Join thousands in tracking and predicting the paths of the next art-science experiment. Get the coordinates of the launch, track the weather patterns, be challenged by jet-stream highways, and exercise your thermodynamic imagination.

“Aerocene” launch at Grand Palais is a core event of the initiative Artists4ParisClimate2015, which not only aims to mobilize public opinion around climate change, through interventions in public space by major international artists, but also act for climate: on 9 December, a charity auction will be conducted at Christie’s Paris. Each artwork will support a different UN selected NGO project to combat desertification and climate change. www.artists4parisclimate2015.com

“I am delighted to support this exciting and positive initiative, which will not only help those most vulnerable to climate change through the donation of funds raised, but also help to promote COP21 as a critical opportunity for nations to adopt a durable universal climate agreement,” said Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. “I hope that the artwork can inspire ambitious choices which lead to combatting both climate change and desertification.”

Press accreditation: <http://www.solutionscop21.org/en/press/accreditations/>

Press package can be found: <https://app.box.com/s/yhp732tonqexe01qmozqzv9ollw3zwc9>

Grand Palais, 3 Avenue du Général Eisenhower, 75008 Paris

Palais de Tokyo, 13 Avenue du Président Wilson, 75116 Paris

www.aerocene.com

www.tomassaraceno.com

<http://www.artists4parisclimate2015.com/en/artists/tomas-saraceno/>

Facebook – [facebook.com/aerocene](https://www.facebook.com/aerocene), [facebook.com/studiotomassaraceno](https://www.facebook.com/studiotomassaraceno)

Twitter – twitter.com/aerocene, twitter.com/tomassaraceno, [@artists4climate](https://twitter.com/artists4climate)

Instagram - [instagram.com/studio_tomas_saraceno/](https://www.instagram.com/studio_tomas_saraceno/), [@artists4climate](https://www.instagram.com/artists4climate)

Press contact:

Studio Tomás Saraceno, Ignas Petronis, ignas@t-saraceno.org, + 49 30 39881180 /-81 /-82

BUREAU N, Silke Neumann, silke.neumann@bureau-n.de, +49 62736102

Artists4ParisClimate: Emmanuelle Amiot, eamiot@entreprisecontemporaine.com, +33 1 39 95 22 86

* #aerocene is a non profit project

Biography:

Tomás Saraceno (b.1973, Argentina)

Tomás Saraceno owns the world's record for the first and longest, fully and solely powered certified solar air balloon tether flight. - White Sands, in Texas - November 8, 2015.

During the last 15 years, Tomás Saraceno's works and researches have numerous times pioneered in both fields: art and science. Through his practice, the artist intends to break the confines that separate individuals, by following the concept of "do-it-together," and promoting a collaborative and shared way of producing knowledge that can change the world. In 2007, at Isola Art Centre, Milan, he initiated a movement called *Museo Aero Solar*. Currently he is an artist in residency at the French National Space Agency (CNES) and a visiting artist at MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST). In 2009, he attended the International Space Studies Program at NASA Ames. The same year, Saraceno presented a major installation at the 53rd Biennale di Venezia, and was awarded the prestigious Calder Prize later. In the last few years, Saraceno's work has been shown in international solo and group exhibitions such as *A Brief History of the Future*, at the Louvre Museum, Paris (2015), *Space Without Rockets, Territory of Imagination* at Rubin Art Center for the Visual Art (2015), *Le Bordes du Monde*, at Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2015), *In orbit* at Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen K21 in Düsseldorf (2013-15) and *On Space time foam* at Hangar Bicocca in Milan (2012-13), Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (2012), and *Hamburger Bahnhof*, Berlin (2011-12). His works are included in the public collections of Museum of Modern Art, New York, the National Gallery of Denmark and Lumas Foundation, among others, as well as he has realised a number of permanent installations at Towada Arts Center, Japan, Aker Brygge, Oslo, and Domaine du Muy, France.

Tomás Saraceno lives and works in and beyond the planet Earth. After attaining his architecture degree at Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires in Argentina, Tomás received postgraduate degrees in art and architecture from Escuela Superior de bellas Artes de la Nación Ernesto de la Carcova, Buenos Aires (2000) and Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main (2003).