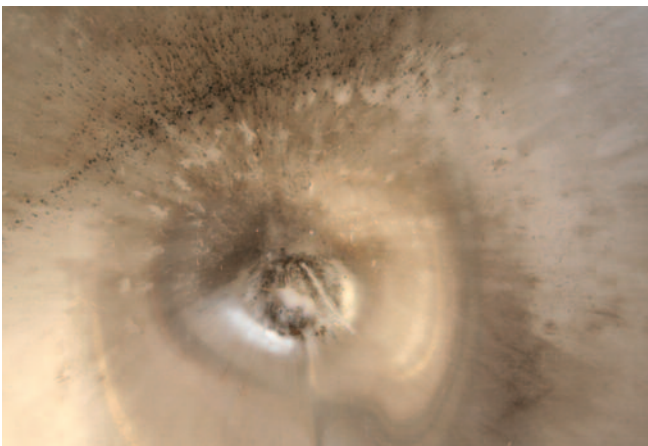


Irish Artist Wins First ESA-ARS Electronic Residency



Irish Artist, Aoife van Linden Tol is the first artist to win a the very first Art and Science ESA residency, organised by Ars Electronica and ESA.

Aoife's project was chosen out of 139 projects around Europe. Based in London, she works with explosive art, which draws in her interests in nature, cosmology, chemistry and physics. Aoife proposed *Star Storm*, a spectacular performance inspired by the physical processes that characterise the life of stars.

"What impressed the jury the most was Aoife's individual approach in asking and exploring fundamental questions about our Universe," says Gerfried Stocker, Artistic Director at Ars Electronica.



Images: Courtesy of A. van Linden Tol

Aoife told Astronomy Ireland "I am amazingly excited about the residency. I have been dreaming about working with scientists and the stars for many years."

Her residency will be in two parts, firstly at ESA's technical heart in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, where she will spend time with space scientists to research the composition, life cycle, magnetic behaviour and light production of stars, including our Sun. She will then move on to work with the Futurelab team at Ars Electronica in Linz, Austria, to design the performance. There, she will draw on her own range of techniques and explore new technologies to address, in an artistic fashion, the very nature of the cosmos we live in.

"We were greatly impressed by Aoife's exciting and poetic project that will tackle concepts of stellar birth and death in the Universe, blending art and space science into a unique performance," says Mark McCaughrean, ESA's Senior Science Advisor.

Aoife will be present when ESA's Rosetta spacecraft lands on Comet 67p. We hope to talk to Aoife while she is in residence to see how she is progressing. Watch this space!