

Dan Holdsworth

At the Edge of Space, Parts 1 – 3

8 June 2006 – 7 January 2007

at the National Maritime Museum Greenwich

Admission free

Open 10.00 – 17.00 daily

Telephone: 0870 780 3380

www.nmm.ac.uk/newvisions

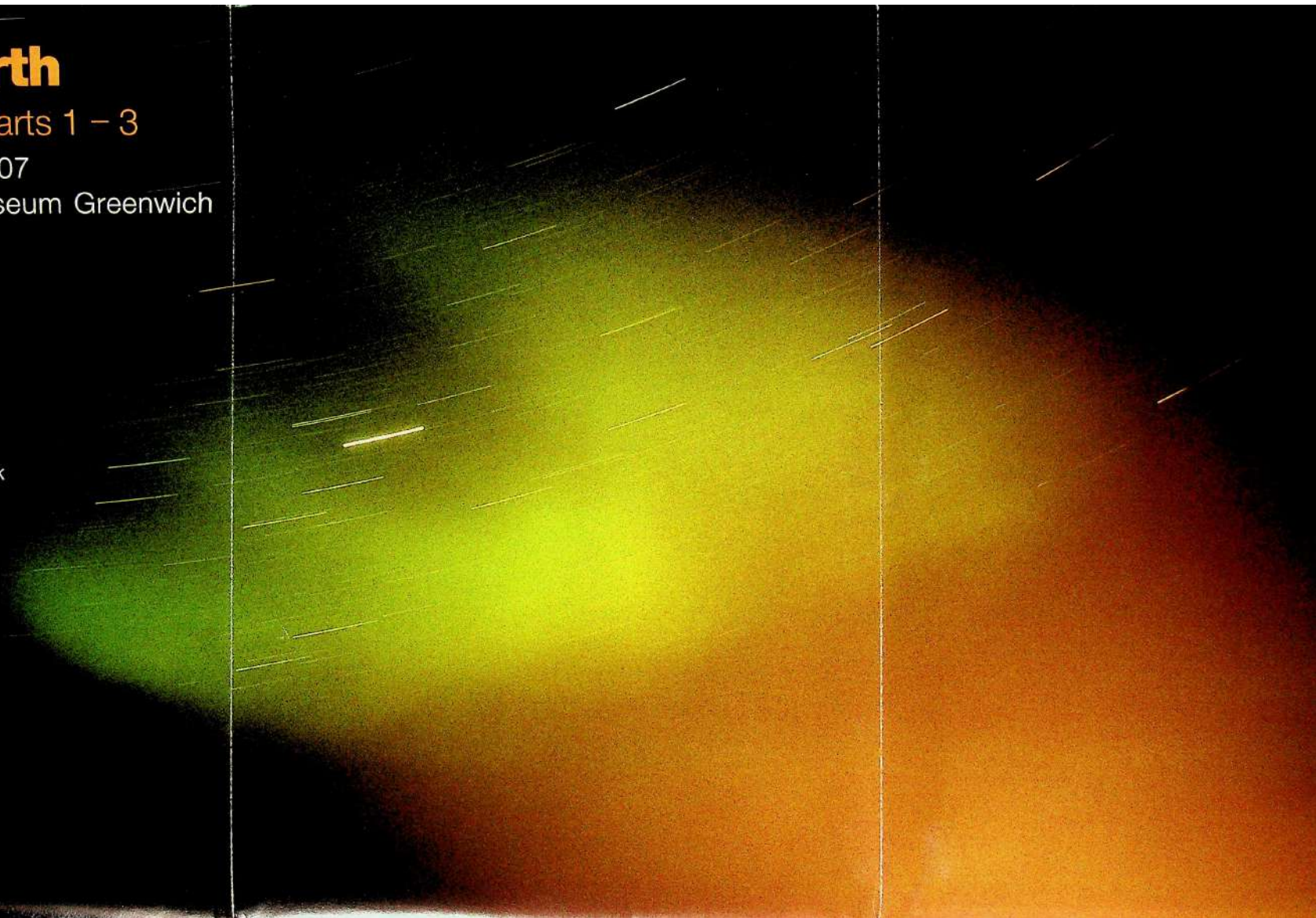
Just 20 minutes from Central London

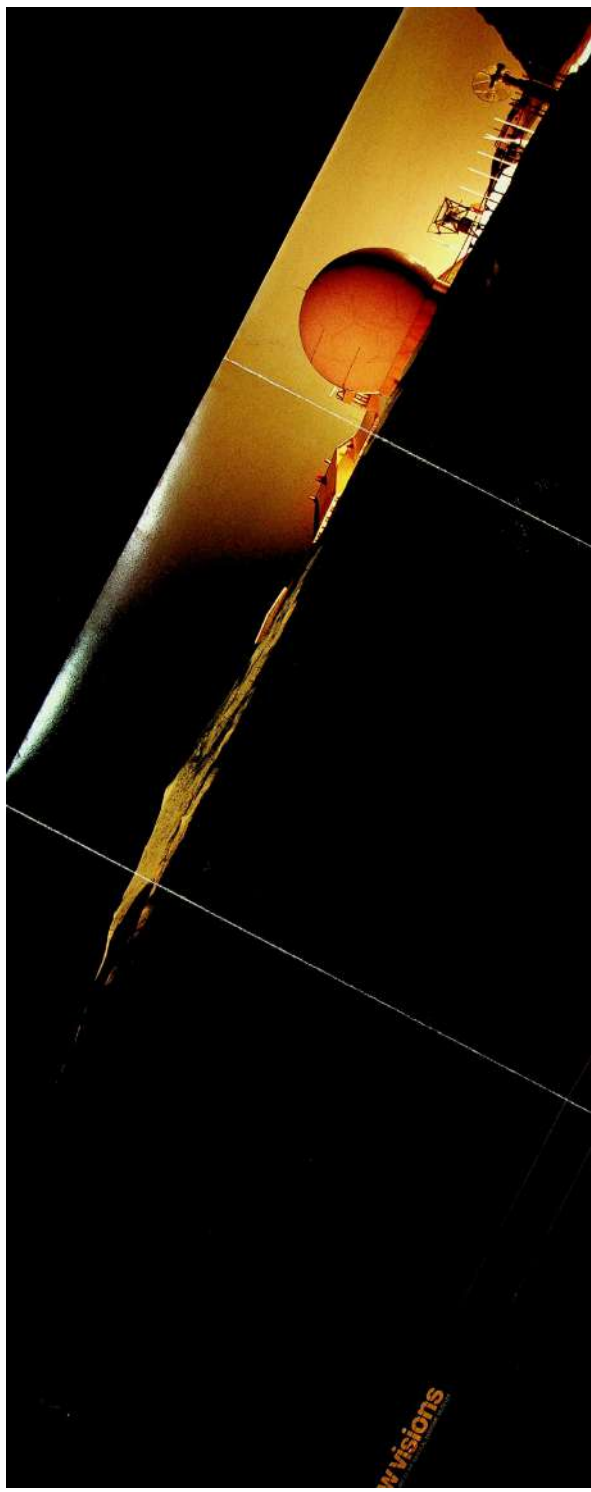
Rail or riverboat to Greenwich (Zone 2)

or Docklands Light Railway to Cutty Sark

Image: Untitled, from *Hyperborea*, 2006

**NATIONAL
MARITIME
MUSEUM**





At the Edge of Space, 1999

Made in 1999, this series of photographs was taken at the European Space Agency's spaceport at Kourou in Guiana, South America. The site is surrounded by verdant equatorial forest and its position in relation to the Earth's rotation is ideal for space missions. From here Ariane research rockets are launched as well as commercial satellites. In 2011 the Aurora Exploration Programme to Mars will send the first robotic explorer to the planet.

Holdsworth's photographs show rockets launching and docked within the dense surrounding jungle foliage. At the limits of the base, both the landscape beyond its confines and the sky above seems an endless wilderness. Together with all-white interior spaces reminiscent of science fiction, Holdsworth depicts a collision of nature and culture where the natural world and the limits of the most advanced technology sit side-by-side. *At the Edge of Space* underlines the possibilities that exist beyond what we know, tumbling the impossible knowledge of the Universe into our own consciousness.

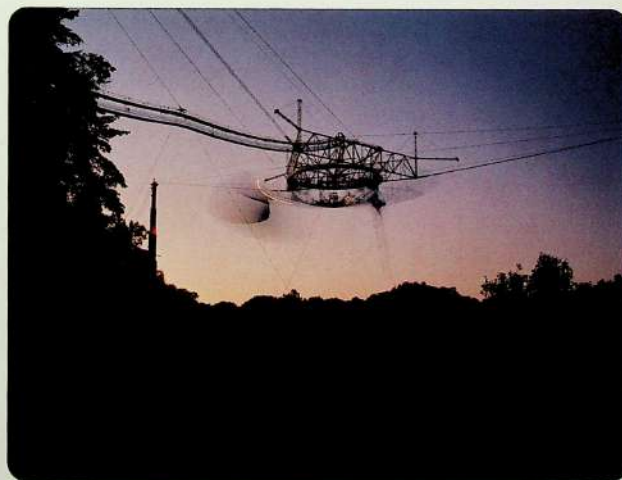


Untitled, from *At the Edge of Space*, 1999

The Gregorian, 2005

The Gregorian was developed at the Arecibo Space Telescope at the American National Astronomy and Ionosphere Centre, Puerto Rico. Nestled in a jungle landscape of collapsed cave systems, this man-made structure is the world's largest single-dish radio telescope and is capable of picking up the faintest radio waves from the edges of space. From the furthest reaches of universe pulses are recorded that have taken some 100 million years to reach the Earth. In this location the faint signals are translated into visible information that can be interpreted to reveal the formation of new planets, track asteroids and describe the edge of known space.

Using long camera exposures of up to four hours, the artist created a series of photographs taken at different times of the day and under different lunar conditions. These exploit the durational quality of still photography to look into the limits of knowledge and experience.



Untitled, from *The Gregorian*, 2005

Hyperborea, 2006

Hyperborea is a new series commissioned by the National Maritime Museum. It continues Holdsworth's exploration into the spaces between naturally occurring phenomena and our attempts to understand the edges of our environment. Driving out from the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik and to the Andoya Rocket Range in Norway, Holdsworth photographed the night skies filled with the constantly shifting patterns of the Northern Lights, while the earthbound landscape is pinpricked with traces of moving vehicles and human habitation.

The Northern Lights – the source of countless legends – are colourful displays caused by the interaction of charged particles from the solar wind with the upper atmosphere, revealing physical activity beyond the Earth's surface. In Holdsworth's photographs skies glow green and are punctuated by stars and satellites following the curvature of the Earth, while the desolate landscape is cut through with traces of human existence. These images explore how time and space affect human life and the landscape. Connecting the wilderness of nature with the edge of space, they seem barely possible, yet they reflect the world as it is.



Untitled, from *Hyperborea*, 2006

sworth
Edge of Space, Parts 1 – 3
 06 – 7 January 2007

th's large-scale photographs explore the limits of perception and
 s of photography. This exhibition focuses on the artist's interest in
 g the invisible realms of time and space, featuring work from the
 dge of Space (1999) and *The Gregorian* (2005), alongside the new
 yperborea (2006). These three series show the European Space
 report in Guiana; the Arecibo Space Telescope at the National
 d Ionosphere Centre in Puerto Rico; and the Northern Lights seen
 of Reykjavik in Iceland and from the Andoya Rocket Range above
 e in Norway.

Space, Parts 1 – 3 is an investigation into the limits of human
 these edges of what we understand - be it the limits of space,
 human consciousness comes into focus. Holdsworth's
 veal a sense of the contemporary sublime - his expansive
 ate a vertiginous pleasure in the immensity of what we do not
 d. Led by his personal responses to each environment he visits,
 out locations to photograph through their feel and atmosphere.
 sures, Holdsworth's images reveal the world around us in a way
 eye could never capture. Filled with both time and timelessness
 hs offer a window to another world that exists beyond our
 experience.

a part of *New Visions*, the National Maritime Museum's on-going
 porary art exhibitions and commissions exploring the importance
 time and the stars and their relationship with people.

Admission:

Entry is free and includes access to the National Maritime Museum,
 Royal Observatory and Queen's House.

Opening times:

10.00 – 17.00 daily
 Late summer opening 10.00 – 18.00 1 July – 3 September
 Last admission, half an hour before closing
 Closed: 24 – 26 December



Travel:

Docklands Light Railway to Cutty Sark for Maritime Greenwich (Zone 2)
 Mainline Train: London to Greenwich in about 20 minutes,
 from Charing Cross/Waterloo East/Cannon Street/London Bridge.
 Riverboat to Greenwich from Westminster/Waterloo/Embankment/Bankside
 and Tower Piers.
 London Travel Information: 020 7222 1234

More Information:

For further details, school visits and disabled access contact:
 National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF
 Telephone: 0870 780 3380 www.nmm.ac.uk/newvisions

With thanks to the Norwegian Embassy
 Printing supported by Goldenshot Photos
 Production supported by MPD Digital Laboratories
 Mounting supported by A Bliss

Images:

Front cover: Untitled, from *Hyperborea*, 2006
 All images, courtesy the artist/STORE, London

new visions
 CONTEMPORARY ART AT THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM



Dan Holdsworth

At the Edge of Space, Parts 1 – 3
 8 June 2006 – 7 January 2007



new visions