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**SCIENCE IN SURREALISM**

Victor Brauner, Max Ernst, František Janoušek,  
Marcel Jean, Matta, Gordon Onslow Ford,  
Wolfgang Paalen, Kurt Seligman, Yves Tanguy

**May 16 – August 1, 2015**



Matta, *Star Travel*, 1938

San Francisco, CA – Gallery Wendi Norris is pleased to present *Science in Surrealism*, the first exhibition devoted to Surrealist artists who were interested in investigating the scientific advances of the first half of the twentieth century, especially those related to quantum physics and the Theory of Relativity. The exhibition, which opens Saturday, May 16 and will be on view through August 1, will include a selection of pristine works that have rarely been exhibited, including oils by Victor Brauner, Max Ernst, Marcel Jean, Matta, Gordon Onslow Ford, Wolfgang Paalen, Kurt Seligmann, and Yves Tanguy, as well as a selection of rare 1930s works on paper by František Janoušek. The exhibition will be accompanied by a 70-page, hardbound catalog featuring an essay by Gavin Parkinson, Senior Lecturer of European Modernism at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. Parkinson is also the author of *Surrealism, art and modern science* (Yale University Press, 2008), which served as the jumping-off point for the exhibition's curatorial framework.

“Many exhibitions have been devoted to Surrealism and its relation to themes of sex, death, fantasy and magic, but no exhibition to date has yet demonstrated how the context of modern physics and its revelatory theories provided fresh insight into Surrealist art and its surrounding discourse,” said gallery owner Wendi Norris. “The discussions and debates that ensued in the 1920s and 1930s around discoveries like relativity spawned new compositional directions that have continued to influence decades of artists ever since. Through this exhibition and these works, we see how the Surrealist artists began to shape how we perceive the world around us based on a greater understanding of the universe, and how their explorations created one of the most significant paradigm shifts in the history of artistic production.”

Investigation of “the new physics,” as it was referred to at the time, was spearheaded by scientists such as Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr and Max Planck, among others. Its impact is reflected throughout the work of many Surrealist artists and writers in abstracted yet definitive ways. Matta’s paintings evoke the random scatter of subatomic particles; Max Ernst drew analogies between the Eros of psychoanalysis and the electromagnetic attractions and repulsions of mathematical science; Gordon Onslow Ford was known to have engaged in ongoing research on the links between art and metaphysics throughout his practice; František Janoušek’s drawings feature symbolic objects with explicit anthropomorphic associations; Wolfgang Paalen titled his paintings with reference to science, using names like *Between Matter and Light Unbound* and *Space Unbound*; and Yves Tanguy incorporated geological imagery sourced from his travels through Africa into his canvases.

### **ABOUT GALLERY WENDI NORRIS**

Gallery Wendi Norris presents both a contemporary and Modern program that showcases a variety of artists working over many geographic locations and in a wide array of media. The gallery, located at 161 Jessie Street in downtown San Francisco, often shows two exhibitions simultaneously in order to encourage a re-contextualization of work by Modern artists while providing connections with the contemporary. Gallery Wendi Norris is active locally as well as internationally, working with individual collectors and museums alike in both primary and secondary markets. Founded with an emphasis on scholarship and education, the gallery produces researched exhibition catalogues, sponsors artist talks, hosts visiting academics, and engages in local public art projects, among other initiatives. Learn more at [gallerywendinorris.com](http://gallerywendinorris.com)

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