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**Tomás Saraceno astonishes once more  
and his art is “hanging” from 25 October 2012 to 3 February 2012  
in HangarBicocca, Milan**

**Utopia becomes reality  
thanks to the research of an international team and Pirelli’s support**

**A programme packed with free activities for all:  
films, guided tours and creative paths for children**

Press release

*From 25 October 2012 to 3 February 2013 HangarBicocca is presenting On Space Time Foam, a major exhibition project by Tomás Saraceno, the visionary artist known for his surprising structures that draw the public into extraordinary spatial and emotional experiences. He is the inaugural Visiting Artist at the Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA*

*The monumental installation is composed of a transparent surface suspended at a height of 24 metres and measuring 400 square metres. This work of creativity and scientific research was made possible through the interaction of skills and experiences in a broad array of fields of knowledge, and thanks to Pirelli’s support.*

*Furthermore, this winter HangarBicocca will continue its rich programme of free initiatives catering to all age groups: guided tours, films and activities for children.*

According to the official biography of Tomás Saraceno, born in San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina, 39 years ago, he “lives and works between and beyond the planet Earth”. An artist, architect and world citizen who has always studied alternate universes, Saraceno is bringing a brand-new site-specific installation to Milan, combining **science and art**. Curated by Andrea Lissoni, Saraceno’s project will flank Carsten Nicolai’s audiovisual installation *unidisplay* (until 2 December).


*On Space Time Foam* is a structure composed of three levels of thick clear film raised and set on the walls of the “Cubo” at HangarBicocca covering an area of 400 square metres.

The large soft and floating film welcomes visitors who will thus find themselves moving mid-air between the floor and the ceiling, earth and sky, and it compels them to lose their spatial coordinates.

The artist engages with the concept of boundary, challenging it and conceiving a pioneering device **activated by the participation of the public**. *On Space Time Foam* transforms **architecture** into a **living organism**, one that breathes thanks to the movements of those who cross it, visualizing the infinite relationships that tie us to space. As the artist explains, “the films constituting the living core of HangarBicocca are constantly altered by climate and the simple movement of people. Each step, each breath, modifies the entire space: it is a metaphor for how our interrelations affect the Earth.”

The work, which required months of engineering and static testing, represents an important moment in the study and experimentation process of Saraceno’s work, ever poised between the quest for the impossible and scientific rigour. *On Space Time Foam* was created thanks to the collaboration of a team of engineers and Lindstrand Technologies, a leading company in the research and production of aerostatic materials and products, hot-air balloons and space vehicles also manufactured for ESA (European Space Agency). The work at HangarBicocca is the accomplishment of a utopian dream, that of flight and lightness moving beyond the limitations of physics through the experimentation of materials and techniques never used before.

The outcome of the vision of this artist/architect, with elaborate scientific studies and synergies of different skills and experiences, the project has been made possible thanks to the support of Pirelli,



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which has built its corporate history – ever open to innovation – on the constant dialectic between the rigor of technological research and the ability to look at future scenarios.

*On Space Time Foam* is part of the research that has involved the artist for years on the creation of airborne systems, such as platforms that can change shape and be transformed thanks to public interaction. In his works the structural context, environmental forms and innovative materials come together to create projects with a powerful ideal impetus that can break down all disciplinary barriers and focus on the language of space and social dynamics. *Cloudy City* and *Airport City* are works in progress, systems and works that, as a whole, constitute a complex reflection on the major themes of the present as the need to conceive new lifestyles, new ways of travelling and communicating, and **eco-sustainable solutions for the creation of non-standard architectures**, new interpersonal relationships and, alternately, new forms of freedom.

### **HB Public: a rich program of events and activities for the public**

For the *On Time Space Foam* exhibition HangarBicocca has again planned the HB Public programme, a calendar of events and in-depth conferences, film projections, guided tours, meetings and activities offered free of charge for all age groups. Thursday evenings are devoted to cinema with **Auteur Overview – The films chosen by Tomás Saraceno**: a series of films chosen to illustrate the artist's key reference and a now well-established rendezvous that adds further meaning to the works of the artists on display. HangarBicocca also organizes **guided tours** every Sunday at 5 p.m. with experts and art historians in order to help visitors discover the permanent installations and current exhibitions, as well as two special appointments, on 8 and 22 November at 9 p.m., with Andrea Lissoni for the **Aperitif with the curator** cycle, informal meetings to take a closer look at themes and contents with the person who conceived and staged the current exhibitions, in order to engage with professionals, and to meet and discuss contemporary art.

### **HB Kids: creative paths and films for children**

HangarBicocca continues its programme of activities to introduce children to contemporary art and its languages. The Art Tutors, qualified cultural educators, will accompany young visitors to help them discover the exhibition project, stimulating their curiosity through dialogue and the analysis of forms and contents. The **activities** are offered on **weekends** for families and during the week for schools through HB School, HangarBicocca's new programme specifically designed for all grades. There will also be **films** projected with MIC – Museo Interattivo di Cinema to bring younger audiences closer to the language of art, through the communicative power of cinema.

### **The HangarBicocca Foundation**

HangarBicocca is a foundation chaired by Marco Tronchetti Provera. Pirelli is a charter member and promoter of the Foundation, and is flanked by the Region of Lombardy and the Milan Chamber of Commerce as charter members. The three partners share the vision of culture and contemporary art as a driving force for development. For Pirelli, in particular, HangarBicocca is the natural continuance of a corporate culture that has always made research and innovation a key principle. By sponsoring exhibitions, Pirelli guarantees the international quality of HangarBicocca's programming, making it possible to produce site-specific installations planned and executed internally, a contribution that makes this art centre a true design laboratory in which research processes and innovation fully reflect the values of the company.



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## **Information**

Exhibition title	On Space Time Foam
Artist	Tomás Saraceno
Curators	Andrea Lissoni
Opening	25 October 2012, 7 p.m.
Exhibition period	26 October – 2 February 2012
Venue	HangarBicocca
Address	Via Chiese 2, Milan
Hours	Thursday – Sunday from 11.00 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Admission	free
Children's workshop	every weekend
Guided tours	Sunday 5 p.m.
Auteur Overview	Thursday, 9 p.m.
Aperitif with the curator	8 November / 22 November, 7 p.m.
Main sponsor	Pirelli
Tel. for the public	+39 0266111573
Info for the public	<a href="mailto:info@hangarbicocca.org">info@hangarbicocca.org</a> - <a href="http://www.hangarbicocca.org">www.hangarbicocca.org</a>

## **Press office**

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