



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Internationally renowned British artist Bruce Munro brings his 'A Game' to the FAC this summer

COLORADO SPRINGS (June 2, 2017) — The Fine Arts Center (FAC) is pleased to announce an installation of renowned British artist Bruce Munro's newest piece, *Thank You For A Very Enjoyable Game*, July 2-Sept 17, 2017. Best known for his immersive large-scale installations and sculptures, *Thank You For A Very Enjoyable Game* is a rare departure from Munro's focus on light-based creations. Its exhibition at the FAC is the first one outside of the UK.

Munro bases this visual abstraction on a chess game between an astronaut and a computer from the film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. As a child, the novel by Arthur C. Clarke ignited Munro's imagination about all things 'space' but it was Stanley Kubrick's film interpretation of the novel that presented for him, a new perspective on the world. The subtlety of Kubrick's interpretation of a man-made machine surpassing the intelligence of its human makers was a concept Munro found both chilling and humorous.

In *Thank You For A Very Enjoyable Game*, 30 chess boards inlaid with colored Formica track every move made in the match. A subtle audio soundtrack of chimes (suggesting a 'chess clock' timer) indicating a move has been made by a player. Each square has a designated audio note and is derived from Tingsha – the cymbals used in prayer and rituals by Tibetan Buddhist practitioners. The chime was specifically chosen to emphasize the contemplative nature of the game of chess.

Thank You For A Very Enjoyable Game is as much about Kubrick's genius as a filmmaker as it is a stark warning to a world where artificial intelligence and the human condition grow ever closer – a subject so pertinent in a world driven by technology today. The work is also a reflection on Munro's continued interest in language and literature, where written and visual experiences are translated and re-interpreted by him through his work.

About Bruce Munro

British artist Bruce Munro is best-known for producing large, immersive light-based installations – which often employ a massing of components by the thousands. An artistic diarist, he has spent over 30 years collecting and recording ideas and images in his sketchbooks, which he returns to over time as source material.

Language, literature, science and music have also greatly influenced his work. Frequently, Munro's subject matter is his own experience of fleeting moments of rapport with the world and existence in its largest sense of being part of life's essential pattern. His reoccurring motif is the use of light on an environmental scale in order to create a sensory and emotional experience for the viewer.

Munro completed a B.A. in Fine Arts at Bristol Polytechnic in Bristol, United Kingdom in 1982. Shortly after, he moved to Sydney where he worked in design and lighting inspired by Australia's natural light and landscape. Returning to England in 1992, he settled in Wiltshire where he raised four children with his wife Serena.

Munro's work has been shown at Museums and Botanical Gardens internationally, notably, The Victoria & Albert Museum, London; Waddesdon Manor for the Rothschild Collection, Buckinghamshire; and The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. His work is held in private and museum collections internationally including the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Texas Tech University, Lubbock; and Cheekwood Gardens and Art Museum.

Bruce Munro: Thank You For A Very Enjoyable Game

When: July 2-Sept 17, 2017 | Daily 10a-5p; Fridays and Theatre Nights 10a-7:30p

Where: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St.

Admission: \$12; free for FAC members and kids 12 and under

Something else: Experience a "Summer of Munro!" Bruce Munro will have two site-specific light installations, *Field of Light* and *Tepees* at the Green Box Arts Festival in Green Mountain Falls, CO from July 1-9. More at:

<http://www.greenboxarts.org/>

Fine Arts Center

In 1919 the Broadmoor Art Academy (BAA) was established in the former home of philanthropists Julie and Spencer Penrose. After the Great Depression hit in 1929, the BAA looked at diversifying further, expanding into an entire arts district under one roof. And that's how the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) came to be. The FAC, built in 1936, is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, professional theatre company and arts education center. Built on the foundation of the prestigious BAA, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado's arts and cultural heritage. One of 16 charter members of the American Alliance of Museums, the FAC offers the best in visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, as a TCG member theatre company, and through arts education with the FAC's Bemis School of Art. The FAC building is considered an architectural treasure in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. For more information, visit csfineartscenter.org

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