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Press Release: Einstein Fountain

Visualising Light in Water?

A Black Hole in a Fountain?

Expressing Einstein's Theory with Water Jets?

It's all possible, and Vincent Icke, an astronomer and visual artist, has achieved it in his water art installation: the Einstein Fountain.

On 2 September, at around 11.30h, the President of the Executive Board of Leiden University, Annetje Ottow, and Dean Jasper Knoester will activate the fountain as part of the opening ceremony for the new Gorlaeus Building of the Faculty of Science at Leiden University, located at Einsteinweg 55.

Seventy-four water jets arranged in circles will demonstrate how light moves around — and vanishes into — a rotating black hole. After the fountain is switched on, there will be ample opportunity to view the fountain and speak with Vincent Icke. The start time has been adjusted for logistical reasons.

At 13.00h, Vincent Icke will give a brief talk, followed by a surprise performance by Erik van Muiswinkel (still a secret to Vincent!), and a toast to Einstein and the Faculty. Before and after this, there will be time for conversations, filming, and photography, all accompanied by drinks and snacks. The artwork *The Cloud* by Jos Agasi and *Blurp* by Hans Codée can be admired and discussed in the building's atrium.

On the same day, the website dedicated to the Einstein Fountain will be launched: www.Einsteinfontein.nl, featuring six videos that trace the journey from concept to completion, portray the artist, explain the science behind the fountain, and, of course, follow Einstein during his many extended visits to Leiden.

The Faculty of Science commissioned this artwork in honour of Professor Albert Einstein, who held a special professorship at Leiden and frequently stayed with his friends Lorentz, Ehrenfest, and Kamerlingh Onnes.

Note to Editors:

For press inquiries

If you would like to arrange an appointment at an earlier or later time, please let us know. Registration is important, as it allows us to secure a good spot for filming/photography and to arrange some space for interviews. It's expected to be a busy day with many attendees, so securing a good place in the programme and at the fountain opening is essential.

The Raakruimte Foundation encouraged the development and execution of the design and collaborated with the University on its realisation.

For more information and registration: [+31 622970602](tel:+31622970602) or icke-lemmens@kpnmail.nl