

Bluedot Festival 2017

Jodrell Bank



The second annual Bluedot Festival took place in Macclesfield in July. We collaborated with Japanese artist, Diato Manabe & Abandon Normal Devices to create an interactive projection experience.

Promoter, Ben Robinson commissioned Abandon Normal Devices to curate the artwork for this year's telescope installation. Arts organisation AND, work with artists who challenge the ideas of normality and repurpose technology in a creative way. The central idea behind 'Cosmos' was the interaction with the academic facilities at Jodrell bank – collecting scientific data from the telescope to inform the visual experience. The 'Cosmos' commission was awarded to mathematician and programmer, Diato Manabe.

Manabe spent time with the scientists at Jodrell bank looking at pulsar data, which is essentially cosmic background microwave radiation – the ghost from the big bang. His company Rising Maniacs, is a research company that works across technology and innovation, the art is in the coding. Diato builds his own software and devices to push the boundaries of what's possible with the technology available to him. In this instance, he used the pulsar data to inform the audio and visual experience.

Daito created an application where members of the public could, via an interface in front of the projection control area, dial into the radio frequency the telescope was listening to. Managing the technical programming and projection, we developed custom Notch modules and exposed parameters that could be controlled through the app. This was then translated into the visual imagery that was projected onto the telescope via Notch.moment, live. We weren't locked into just playing back whatever we had already rendered, we could react in the moment. '

The d3/Notch racks were also used to create custom content for headliners The Pixies. 'It was an exciting year for us at Bluedot, with the new d3 gx series capability - we have lot more power available to create more interesting visuals' states Pod Bluman of Bluman Associates. 'We were also much more involved with in the festival this year, we love the show and are delighted to be working with such a talented and creative team.'

Credits

Artist: Diato Manabe and AND
Client: Bluedot Festival
Role: Projection, Notch and D3

