



## MONUMENTAL LUMINARIUM *TIMISIEN* SET TO ILLUMINATE LAKESIDE ARTS DURING MAY HALF-TERM

**Saturday 23 May – Sunday 31 May 2026**  
Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham  
Tickets £6.50

**PRESS PREVIEW: Friday 22 May, 11am**  
Images available [here](#).

A breathtaking fusion of architecture, light and colour arrives at Lakeside Arts this May as *Timisien*, a spectacular Luminarium by Architects of Air, opens to the public for one week in Highfields Park.

Running from 23–31 May 2026, *Timisien* invites visitors of all ages to step inside a monumental, walk-through sculpture. An immersive labyrinth of domes and tunnels illuminated entirely by natural daylight.

Inspired by the cultural heritage of Timișoara, Romania, where it was originally created for the city's European Capital of Culture celebrations, *Timisien* showcases a striking blend of artistic innovation and architectural influence. Its design features multi-coloured “skylights” set atop quadraxial domes, casting ever-changing patterns of light across interior surfaces to create a tranquil yet awe-inspiring sensory experience.

0115 846 7777 | [lakesidearts.org.uk](http://lakesidearts.org.uk)  
Lakeside Arts, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

The University is a body corporate incorporated by Royal Charter with Registered Number RC000664

At 47 metres long and 30 metres wide, the structure unfolds into a vast network of interconnected spaces. Eighteen of its twenty domes form a central labyrinth, while additional outer domes offer moments of pause and reflection. Visitors wander through glowing chambers inspired by Islamic architectural motifs, with intricate geometric forms and luminous canopies rising overhead. Subtle design references, including elements inspired by Antoni Gaudí's Casa Güell, add to the richness of the experience.

Luminaria by Architects of Air have captivated audiences worldwide for over three decades, offering immersive environments that blend art, engineering and the natural phenomenon of light. These structures are designed to evoke both wonder and calm, with each visit shaped by shifting daylight conditions and the movement of people within the space.

Set within the scenic surroundings of Highfields Park, the partnership between Lakeside Arts and Nottingham-based Architects of Air captivates families throughout the Midlands, creating an annual celebration of light for Nottinghamshire. *Timisien* is designed to be accessible and inviting for everyone, with Lakeside Arts offering Baby and Parent sessions, SEND sessions and more. Making the Luminarium truly an experience for the whole community to enjoy.

Alan Parkinson, Founder, Designer and Artistic Director of Architects of Air said *"I create Luminaria to share the sense of wonder that light can bring. Returning to Lakeside Arts this year with Timisien is especially meaningful, Nottingham is where my practice is rooted, and it's an opportunity to bring something personal back to the community."*

*This piece draws on the same threads that run through my work—nature, geometry, and the echoes of architecture, creating an immersive space that invites people not just to look, but to wander, to pause, and to feel. I am always fascinated by how people respond, how they move through it, how they interpret it in their own way.*

*For me, it's not just an artwork; it's an experience that belongs as much to the audience as it does to the artist. I'm excited to see how audiences at Lakeside Arts connect with it."*

James Parkinson, CEO of Lakeside Arts said *"Bringing Timisien to the University of Nottingham is a remarkable example of how art, architecture and light can come together to create something truly immersive and accessible for all ages. We're especially proud to continue our partnership with Architects of Air, celebrating work that not only inspires awe but also invites reflection and connection. We're also committed to making this experience as inclusive as possible, with dedicated SEND sessions, baby and parent sessions, and relaxed grown-up sessions, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the Luminarium in a way that suits them best. Timisien offers something genuinely special for our community during the half-term, and we're delighted to welcome visitors to explore here at Lakeside Arts."*

Visitors are encouraged to book in advance due to high demand at [Luminarium: Timisien - Lakeside Arts, Nottingham](#)

-- ENDS --

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact Lakeside Arts' Marketing and Communications Managers Mária Konyelicska-Visky [maria.konyelicska-visky@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:maria.konyelicska-visky@nottingham.ac.uk) and Amy Steels [amy.steels@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:amy.steels@nottingham.ac.uk)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham

Lakeside Arts is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts, manuscripts and museum exhibitions, as well as music, theatre, dance, children and families' productions. Its venues include the Djanogly Gallery, opened in 1992, that stages a year-round programme of 20th-century and contemporary art exhibitions complemented by a lively programme of public lectures and learning activities. Recent exhibitions have included: *Material Worlds* (2025), *Cosmic Titans* (2024-2025), *Saad Qureshi: Conversations Before the End of Time* (2024), *Reimag(in)ing the Victorians* (2023-2024), *Rhythm & Geometry: Constructivist Art in Britain Since 1951* (2023), *Michael Forbes: Blk this & Blk that... a state of urgency* (2022).

[lakesidearts.org.uk](http://lakesidearts.org.uk) | Facebook and Instagram: @LakesideArts

### Architects of Air

Architects of Air, based in Nottingham, have been creating luminaria for over three decades, captivating more than four million people in over 47 countries. The Luminarium is created by Alan Parkinson, founder of Architects of Air, who has been building monumental inflatable art since 1992. His work draws on sacred architecture, geometry, and cultural motifs, creating spaces that are inclusive, welcoming, and accessible to audiences of all ages and abilities.

[www.architects-of-air.com](http://www.architects-of-air.com) | Facebook @architectsofairAoA Instagram @architects\_of\_air

## LISTING INFORMATION

**Exhibition Dates:** Saturday 23 May – Sunday 31 May 2026

**Opening Hours:** 11am-5pm

**Address:** University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

**Admission:** £6.50

## RELATED EVENTS

### Baby & Parent Session

**Friday 22 May**

A gentle session where little ones (0-18months) can enjoy colours and soothing light in a calm, relaxed environment just for them and their adults.

### Quieter & Calm SEND Session

**Tuesday 26 May**

This is our Quieter & Calm SEND session, allowing time and space to enjoy the sensory experience of the Luminarium, for those that need it.

### Loud & Active SEND Session

**Wednesday 27 May**

A SEND session designed for those who are comfortable in a louder, more active environment.

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**Grown-ups Only**

**Thursday 28 May**

A session for just adults to enjoy.

Illuminating Talk & Guided Tour

Friday 22 May

Discover the artistry, engineering, and philosophy that shape these extraordinary structures, with a guided experience inside the installation, with visionary founder Alan Parkinson and Architects of Air makers.