

Into the Crucibles of Nature

Benaki Museum, Athens

30th September 2009

Art///Fiorella Lavado

Science////Arthur I. Miller

Into the Crucibles of Nature was a unique exhibit of astronomical art works in that its artistic and scientific components were inseparable. An overflow crowd of over 1,500 people viewed the show with intense interest, stopping to ponder and discuss each object at great length. The exhibit was part of Greece's contribution to the International Year of Astronomy. It was the capstone to four lectures - Jean-Pierre Lebreton discussed satellites launched by the European Space Agency to probe our solar system; Arthur I. Miller explored the rich narrative history of black holes; Fiorella Lavado and Miller showed how a collaboration between an artist and a scientist could lead to knowledge about objects in our cosmos that went far beyond scientific visualisations; and Yannis Bitsakis delved into the Antikythera Mechanism, an astronomical computer dating from 150 B.C. The evening was a gala intellectual event, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

1 Lecture 2 Discussion panel: Yannis Bitsakis, Jean-Pierre Lebreton, Fiorella Lavado, Arthur I. Miller 3 Exhibition hall 4 Eleni T. Chatzichristou (organiser), Arthur I. Miller, Fiorella Lavado 5 Black Hole and photo projections 6 Wormhole 7 Planetary Nebula

