

PRESS RELEASE

DIFRACTA '26. Festival of Research and Creation in the Context of the Quantum Paradigm

- DIFRACTA '26 is an international festival that explores the potential of quantum physics as a framework for rethinking contemporary forms of research, creation, and knowledge production. Its first edition will take place on 20–21 November 2026 at Eina Bosc, Barcelona.
- The festival will bring together internationally renowned figures from physics, philosophy, art, design, and digital culture to reflect on the epistemological, ontological, methodological, and ethical implications associated with the quantum paradigm.
- DIFRACTA '26 will combine five keynote lectures, sixteen research and creation laboratories, and several artistic activations conceived specifically for the project, creating a space for experimentation, learning, and exchange across disciplines.
- Organised by Eina Obra, the research, creation, and knowledge transfer platform of the Fundació Eina, in collaboration with the Barcelona Art, Science and Technology Hub (HacTe) and the Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO), with the support of Puig and the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT).

Barcelona, 17 June 2026

Eina Obra presents DIFRACTA 2026, a new international festival of research and creation that will take place on 20–21 November at Eina Bosc (Barcelona). The project is conceived as a meeting space between art, design, philosophy and science to explore how the conceptual shifts associated with the quantum paradigm are transforming contemporary practices of research, creation and thought.

Rather than being a festival about quantum physics itself, DIFRACTA explores how certain ideas emerging from this field—such as relationality, entanglement, indeterminacy and the participation of the observer—are reshaping contemporary research and creative practices, and how these notions are being reinterpreted, translated and incorporated into fields as diverse as art, design, the humanities and digital culture.

The festival stems from the recognition that many of the conceptual frameworks inherited from modernity, based on the separation between subject and object, nature and culture, or observer and phenomenon, are insufficient for addressing the complexity of today's social, ecological and technological challenges. In this context, the quantum paradigm emerges as a source of inspiration for imagining new ways of understanding the relationships between knowledge, matter, technology and society

A transdisciplinary programme

DIFRACTA 2026 will feature five internationally recognised keynote speakers from the fields of physics, philosophy, digital culture, and artistic and curatorial practices: Maciej Lewenstein (ICFO), Vlatko Vedral (University of Oxford), Evelien Geerts (University College Cork), Femke Snelting (The Institute for Technology in the Public Interest), and Mónica Bello (Platform DALI). Their contributions will address epistemological, ontological, methodological and ethical questions associated with the quantum paradigm and will serve as the starting point for an extensive programme of laboratories, conversations and experimental processes.

The festival will also include sixteen research and creation laboratories led by internationally recognised individuals and collectives working across art, design, research, philosophy, digital culture and the sciences. Participants will include Pep Vidal, Anja Groten, Peter Teunissen representing Forensic Architecture, Claudia Claramí, Abelardo Gil-Fournier, Sonia Contera, Josep Perelló, Antonio Gagliano, Astrid Schrader, Ellen G. Richardson, Blanca Pujals, José Luis de Vicente, Jara Rocha, Lucía C. Pino, Lara García Díaz and María García Ruiz, as well as the Ludic Thought Laboratory, formed by Antonio R. Montesinos and Susana Rodilla. These spaces will provide opportunities to engage with methodologies, tools and practices that explore new ways of researching, creating and producing knowledge from a transdisciplinary perspective.

The programme will be complemented by a series of artistic and performative activations by Dr. masharu (The Museum of Edible Earth), Reiko Yamada and Lúa Coderch, expanding the festival's content beyond conventional conference or academic congress formats.

DIFRACTA takes place at a particularly significant moment for Barcelona, a city that in recent years has established itself as one of Europe's leading ecosystems for encounters between art, science, technology and contemporary thought.

Tickets and information

Early-bird tickets are now available until 1 September 2026. From that date onwards, standard rates will apply.

More information:

www.eina.cat/en/difracta-26

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