

MUSEUM

The Exploratorium

San Francisco, CA

On the grounds of the Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco's Exploratorium transports you from an outdoor exotica, where white swans flank the Greco-Roman architecture, to an electrically-charged foyer of interactive stations. Here, beneath 60-foot ceilings, there's no lack of opportunity to interface directly with seismometers, satellite orbit simulators, fog chambers, transistors, voltage dividers, magnetic clouds and imaging stations equipped precision instruments for the observation of live specimens (like mouse stem cells).

In all, there are 750 to 800 exhibits, around 500 of which are on display at a given time. This rotation, coupled with a dynamic roster of artists-in-residence who create unique pieces, makes the

Exploratorium feel as much like an art gallery as it does a science museum.

February through June, the Reconsidered Materials exhibit plays havoc with your senses, displaying a pterodactyl made of auto parts, and a Styrofoam Hummer, among other juxtapositions. On March 2nd, listen to sounds you've probably never heard when sonic artist Gordon Monahan performs his "Speaker Swinging and Piano Mechanics" with Laura Kikauka and others. And on March 28th, stay the night! The Exploratorium will be open from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., projecting views of the solar eclipse, live-via-satellite, as the moon's shadow passes from Brazil to Turkey. Bring a pillow and plenty of coffee.

— Jennifer Leonard



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