HAYWARD GALLERY

Press Release
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Andrius Arutiunian
They Tried to Count Us
24 November 2026 - 7 March 2027



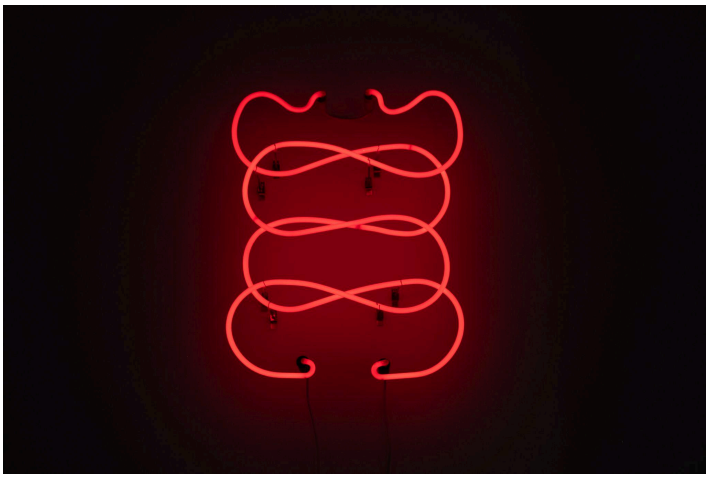

IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

The Hayward Gallery, in partnership with the RC Foundation, Taiwan (R.O.C.), will present ***Andrius Arutiunian: They Tried to Count Us.*** This will mark the Armenian-Lithuanian artist and composer's first solo exhibition in the UK and the eighth exhibition in the RC Foundation Project Space Exhibition Series, which showcases the next generation of emerging international artists.

Andrius Arutiunian: They Tried to Count Us takes place in the HENI Project Space in the Southbank Centre's Hayward Gallery – a space that offers the opportunity for audiences to discover exhibitions from new artistic voices for free.

Bringing together new commissions and recent work, *They Tried to Count Us* taps into humanity's continuous quest to define the afterlife. The exhibition will expand the artist's ongoing investigation into representations of the underworld and cosmos across time and cultures. Viewing mythology as a form of time travel where alternative pasts and futures are presented at once, Arutiunian draws from materials, objects and rituals associated with

ancient practices in order to decipher the future of the universe. Through a series of sculptures and a brand new sound piece inspired by the stars, *They Tried to Count Us* will invite audiences to embrace the unknown and encounter voices and visions from other worlds.

Andrius Arutiunian says: *"In my new sound piece, a choir counts the names of the stars in the order of their weight. I wanted to hear what this countdown sounds like when its end is both far and near."*

Yung Ma, Senior Curator of the Hayward Gallery, says: *"The RC Foundation Project Space Exhibition Series seeks to offer audiences the opportunity to discover international artists whose practices invite curiosity and discovery. Andrius' multifaceted artworks do just that, and we're excited to see audiences explore the cosmos via sound and sculpture in what will be the artist's first UK solo exhibition."*

The HENI Project Space is a vital part of the Southbank Centre's free programming, introducing new international voices and providing accessible cultural experiences for all to enjoy. Since its establishment in 2007, the space has platformed an array of artists including Hicham Berrada, Thabiso Sekgala, Val Lee, Huang Po-Chih, Kate Cooper, Heecheon Kim, Amol K Patil, Samuel Laurence Cunnane and Kulpreet Singh.

Andrius Arutiunian: They Tried to Count Us is curated by Suzanna Petot, Assistant Curator. Additional support is generously provided by Upė Foundation.

Andrius Arutiunian: They Tried to Count Us will be presented alongside **Nan Goldin: *You Never Did Anything Wrong.*** More information on the exhibition can be found **HERE.**

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Image Credits, L-R

- Installation view of Andrius Arutiunian, *They Tried to Count Us*, 2026 in *Obol*, Hermès Maison Ginza Le Forum, Tokyo, 2026 © Kei Murata / Courtesy of Fondation d'entreprise Hermès.
- Andrius Arutiunian, *Geryon & Herakles*, 2025. Photo by Memphis Linz. Courtesy the artist.

Exhibition Listing Information

Andrius Arutiunian: They Tried to Count Us
24 November 2026 - 7 March 2027

Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX
Free.

The Hayward Gallery opening times:
Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm
Sat, 10am – 8pm
Sun, 10am – 6pm

Further information:
www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Twitter: @haywardgallery
Instagram: @hayward.gallery
Facebook: www.facebook.com/haywardgallery/

About the artist
Andrius Arutiunian (b. 1991, Vilnius) is an Armenian-Lithuanian artist and composer based between Paris and The Hague. Working across sound, sculpture, installation and film, his practice draws on vernacular cosmologies, non-Western knowledge systems, and how we gather – sonically and politically. He treats sound as a fluid architecture of time. Arutiunian graduated in Music Composition from the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague (2016) and represented Armenia at the 59th Venice Biennale (2022).

Recent solo exhibitions include Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, Tokyo (2026) and Kunstmuseum Magdeburg (2025). Select group exhibitions include Moderna Museet, Malmö (2026); Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius (2025); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2024); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2024); and FACT, Liverpool (2021). His work has been shown at Performa, New York (2025); the 15th Gwangju Biennale (2024); the 17th Lyon Biennale (2024); the 15th Baltic Triennial (2024); and the 14th Shanghai Biennale (2023).

He was shortlisted for the Future Generation Art Prize (2024) and has held residencies at DAAD Artists-in-Berlin (2024) and the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt (2023). His works are held in the collections of Centre Pompidou and KADIST.

About the RC Foundation, Taiwan (R.O.C.)
Founded in 1995 by Rong Chuan Chen, RC Foundation has been a visionary force in promoting Taiwanese contemporary art on the global stage. An active champion in fostering cultural and artistic exchanges, RC Foundation has been supporting artists, curators and independent art spaces from Taiwan through grants and partnerships, both locally and internationally. These long-term relationships have nurtured and enriched numerous artistic projects from different perspectives, generating invaluable connections between Taiwan's contemporary art practitioners and their global counterparts.

About the HENI Project Space
The HENI Project Space sits within the Hayward Gallery and is committed to giving a platform to artists whose work is lesser known in the UK. Originally opened in 2007, the project space hosts exhibitions every year by both emerging and newly established artists, as well as significant expressions of broader visual culture. Tying firmly into Hayward Gallery's mission to present eye-opening visual art that inspires, pushes boundaries and speaks to global discourses, the HENI Project Space focuses on innovative forms of art making and provides a platform for presenting the latest developments in contemporary art from across the globe.

About the Hayward Gallery
The Hayward Gallery, part of the Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions. They include those by Bridget Riley, Bruce Nauman, Anish Kapoor, Lee Bul, Andreas Gursky, Tracey Emin, Jeremy Deller, Kader Attia and Mike Nelson, as well as influential group exhibitions such as Africa Remix, Light Show, Psycho Buildings and Space Shifters. Opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects,

including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall (2,700 seats) is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today. The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), two resident organisations (Kinetika Bloco and Tomorrow's Warriors) and six resident orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).
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RC Culture and Arts Foundation

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