2035

THE MUSEUM OF EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

VISIONS OF 2035 A Way to a Better Research Culture

MA AS

ual: central saint martins

2035

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

In 2018, the UK science community led the creation of the now paradigmatic *Visions of 2035: a way to a better research culture*. *Visions of 2035*, and the conference that led to its creation, brought together previously disparate discussions around publishing, recognition and assessment, research integrity, funding, future career paths and collaboration. It demonstrated that in order to see the shifts in research culture people wanted, issues within these areas had to be dealt with holistically.

The Museum was set up in 2035 by the Starmar Foundation to mark the end point of the roadmap and to reflect back on the changes seen within research culture that emerged as a result of its creation. Are we where *Visions of 2035* posited we would be? Have all of the changes seen as a result of the roadmap been positive? And have we achieved the supporters' ambition of a more diverse research workforce, that recognises and values a range of skills and experiences and openly accepts failure as a fundamental part of the research process.

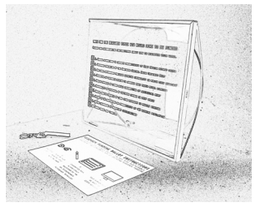
In the museum you will find objects that mark watershed moments in the development of UK research culture over the last 17 years. Many of these have come to underpin the way scientific research is now conducted in public institutions, industrial research facilities, community labs and homes across the country. It is thanks to many of these developments that UK Science provides a model for research cultures around the world.

This exhibition brings to you a selection of the most iconic objects from the Museum's collection. We are very grateful to the Starmar Foundation and the item donors for making this exhibition possible.

[1]Visions of 2035: a way to a better research culture

The Museum of Extraordinary Objects is a series of artworks resulting from an experimental collaboration between The Royal Society and artists studying on the MA Art and Science at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. Working to a brief to create objects that would stimulate imaginative thought relating to specific research culture themes, the artists have designed speculative objects to provoke discussion about how a future research culture could develop. This catalogue is one of the artworks.

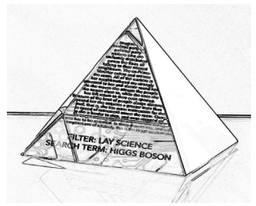
(Please note that the artworks and their descriptions do not represent Royal Society policy or predictions about future events or developments.)



SCIENCE FUNDING REFERENDUM, PUBLIC BALLOT VOTING FORM (2025)

DONATED BY THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE FUNDING BALLOTS

This exhibit is an original voting form from the first UK *Science Funding Referendum*, held in 2025. Members of the public were asked to cast their vote to determine which areas of research would receive funding priority for the next five years. Research grants from the Public Science Research Fund, set up that same year and comprising public, foundation and industry funding, were duly allocated to the top three priorities. The 2025 referendum was followed by a second referendum in 2030, and this approach has now become established as the primary method of determining long term grant funding for scientific research in the UK.

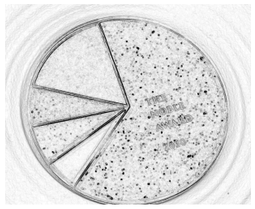


YOUNG'S TRANSLATOR (2031)

ON LOAN FROM THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF LADY AMY STARMAR

This early prototype of the now ubiquitous Young's Translator ushered in the true advent of Open Access 2.0. Lady Amy Starmar devoted herself to the translation of scientific disciplines after experiencing frustration with the limits of Open Access 1.0. The scientific community had achieved significant progress in uniting 'Gold' and 'Green' routes to Open Access, and global online repositories had been united under the universally accessible platform Library.Alexandria. However, open access was still inhibited by disciplinary jargons and codes, prohibiting interdisciplinary collaboration and true engagement from a budding citizen scientist population.

Starmar chose to name the device after Thomas Young, former foreign secretary of the Royal Society, and described as the 'last man who knew everything'. The prototype housed in the Museum demonstrates the particularly popular 'Lay Science' feature of the device. The text explains the Higgs Mechanism, and is the winning entry to former science minister William Waldegrave's competition to explain the Higgs Boson in plain English.



THE NOBLE AWARD FOR TEAM SCIENCE (2030)

DONATED BY AN ANONYMOUS 2030 NOBLE LAUREATE.

The Noble Award for Team Science was inaugurated in 2029 to reward outstanding achievement in team science. The Award celebrates the discoveries of science and its contribution to public life, but focuses not on the 'hero scientist' and instead recognises the many individuals whose work contributed to these discoveries. It also credits peer support as a major factor in propelling UK research to the heart of the global knowledge building community. The medal design, in the form of a pie chart, is cast from materials in the proportions that they form the earth's crust, symbolic of how team science underpins the foundations of scientific discovery.

The first recipients of the award were Southampton's multidisciplinary academic, community, and local government team in 2030. This was for their 15-year track record in supportive scrutiny of research in cosmology and associated fields. The medal on display was one of the 137 minted and presented to each member of the team. This award now forms part of the Museum's permanent collection.

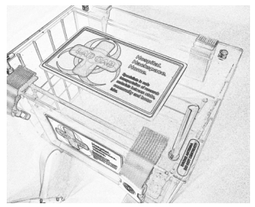
MEMORIAL TO 2027 MARS MISSION (2032)

DONATED BY THE MARS MISSION SURVIVORS CORPS

This intricate bangle is one of the many memorials that were produced following the failed mission to Mars in 2027. It celebrates the work of the Mars Mission team who dedicated themselves to establishing a new community on the red planet.

In particular, this memorial highlights the positive influence that the failure of the mission came to represent. Not only did it bring about crucial new knowledge of interplanetary travel and refocus research here on earth onto climate change, but it also began to free researchers from the previous cultural constraints around 'research failure'. Acknowledgement of failure has come to be seen as one of the inevitable – even desirable – outcomes of an ambitious and innovative research programme, to be celebrated for the insight that it brings.

This exhibit is accompanied by a contemporaneous certifiocate of authencitity from The Sunday Explorer.



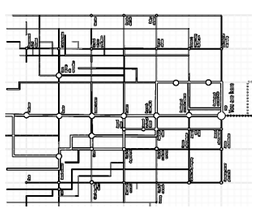
LAB CAB, TRANSPORT CONTAINER (2026)

DONATED BY LAB CAB INDUSTRIES, LDN

Lab Cab was the first transport service in the UK to be fully accredited for transportation of live tissue, bacteria and other biohazardous materials from hospitals and public labs to community 'hackspaces' and home labs. This not only ended the illicit and unsafe transport practices that preceded its licencing, but also coincided with the streamlining of government regulation around the setup of these spaces[1]. This led to the proliferation of new hackspaces and home-labs across the country[2] and a wider recognition of community labs as official premises for biological research on the same terms as state premises.

This coolbox was used from 2026-2028 to transport live samples around the Greater Manchester area, and is also an example of early micropearl cooling technology.

1.The Community Lab Act, 2026
2. Based on of premises registered on the Community Labs Register



THE NEW CAREER MAP (2027)

DONATED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENTISTS

The New Career Map was introduced as part of the application and career management process for early career scientists in 2027 as a tool to manage the development of a fully-fledged portfolio science career. Charting the individual's journey between different sectors, disciplines and experiences, the New Career Map allowed entrants into science, at whatever age or level of experience, to manage their career path in a holistic way, building transferrable skills and recording their professional journey. The New Career Map was adopted by the National Association of Interdisciplinary Scientists as their preferred format for career development in 2028.

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION WHEEL (2028)

DONATED BY THE TAMARIT EDUCATIONAL TRUST

This is an example of an Interdisciplinary Collaboration Wheel, introduced in 2020 by the Henry Goodbye Foundation for Collaborative Research. The Wheels were designed to facilitate the collaboration between scientists across disciplines and with other professionals with the aim of bringing diverse thinking into scientific research. They were borne out of a frustration at the perceived narrow outlooks incentivised by existing frameworks. The year this model was introduced, 15% of each funding grant was reserved for a special collaboration between two randomly assigned disciplines on the topic in question.

Artist Credits:

Public Ballot Voting Form
Tere Chad

Memorial to Mars Mission
Helen Cawley, Priya Odedra, Josh Bourke

Young's Translator
Stephen Bennett, Amy Starmar

Noble Award for Team Science
Hazel Ching-Hsuan Chiang

Lab Cab Transport Container
Julie Light

The New Career Map
Liv Bargman, Stephen Bennett

Interdisciplinary Collaboration Wheel
Neus Torres Tamarit, Reggy Liu

Museum Curator
Julie Light

Museum Catalogue
Julie Light Editor
Reggy Liu, Julie Light Design