

PRESS RELEASE: NORTON PRIORY – 25 October 2024

MARS AT THE MUSEUM – the Red Planet is coming to Runcorn’s Norton Priory

Mars, Luke Jerram’s mesmerising planetary art installation, moves into a new orbit at Norton Priory Museum and Gardens in Runcorn, Cheshire, after Christmas for a six week visit from Tuesday 28 January to Sunday 9 March 2025.

Following the incredible success of Museum of the Moon in October 2021 and Gaia in January 2024, Mars will complete the trilogy of the UK artist’s out-of-this world installations in Norton Priory’s impressive visitor centre atrium.

Measuring six metres in diameter, Mars is a touring artwork featuring detailed NASA imagery of the Martian surface. Visitors will be able to view the installation from a variety of different angles, including an intimate viewing experience looking down on the Red Planet from the centre’s mezzanine balcony.

A carefully curated events programme will accompany Mars, including concerts, readings, storytelling, talks, meditation and mindful sessions, and a special Martian theme for February half-term activities.

During the six-week installation, normal museum opening times will move later in the day to allow for nighttime viewings. Special ‘Night at the Museum’ tickets are available, offering reduced price visits between 5pm and 7pm, and the wider museum will be open between 12 noon and 7pm for the duration of Mars’ time at Norton Priory. During the February half-term, opening times will be extended by two hours to cover 10am – 7pm.

Rob Sanderson-Thomas, Norton Priory chief executive said: “We can’t wait for visitors to join us on this very special inter-planetary journey to Mars next year. Bringing the Red Planet to Norton Priory Museum and Gardens completes our presentation of Luke Jerram’s remarkable planetary trilogy. We are currently putting the final touches to an extensive activity programme to celebrate and enhance the six-week art installation, so visitors have the most memorable and enjoyable experience as they gaze into Outer Space.”

Families are invited to explore the magic of Mars at the museum, with free child entry for standard museum visits (charges for children will apply for special events). Advance ticket sales for visits between 12 noon and 7pm apply, with free entry for members of Norton Priory Museum and Gardens, are now available. Special discounted rates apply for ‘Night at the Museum’ viewings (5-7pm), and special events will be available at a range of prices.

For more information about visiting Norton Priory Museum and Gardens, Mars special events or book advance tickets, please visit www.nortonpriory.org.

To arrange a media interview, please contact:

Norton Priory Chief Executive Rob Sanderson-Thomas on 01928 569895