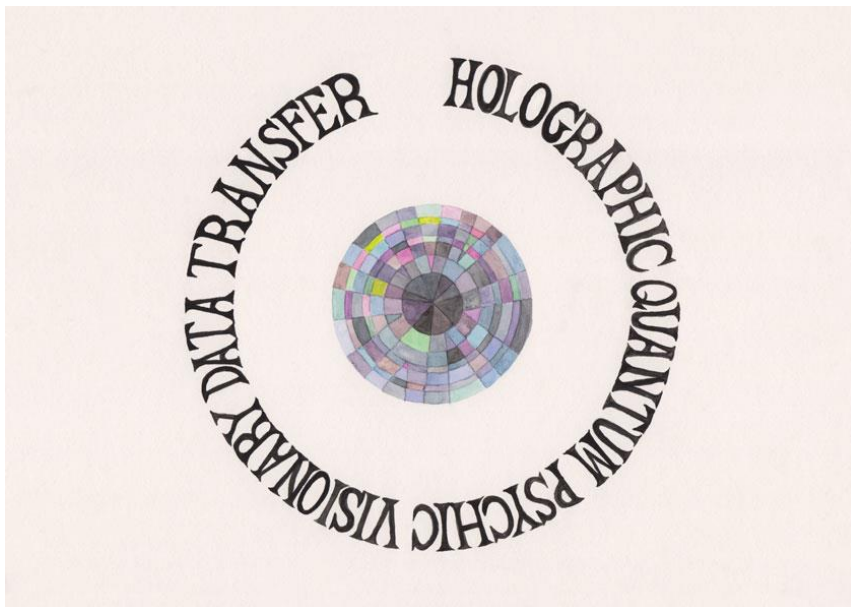Press Release
SUZANNE TREISTER
From Survivor (F) to The Escapist BHST (Black Hole Spacetime)

Launch Event 12pm, Thursday 19th September
Serpentine Pavilion

Press images at serpentinegalleries.org/press

View The Escapist BHST (Black Hole Spacetime) in augmented reality: theescapist.serpentinegalleries.org

The Serpentine is delighted to present a new, multi-part commission by Suzanne Treister, the latest in a series of digital commissions that propose critical and interdisciplinary perspectives on the role of emerging technologies in culture and society.

Treister's commission for the Serpentine will comprise an artist's book, *From SURVIVOR (F) to The Escapist BHST (Black Hole Spacetime)*, a fully illustrated publication that draws on extensive research into artificial intelligence, cosmology and theoretical physics and brings together two bodies of work in a cosmic trip through a potential future of humanity and the universe. A mobile web app, *The Escapist BHST (Black Hole Spacetime),* will allow users to enter Treister's work through a ring of augmented reality portals in the sky. By pointing their mobile device's camera at these sky-based portals, users will encounter a series of interactive portal drawings, where further works can be viewed and downloaded.

Suzanne Treister (b.1958, London, UK) has been a pioneer in the digital, new media and web-based field since the late 1980s, when she began developing projects about video games, virtual reality and software.. Utilising various media, including video, the internet, interactive technologies, photography, drawing, painting and watercolour, she explores emerging technologies, alternative belief systems and potential human futures. Her large body of work engages eccentric narratives, unconventional bodies of research and fictional worlds to reveal hidden structures that bind power, identity and knowledge.

The Escapist BHST (Black Hole Spacetime) began with Treister's research into the holographic principle that developed out of *HFT The Gardener*, another expansive project from 2014–15, and subsequent research undertaken at CERN as part of the COLLIDE award and residency in 2018. These works provided the initial steps towards explorations of the inconceivable properties of black holes as a form of paranormal phenomenon in order to investigate interplanetary time-travel, consciousness and the singularity.
 This newly commissioned book and web AR work will launch simultaneously at an event at the Serpentine Pavilion at **12:00pm on Thursday 19th September**. The event will feature Suzanne Treister in conversation with Ben Vickers, Chief Technology Officer at Serpentine Galleries and Michael Doser, Senior Research Physicist, CERN and will be followed by a book signing.

The exhibition *From SURVIVOR (F) to The Escapist BHST (Black Hole Spacetime)* is at Annely Juda Fine Art, 4th Floor, 23 Dering Street, London W1S 1AW, from 19 September – 2 November 2019. P.P.O.W. will be exhibiting selected works from *SURVIVOR (F)* at Frieze London in October.

SERPENTINE DIGITAL COMMISSIONS

An integral aspect of the gallery's commitment to supporting new experiments in art and technology, the Serpentine's digital commissions series is an artist-led programme that challenges and reshapes the role that technology can play in our culture and society. Rooted in a sophisticated R&D platform that explores, interrogates and experiments with the most advanced technologies of our day,

from artificial intelligence to blockchain; it develops contemporary artworks with artists that focus attention on emerging technologies as a medium, a tool or a topic that can operate beyond the gallery walls.

This ongoing exploration and experimentation has led to the creation of a mixed reality ecological expedition of Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park (Jakob Kudsk Steensen, 2019), the development of complex artificial life (Ian Cheng, 2018), an open source augmented reality tool for data visualisation and personal testimony (Hito Steyerl, 2019), thoughts and feelings rendered from the human brain with the help of AI (Pierre Huyghe, 2018), a weather prediction model that correlates historic weather data with polling data from major political events such as Brexit (James Bridle, 2015), a mindfulness app that reflects on the human mind's mercurial states of focus, distraction, discipline and the inner impulsive to autopilot (Ian Cheng, 2016), and an AI spam bot living inside the Serpentine's website (Cecile B Evans, 2014).

For press information please contact:
Sam Talbot sam@sam-talbot.com +44 (0)7725 184630
Rose Dempsey rosed@serpentinegalleries.org, +44 (0)20 7298 1520

Press images at serpentinegalleries.org/press

Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 3XA
Serpentine Sackler Gallery, West Carriage Drive, Kensington Gardens, London W2 2AR