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Memories of la-la land

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by **Melanie Gerlis**

Art and science are uncommon bedfellows but a new forum and annual \$100,000 artist prize identifies where the disciplines meet. Harvard professor David Edwards has pulled together partners and participants from a variety of fields — including Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, Fabrizio Hochschild, assistant secretary general of the United Nations and chefs Sam Cass and Carolina Curtin — to form the World Frontiers Forum, to “collaborate on the future of the human condition”. “Deduction and intuition are not opposite impulses,” Edwards says. The first Frontier Art Prize, founded by Edwards and Bridgitt Evans of the grantmaking VIA Art Fund, has been awarded to American artist Doug Aitken.

Evans cites Aitken’s multiple-screen “Sleepwalkers” (2007), which projected the lives of five New Yorkers on to the city’s buildings at night, as an example of how his work “explores themes of man’s individual and communal relationship with the world”. Judges for the prize included Jennifer Flay, director of FIAC art fair in Paris and Hans Ulrich Obrist, artistic director of Serpentine Galleries, London.

The forum convenes first on October 1-3 in Le Laboratoire, Edwards’s experimental art and science hub in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Aitken will formally receive his prize at the Picasso Museum in Paris on October 18, to coincide with FIAC art fair.

