

# TEMPLON



IVÁN NAVARRO

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## Iván Navarro: Cyclops

### Templon, Paris

As his ambitious project for the Grand Paris Express, which has been in development for nearly a decade, is set to be unveiled in 2026, Chilean artist Iván Navarro, renowned for his light works, makes his first show in the space on Rue du Grenier-Saint-Lazare. For the *Cyclops* exhibition, he is displaying a series of 14 electric sculptures, which transform the space through hypnotic optical effects. Oscillating between celestial phenomena and reflections on power relations, Navarro offers an intense sensory and symbolic immersion.

The highlight of the exhibition is a monumental sculpture: a cyclops 3,6 meters high, radiating under the glass roof of the Parisian space with its multicolored recycled neon lights. For the first time, Navarro has designed a piece intended to interact with natural light. "The cyclops is a fabulous creature, present in many mythologies," the artist confides. "In exploring astral phenomena, I encountered this raw and powerful figure, capable, in legends, of making thunder roar and lightning strike. It is a true allegory of natural forces, extending my inquiries into energy and the invisible."

The exhibition is enriched by a body of work focusing on the cosmos, a theme dear to the artist, rooted in his astronomical Chilean heritage and which he has been exploring steadily for the past five years. Presented for the first time in Europe, his typographic sculptures, in the form of "crosswords", interweave the names of constellations and planets. The mural compositions, assembled or engraved in mirror, seem suspended between scientific poetry and luminous abstraction. In *Lepton II* and *Zodiac Constellations*, thousands of colored dots or stellar silhouettes are etched into the surface of two-way mirrors, creating a dizzying play of infinite reflections. Further away, the *Sun Traffic* installation features traffic lights silently displaying the word "sun" in a darkened room. Both fascinating and disturbing, these imaginary cartographies question the boundaries of astronomy, mental patterns and anthropocentrism.

The second part of the exhibition takes a more political turn. In the new *Shell Shocks* series, shards of fireworks engraved on diamond-shaped mirrors evoke post-war traumas, and resonate with Navarro's recurring preoccupations with domination, control and imprisonment - themes marked by his experience under the Pinochet dictatorship. This dimension is extended by several *Eyes Charts*, imposing prints in the format of eye tests, in which words such as "oppress", "revolt" and "rebel" appear, direct echoes of the popular uprisings that shook Santiago between 2018 and 2020. "This revolt was marked by a police repression," continues Navarro, "and many of the participants were injured, including in the face, sometimes to the point of losing their sight. That is when I thought of the Cyclops: the Cyclops could also be these men and women, good by nature but tired of the system in place, thus trying to fight for a change of society".

Finally, the exhibition also includes a section dedicated to his artistic intervention for the Villejuif - Gustave Roussy station of the Grand Paris Express, scheduled to open in the summer of 2026. Models, sketches, and prototypes trace nearly a decade of reflection, in close collaboration with architect Dominique Perrault. Right nearby, this insight into the behind-the-scenes workings, where art and urbanism converge to rethink and re-enchant the public space of Paris including works such as *The Milky Way*, *Lepton II*, *Waves* and *Polka*.

Iván Navarro lives and works in New York. In 2009, he represented Chile at the 53rd Venice Biennale. In recent years, he has exhibited worldwide, including at the Akron Art Museum, United States (2024); the Tripostal, Lille (2024); the Palacio de Bellas Artes, Museo de Arte Moderno, Santo Domingo (2024); the MicroMuseo di Arte Contemporanea della Toscana, Italy (2023); CentQuatre, Paris (2021); Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires (2019); Crystal Bridges Museum, USA (2019); Busan Museum, Korea; Imperial War Museum, London (2018); Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain (2017); Art Basel Parcour; Yinchuan Biennale, China (2016); South London Gallery (2016), Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, 2015, Sharjah Art Foundation, 2015. His work can be found in numerous international collections, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Washington, DC) and the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (Paris). His work has been the subject of a permanent installation in San Francisco since spring 2020, with the work *The Ladder*. In 2021, his work was the subject of a retrospective at Le Centquatre. His installation *This Land Is Your Land* has been on show at the Art Omi Sculpture Park (Ghent, NY) since June 2022. In May 2025, he will be giving two talks, on May 20 about his *Celestialand* project at TEMPLON New York and on May 21 about the Grand Paris Express project, at the Expo 2025 which will take place in Osaka, Japan. A permanent sculpture commissioned by TietgenSkolen will be installed during Summer 2025 in Odense, Denmark. In September 2025, a solo show will be dedicated to him at GMAC, Palm Beach. Cultural Center Gabriela Mistral will present in October 2025 a solo exhibition by the artist in Santiago, Chile. Finally, as part of the Grand Paris Express, the project to transform the Villejuif - Gustave Roussy station, a collaboration between Iván Navarro and the architect Dominique Perrault, will open its doors to the public in July 2026. In collaboration with ISLAA (NY) a research of underground music recorded during the dictatorships in Latin America (70s and 80s), the music will be published by Ivan's label Hueso Records. He has been represented by TEMPLON for 20 years. On the occasion of his exhibition at the gallery, a text by Ariel Florencia Richards has been written to enhance the visitor's experience.



