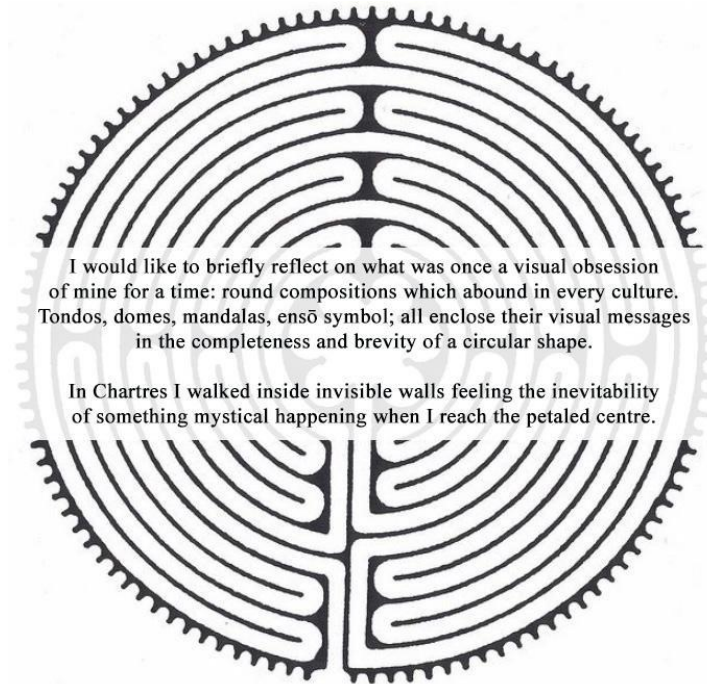


# Artists' Takeover: Hugh Lane Gallery

## Renata Pękowska



I would like to briefly reflect on what was once a visual obsession of mine for a time: round compositions which abound in every culture. Tondos, domes, mandalas, ensō symbol; all enclose their visual messages in the completeness and brevity of a circular shape.

In Chartres I walked inside invisible walls feeling the inevitability of something mystical happening when I reach the petaled centre.

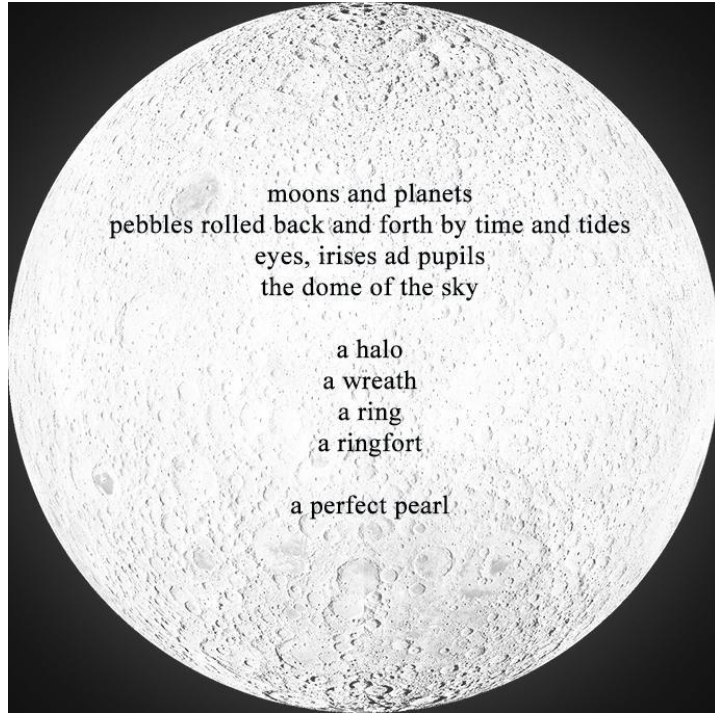
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'Life is probably round' Vincent Van Gogh is quoted saying in the last chapter of Gaston Bachelard's 'The Poetics of Space', entitled 'The phenomenology of roundness'.  
Bachelard goes on to state that



'Everything round invites a caress',  
and calls roundness  
'a form that guides and encloses our earliest dreams', and  
'a victory over accidents of form and the capricious events of mobility'.

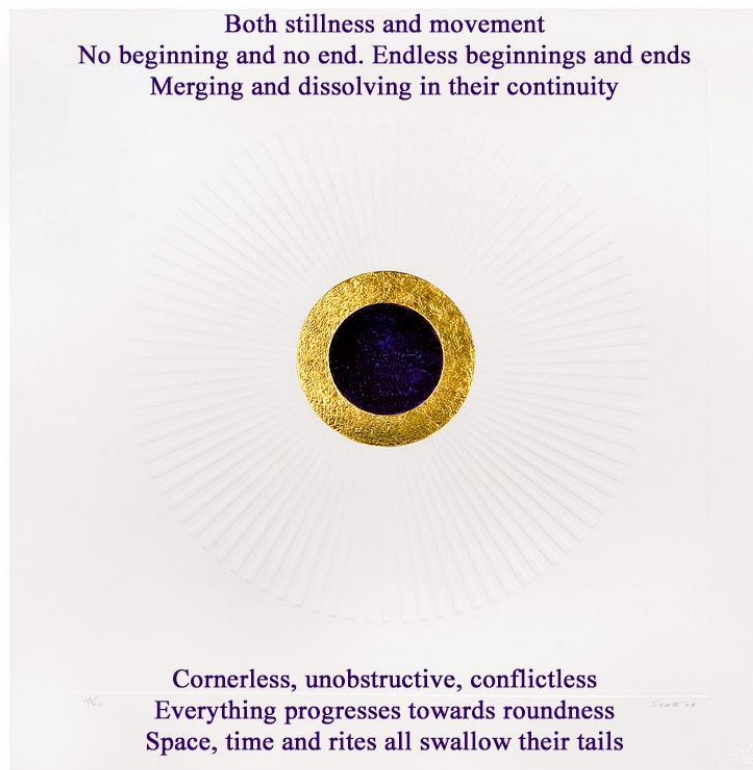
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moons and planets  
pebbles rolled back and forth by time and tides  
eyes, irises and pupils  
the dome of the sky

a halo  
a wreath  
a ring  
a ringfort

a perfect pearl



Both stillness and movement  
No beginning and no end. Endless beginnings and ends  
Merging and dissolving in their continuity

Cornerless, unobstructive, conflictless  
Everything progresses towards roundness  
Space, time and rites all swallow their tails

Images from top:  
Diagram of the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth;  
Ensō symbol;  
Far side of the Moon (source: nasa.org);  
Patrick Scott: Hugh Lane Centenary print collection, the Hugh Lane Gallery

Renata Pękowska is an artist and researcher based in Dublin

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