

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Water From Space: Societal, Educational and Cultural Aspects (6)

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ART EXPERIMENT BY THE WATER AND LIGHT ON THE ISS-JEM“KIBO”

Abstract

According to the renowned undersea explorer Jacques Yves Cousteau, “When the first vertebrates crawled out of the sea, that (gravity) was the original sin. Only when we who most closely resemble marine mammals return to the sea, will we be redeemed.” It is possible that when as Cousteau anticipated, the people return to a zero-gravity environment, it will not be to the ocean, but to outer space. Life on Earth took a long time to evolve in oceans where bubbles from living organisms have been rising to the surface. Floating a watery sphere in zero-gravity space is something that “reverses the world,” and signifies a new evolutionary process. From 2008 to 2009, at the request of the author, members of the International Space Station (ISS) crew conducted two experiments with water and light: “Marbling painting on spheres of water,” and “Spiral top.” The former experiment used Japanese calligraphic ink to paint marbling patterns on spheres of water. The patterns were then absorbed onto Japanese semi-spherical rice paper and brought back to Earth. In the latter experiment, a luminescent revolving sculpture was used to create traces of light in multiplex patterns in space. These art experiments were conducted to create a “new visual world.” We/the author will give overviews of the experiments and report on the results in the symposium.