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Contemporary Arts Practice and Outer Space: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach (4)

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SKYPOÏETIC: AN ART AND SCIENCE PARA-TERRAFORMING PROJECT

Abstract

This paper continues the discussion we had opened with the paper “Etherospermia, the sky seeding art and science project”, presented during last year’s IAC in Beijing. Here the invented word Skypoietic is constructed using poietic (from Greek: “creative”) meaning productive or formative. In Plato’s Symposium Diotima presents how mortals strive for immortality in relation to poiesis. In all creating and bringing forth upon the beautiful there is a kind of making/creating or poiesis. In this genesis there is a movement beyond the temporal cycle of birth and decay. “Such a movement can occur in three kinds of poiesis: 1) Natural poiesis through sexual procreation, 2) poiesis in the city through the attainment of heroic fame, and, finally, 3) poiesis in the soul through the cultivation of virtue and knowledge. In this paper we’ll present the “utopoetic” aspects of this art and science project by advancing further our last year’s (u)topic/approach on Etherospermia. This will be possible by a closer examination on the poietic of seven author’s artworks based on the space nanomaterial silica aerogel. This ethereal (im)material is seen by the artist/author as the perfect personification of our sky. A wounded atmosphere which we would like to duplicate onto other planets and thus make them future habitats for the being.