

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space Culture: Innovative Approaches for Public Engagement in Space (8)

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HUBBLE HERITAGE: INSPIRATION THROUGH HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE IMAGERY

Abstract

People have an innate fascination with the astronomy, the first visual science. Throughout time, natural phenomena have inspired imaginations and artistic endeavors. Experience has taught us that even from an early age, exposure to astronomy can inspire inquisitiveness and a desire to explore, discover, and create.

The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is a fantastic research tool dedicated to very ambitious and original scientific studies of nature. Through its high resolution capability, HST also has brought the wonders of the cosmos and the fruits of astronomical research to the public in a dramatic way and infused the telescope into the mainstream culture. The Hubble Heritage Project was created to emphasize the aesthetic content of HST imagery and demonstrate how this unique telescope extends human vision and insight.

The core of the Hubble Heritage Project is a monthly picture of a celestial object observed with HST from planets, to stars and galaxies out to the edge of the universe. Heritage also makes unusual links to other disciplines and stimulates the creation of various types of artistic inventions including literature, visual media, fabric design and production and music. This paper will discuss the linkage from HST to artists through the Heritage project and engage the audience in considering what new methods can be implemented to further engage artists in this amazing adventure.

The Hubble Heritage Project has been recognized for its contribution to public inspiration, and many awards have been bestowed on the group. These include images selected for the Rochester Institute of Technology's "Images From Science" traveling gallery, those chosen by the US and UK postal systems, use of images on the World Book binding, MSNBC images of the Year, and the Infinity Award for Applied Photography, to name a few.