

Transcending Societal Issues for Space Exploration (12)
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Author: Dr. Olesya Turkina
Russian Federation, turkina.olesya@gmail.com

DREAMS OF THE EARTH AND SKY: BIRTH OF THE RUSSIAN SPACE AESTHETICS

Abstract

The presentation will be dedicated to the birth of the Russian Space Aesthetics. The main goal is to show how artistic visions of the Outer Space shaped technological and societal aspiration in Russian dreams about space since the end of the 19th century. The title of the presentation came from Konstantin Tsiolkovsky's series of science fiction essays *Dreams of the Earth and Sky and the Effects of Universal Gravity* (1895). Tsiolkovsky who is known as "the father of Soviet cosmonautics" illustrated his manuscripts with pencil drawings. He also consulted the first Soviet sci-fi film *Cosmic Voyage* (1935, film director Vasilij Zhuravlev) and created *Album of Cosmic Voyages* in which he depicted details of future spaceflights. Tsiolkovsky's ideas become influential for Soviet artists, writers and film directors. Avant-garde artists were fascinated with Cosmos and its exploration. Kazimir Malevich has proposed to build a new Suprematist sputnik moving between Earth and Moon, and also he defined weightlessness as a basic principle of Suprematism. Revolutionary dream about creating new social order was embodied in sci-fi films, novels and art dedicated to interplanetary voyages in the 1920th-30th. Pavel Klushantsev become a pioneer of new Space Aesthetic in his visionary films created in the 1950th-60th. He worked on film *The Moon* (1965) together with artist Yury Shvets who created decorations for *Cosmic Voyage* and who became an influential Space artist. In the 1950th Cosmos turns into the ground for the birth of then new technical aesthetics. In the 1950th -70th artists were making illustrations for some popular scientific articles about outer space in journals. In 1962 VNIITE (All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Industrial Design) was created. Kinetic artist Vjačeslav Kolejčuk, who was working at VNIITE for a while, designed an original self- assembling Space Radio Telescope (1967). In 1960s in Kazan Aviation Institute students design bureau Prometheus was founded by an artist and musician Bulat Galeev, who created audio-visual objects for the Soviet space program. Since 1977 in Leningrad Vera Mukhina Higher School of Art and Design designers have been created Space instruments, Mission Control Center furniture and Space station interiors. At the same time Moscow conceptual artists like Ilya Kabakov, and later on Elena Elagina and Igor Makarevich have been working with Tsiolkovsky's ideas and drawings. Space aesthetics was born in Russia from artistic visions inspired by Tsiolkovsky, and then the aesthetics was influenced by practical tasks and achievements of Soviet cosmonautics.