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Contemporary Arts Practice and Outer Space: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach (3)

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ARTMOONMARS: ART-SCIENCE GALLERY IN SPACE AND ON THE MOON

**Abstract**

The ArtMoonMars programme of cultural and artistic activities was started in 2010 by ILEWG/LUNEX Lunar Explorers Group in collaboration with ESA ESTEC and number of partner institutions, with more than 45 events (workshops, space artsience classes, public events, sessions at international conferences) and exhibitions. What payload for an Artsience Museum on the Moon ? After SMART-1 missions and lunar lander studies, Bernard Foing was working on lander payload for Google Lunar X prize project and built a prototype ExoGeoLab lander in 2009. He invited various payload contributors for this lander. From this the team looked at possibility to host cultural or artsience payload on such landers. More than 50 ArtMoonMars events between space science, technology and art communities were organized since MoonLife Academy in 2010.

The MoonGallery idea and concept was developed by Bernard Foing from 2010 (inspired by FOTON Biopan in 2005 and EXPOSE ISS in 2008), to send an expanded gallery of artsience artefacts to the Moon on possible landers. The price for such commercial landers is about 1 Meu/ kg therefore he targeted the smallest weight possible, and he proposed a grid gallery 10x10 cm x 1 cm that could be attached to a 10 cm cubesat, or to a lander. He called this concept MoonGallery, as an international collaborative artwork and a gallery of ideas worth sending to the Moon. Moon Gallery aims to set up the first permanent museum on the Moon. Moon Gallery will launch 100 artefacts to the Moon within the compact format of 10 x 10 x 1cm plate on a lunar lander exterior panelling as early as 2022 . What are the ideas we want to promote into the future? What are the ideas we want to leave behind? A MoonGallery project team was formed in 2018 to issue a call for the community of artists. For these activities, ILEWG established ArtMoonMars grants to MoonGallery curators, and to some artists or temporary team members. The MoonGallery team since 2018 together created more than 30 events, workshops, exhibitions where ArtMoonMars and MoonGallery activities were presented and where artscientists were participating.' MoonGallery Test ISS is one of the ongoing projects of MGF. A contract was signed with NanoRacks provider company to launch MG-ISS operate it, and return it to Earth. Due to the cost of launch, operations and services, we have been looking for partners and sponsors.

A new effort with external partners building on previous ArtMoonMars and EuroMoonMars programmes led to the definition of a new MoonMars foundation with broader objectives to develop opportunities and funding, to various groups including space artists. ArtMoonMars also collaborates with Space Renaissance Art chapter.