

33rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5)
Interactive Presentations - 33rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (IP)

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BHEDADIPIKA - EXPLORING THE ART-SCIENCE DUALITY THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF SPACE

Abstract

There is no fine line that separates art and science. Instead, there is a grey zone, a portal into an entire universe of creative expression, and naturally this art-science duality has captivated the imagination of many artists in recent years. Bhedadipika - which in Sanskrit means "An Illustration of Duality" - is an artwork that invites the spectator to experience such a merger of art and science, and ponder on the nature of duality itself - a concept that has intrigued mankind since the beginning of civilization, with ancient Vedic texts proposing several philosophies on the duality of nature in intriguing detail.

Coming into naissance as an off-curriculum school programming project in C++, the artist continued to develop it over several years, weaving its story and finding it a place among society. Bhedadipika has been showcased in several exhibitions, most recently on a slot on the "Moon Gallery" project that launched to the International Space Station in February 2021, onboard a Nanoracks Nanolab. It was also featured, among 21 works chosen over 200+ submissions, by the V-Art Digital ArtSpaceship Exhibition, a digital art gallery concept that came into existence during the global pandemic lockdown. It has also been displayed as part of cultural experiments during lunar analog astronaut missions conducted in Hawaii.

The artwork consists of both - physical hand-drawn elements as well as digital simulations inspired by equations defining the cosmos. The algorithmic part of the artwork, titled "Star Cities/Organised Worlds" consists of a series of randomly generated points but which are constrained to predefined paths, described by equations of epitrochoids and hypotrochoids of various parameters - equations which seem to instil a sense of harmony in the spectator. The artist imagines that if hyper-intelligent life were to be able to manipulate the formation of galaxies themselves, in the distant future, it would probably exploit the humble hypotrochoid for inspiration for harmonious forms.

As part of the Moon Gallery, the artwork has been designed to fit into a 1cm3 box: a strip of paper with hand-drawn phases of the Moon in phosphorescent ink, and a memory card containing the artistic simulations. It plays upon several notions of Duality such as: Constraint/Freedom, Light/Darkness, Minute/Infinite, Reality/Illusion, and Randomness/Intent.

Bhedadipika has also captured public interest, earning the artist a place in the "Forbes India 30 under 30 list of Young Achievers for mixing Art and Science" in 2021.