

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

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FIRST OFF-PLANET ART GALLERY SETS OFF FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

Abstract

On the 19th of February 2022, Moon Gallery met the final frontier of human habitation, as it travelled to the International Space Station for its 10-month-long mission. The Moon Gallery is an international, collaborative art installation housing the seeds of a future, shared interplanetary culture. In collaboration with Nanoracks, powered by Voyager Space, the test payload of 64 artifacts, each no bigger than one cubic centimeter, was launched aboard the NG-17 Cygnus resupply mission. The gallery is represented by artists from Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and Africa.

“Moon Gallery is an incomparable challenge and a chance to rethink the art practice at a drastically new level. It is a chance to ask yourself a truly meaningful question and to test yourself to find a truly meaningful answer. Meaningful for yourself and for the universe, but only within 1 cm,” said the Berlin-based Russian artist, Kristina Okan.

While it is hoped that the gallery will spark conversation and bring joy to the astronauts aboard the space station, its mission also has a scientific purpose. The Moon Gallery is installed inside a Nanoracks Nanolab, serving as moving targets for camera observations and performance tests. The gallery offers a diverse range of materials and behaviours for the camera to detect, and in return, the artists will get a chance to learn about the performance of their artworks in microgravity.

The mission is carried out by the Moon Gallery Foundation - a nonprofit cultural organization based in the Netherlands and founded in 2020 by Anna Sitnikova, Elizaveta Glukhova, Bernard Foing, and Charlotte ten Holder. The foundation provides a platform for interdisciplinary and international cooperation and knowledge exchange between the creative/artistic sector and the space/technology sector.