

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

Author: Ms. Elizaveta Glukhova  
Stichting Moon Gallery Foundation, Germany, gluhova.liza@gmail.com

Ms. Anna Sitnikova  
Stichting Moon Gallery Foundation, The Netherlands, annesitnikova@gmail.com

Mr. Niravkumar Patel  
International Space University (ISU), France, nirav.mahesh1@gmail.com

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.