

34th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5)
Contemporary Arts Practice and Outer Space: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach (3)

Author: Ms. Megha Choudhary
ISAE-Supaero University of Toulouse, France

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND: EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE THROUGH THE LENS OF ART

Abstract

Early civilizations portrayed the cosmos in great depth and complexity on cave walls, pottery, and other works of art; this is where the history of space art begins. However, it was only in the 20th century, when space flight became a reality and our grasp of the cosmos improved, that space art started to take off. Space art was crucial in advancing the space race and stimulating public interest in space research in the mid-20th century such as the engineering concept renderings. It continues to remain an important medium to promote different aspects of space technology and exploration. Space art includes, but is not limited to, illustrations, music, poetry, science fiction, animation, film and visual effects, hybrid art, performance and choreography. The existence of these different forms of art also helps expand creative horizons and leads to new ideas and innovation, which were first introduced via art and then realized in real life. Additionally, space art has not just helped cultivate public interest in the space industry but has also played a functional role in space exploration. Artists have been consulted for their take on human factors, such as ergonomics, aesthetics, and psychological well-being, to design space suits, habitats, and other equipment.

The scope and development of space art have kept pace with technological innovation. In recent months, computer-generated graphics and digital art have proliferated in space art, enabling creators to produce breathtaking and intricate depictions of the cosmos. However, there have been growing concerns about the ethics associated with AI-generated space art as it trains itself using the work of other artists without their permission. This paper aims to study art in its various forms throughout history and analyze its impact on our society in terms of culture and international cooperation and how art can act as a communication channel between scientists, politicians, and the public. In this paper, the authors will analyze the influence of art as a tool for scientific outreach and how this influence helps spark the new generation's interest in continuing the legacy of space exploration. Additionally, the paper will discuss the ethics associated with computer-generated art and how it will shape the future of art in space and science. This paper will ultimately demonstrate why it is essential to understand space art holistically, as it will not be just scientists and engineers but also artists who will inspire the explorers of tomorrow.