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Sharing space achievements and heritage: space museums and societies (5)

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MOON GALLERY: 100 ARTEFACTS, 100 SEEDS, 100 QUESTIONS

Abstract

The Foundation and our mission:

The Moon Gallery Foundation is a cultural nonprofit based in The Netherlands. We believe that the future is interplanetary, and we should prepare for it. Our foundation brings together artists, scientists, and industry professionals to exchange knowledge, tackle arising problems and create cultural practices. For that, we organise art residencies, educational programs, interdisciplinary spaces etc. With that, we foster ideas and discussions that would formulate a shared culture of a future interplanetary humankind.

We have two main directions of our work: Earth-bound and off-planet. The Earth-bound direction focuses on technologies and developing artistic practices that would refresh our current culture and turn it into the direction of sustainability. With the off-planet one, we seek to create and plant those cultural seeds on the lunar surface as early as 2025 by establishing the first permanent art gallery on the Moon.

The Gallery:

100 artefacts, 100 seeds, 100 questions.

The petri-dish-like structure that houses the gallery is tiny – just 10cm x 10cm. Each artefact is therefore only one cubic centimetre in size. These limitations are due to complexity and expensiveness of sending objects into space. Incidentally, being so tiny, the artefacts are literal cultural seeds, daring the future Lunar settlers to reflect on and protect human artistic practice while building a new cultural identity, away from our blue home.

The Test Flight:

On Feb 19th, 2022, the Moon Gallery Foundation launched our first off-planet mission and the world's first outer space gallery aboard a NG-17 rocket with a Northrop Grumman Cygnus resupply mission to the ISS. The test gallery consisted of 65 artefacts housed inside a Nanoracks Nanolab enclosure, together with a camera aimed at the gallery for targeted material observations in microgravity. After spending 11 months aboard the station on the 11th of January 2023 the Gallery returned to Earth.

The Moon Gallery Foundation is planning a series of exhibits and events to celebrate the gallery's return from space, before seeking a permanent museum home where it can inspire earth-bound humans, continue to spark conversation and ignite the imaginations of future generations.