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Contemporary Arts Practice and Outer Space: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach (3)

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EXPLOSIVE DEVELOPMENTS: FROM SPACE ART TO SPACE POLICY

Abstract

This year my journey in the space industry has, in some ways, come full circle. After winning the Artist in Residence at the European Space Agency in 2016 I am now developing the first ever artist in residency program related to space policy.

Since the year 2000 my multi-disciplinary arts practice has developed a unique language with explosives, merging art, science and technology and fusing interests in nature, cosmology, chemistry, physics and psychology.

During the residency at ESA I investigated the composition, life cycle, magnetic behaviour and light production within stars, including our Sun. This culminated in the immersive explosive performance Star Storm as part of Ars Electronica Festival 2017 in Linz, Austria. The residency was created as part of the European Digital Art and Science Network and co-funded by the Creative Europe program of the European Union. Already I was curious about policy at this stage and the synergy between culture and the evolution of human presence in outer space.

The residency now in development is to be hosted by the European Space Policy Institute in Vienna. The theme is Bio and Life Sciences through the lens of Space for Society with a focus on Sustainability. The program is developed in collaboration with the Ars Electronica S+T+ARTS programme as part of the European Commission on Innovation for triple transformation (Digital, Social and Green Transition supported by Human Centred and Sustainable technology) The winning artist will work in the heart of European and space policy and there is an opportunity for their research and ideas to have a direct impact on space policy.

This paper presents the journey as an artist and creative practitioner between these two projects and examines the relevance this new residency will have for contemporary arts practice in the space domain.