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

Author: Mrs. Ana Cristina Olvera  
Mexico

INTERPLANETARY SIMULATIONS (ANALOG MISSION FOR ARTISTIC RESEARCH)

**Abstract**

Pioneered by Terremoto and organized by Helena Lugo and Ana Cristina Olvera, "Interplanetary Simulations (Analog Mission for Artistic Research)" pushes the frontiers of interdisciplinary collaboration at the intersection of art, science, and space exploration. This project is a beacon of innovation in a world where technology is advancing at a rapid pace and interplanetary habitation is becoming a real possibility. It breaks down traditional disciplinary boundaries to imagine a time when human endeavors will take place beyond Earth.

"Interplanetary Simulations" advocates for a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to space exploration by drawing inspiration from influential literary works, such as the 1683 proposal for a lunar voyage. The project has its roots in the recognition of the historical symbiosis between scientific advancement and artistic imagination. The initiative aims to improve the conversation on space colonization, planetary imagination, and humanity's existential path by highlighting the contributions of literature and art in addition to scientific research.

The project is about carrying out an Analog Mission in the surreal landscape of the El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserves. Here, scientists and Latin American/Latinx artists come together to mimic extraterrestrial environments through a series of experiments, research projects, and excursions that are meant to yield artworks that have the essence of heavenly settings. The Analog Mission invites deep contemplation on the cultural artifacts that humans might bring with us into space, the role of imagination in creating utopian futures, and the necessity of moving beyond the myths that confine us to Earth by erasing the lines between art and science.

"Interplanetary Simulations" encompasses a wide range of activities that go much beyond the Analog Mission itself, including as exhibitions, written contributions that are included into Terremoto's editorial content, and a printed journal. "Interplanetary Simulations" is an example of a project that embodies a dedication to advance cutting-edge artistic and curatorial practices that challenge conventional wisdom and push the boundaries of human creativity. It is based on the ethos of Terremoto, a cultural platform devoted to fostering critical discourse on contemporary art in the Americas.

"Interplanetary Simulations" provides a visionary look at what's possible beyond Earth's horizon, essentially serving as a monument to the transformative power of interdisciplinary collaboration. The initiative aims to stimulate imaginal recomposition and inspire new tales of exploration, discovery, and cosmic belonging by utilizing the combined imagination of Latin American/Latinx artists and scientists.