3-5 DEC 2021





3-5 DEC 2021

Register here: <u>bit.lu/3BYuqsB</u>

How are we going to explore the Moon and Mars? What imaginaries have been created by artists to live away from our planetary home? Are humans a "space race"? During the conference we will reflect on these questions by discussing our shared futures in space. With reference to the ambiguity and complexities of the English word "race", we will examine the relationship of humans with the Moon and Mars as places of conflict and desire for the extension of our natural boundaries as one of Earth's species. The Space Race Conference will engage an interdisciplinary group of artists, thinkers and space professionals through the presentation of current positions concerning the future of humanity in other celestial bodies. With a mix of lectures, panel discussions and live performances, we will address the present and future challenges of human activities on Earth, the Moon and Mars. This conference is organised by SPARTH and the KOSMICA Institute in collaboration with the Archenhold-Sternwarte / Stiftung Planetarium Berlin. The project is part of the event series "The Sky was the Limit – Art and Astronomy at the Archenhold Observatory". Funded by Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa.

Link: https://theskywasthelimit.de/







KEYNOTES

Lukas Feireiss

Curator/Professor Studio Lukas Feireiss / Berlin University of the Arts Germany

Barbara Imhof

Managing Director LIQUIFER Vienna-Bremen Austria

Rob La Frenais

Curator/Writer/Artist roblafrenais.info UK/France

CONTRIBUTORS I

Marie-Pier Boucher

Assistant Professor University of Toronto Canada

Marcela Chao Ruiz

Director/Curator Marsarchive.org Mexico

Leo Fidjeland Artist Nonhuman Nonsense Sweden/Germany

Bernard Foing Executive Director ILEWG EuroMoonMars Earth Space Innovation France

Elizaveta Glukhova

Curator / Project Manager Moon Gallery Foundation Russia

Anna Rebecca Green

Director of INTENSE & Exhibitions Stiftung Planetarium Berlin USA

Sabine Heinz

Vice-President Space Renaissance International Germany

Philipp Modersohn Artist Germany

Michaela Musilova

Director of HI-SEAS International Moonbase Alliance Slovakia

CONTRIBUTORS II

Michael Najjar Artist

Germany

PPKK (Schönfeld & Scoufaras)

Artists Germany/Greece/Canada

Anna Sitnikova

Curator / Deputy Chair Moon Gallery Foundation Russia

Sophie-Therese Trenka-Dalton

Artist/Director The Sky Was the Limit Germany/USA

Natalie Treviño Scholar/Theorist

Ute Waldhausen Artist Germany

Linna Våglund Artist Nonhuman Nonsense Sweden/Germany

PERFORMANCES

Gilbert Sinnott (autr) Artist UK

Jemma Woolmore Artist New Zealand

SPARTH

Started in 2017, SPARTH is a Berlin-based initiative examining relationships between space and art, with activities across the globe and beyond. Its mission is to foster an environment for exchanging and stimulating new ideas. SPARTH develops events such as community meetings, hackathons and conferences to investigate the artistic, technological and biological implications for the human species in the ascending age of space travel and virtuality.

KOSMICA Institute

KOSMICA is a global institute founded in 2011 with the mission to create a space organisation for critical, cultural and poetic discourse on our relationship with outer space, space exploration and the impact of these activities on Earth. The Institute curates and produces original content, projects and programmes. KOSMICA's activities bring together experts across disciplines to explore the cultural impact of space exploration, the future of humanity and the most urgent issues we are currently facing on our planet.

The Sky Was the Limit

Produced as part of the series "The Sky was the Limit – Art and Astronomy at the Archenhold Observatory". Artistic direction: Sophie-Therese Trenka-Dalton Assistance: Nicola E. Petek

Archenhold-Sternwarte / Stiftung Planetarium Berlin

The Planetarium Berlin Foundation was founded in 2016 and unites Berlin's astronomical institutions for the first time in the city's history. The Archenhold Observatory is one of the most traditional public observatories in Germany. The houses of the foundation are modern bridges to the cosmos. As a joint institution, they are at the top of the international league in terms of technology and content, and are an essential part of Berlin's educational and cultural offerings.





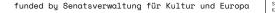




DAY 1 / MOON

FRIDAY, 3 DEC 2021

17.45 18.00 - 18.10	Online Doors Open Introduction
	Thomas Heidtmann, SPARTH / Nahum, KOSMICA
18.15 - 19.10	Keynote
	Lukas Feireiss – "Memories of the Moon Age"
19.15 - 20.10	Panel Discussion
	Rob La Frenais, Michaela Musilova, Natalie Treviño
20.15 - 20.55	Presentation
	Moon Gallery Foundation – "The First Permanent Museum on the Moon"
21.00 - 21.30	Audiovisual Performance
	Jemma Woolmore – "Of Fragile Things, Iteration II"
22.00	End Day I









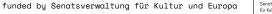
DAY 1 / MOON

Memories of the Moon Age

Long before scientists took the possibility of travelling to the Moon seriously, almost all of its aspects had already been explored in art and literature. Our nearest astronomical neighbour, the Moon - just a three days journey by spacecraft - still serves as an object of creative projection and speculation for visionaries across the globe. More than five decades after the first moonwalk, Lukas Feireiss' lecture "Memories of the Moon Age" traces a visual cultural history of lunar exploration in snapshots from the past, present, and future.

About Lukas Feireiss works as curator, writer and artist in the international mediation of contemporary cultural reflexivity beyond disciplinary boundaries. He attained his graduate education in Comparative Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethnology. Feireiss is an author and editor of numerous books, and curator of many exhibitions. He has lectured and taught at various universities worldwide, directed the Radical Cut-Up Masters program at Sandberg Instituut, Amsterdam and is currently guest-professor at Berlin University of the Arts.



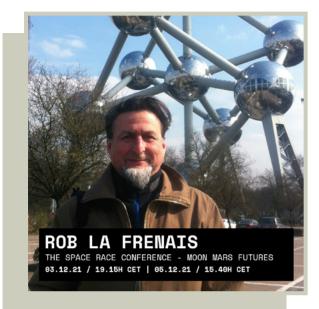








Panel Discussion





Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa







X

BERLIN



funded by Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa

Panel Discussion

DAY 1 / MOON

Rob La Frenais

Rob La Frenais is a curator and writer and has been involved with the space exploration community since taking a zero-gravity flight in 1999 and participating in an expert studu on cultural utilisation of the International Space Station (ISS) for ESA. He is the organiser of over 50 artist flights at Star City and of numerous exhibitions. such as "Republic Of The Moon", "No Such Thing As Gravity", and "Aerocene/ Space Without Rockets/Exoplanet Lot", with the science-art agency The Arts Catalust and as an independent curator

Michaela Musilova

Dr Michaela Musilova is an astrobiologist and the Director of the HI-SEAS analogue space research station. She studied and conducted research at the California Institute of Technology, International Space University (ISU) and others. She worked for NASA and was the Commander of over 30 simulated missions to the Moon and Mars. She has received numerous prizes, including the Emerging Space Leaders Grant and the Women in Aerospace - Europe Young Professional Award.

Natalie B. Treviño

Dr Natalie B. Treviño is a critical space theorist and an award-winning educator. She has received her PhD from Western University for research on coloniality and futures in space exploration and policy. She is currently an independent researcher and public speaker working on the manuscript for her first book, "The Cosmos is not Finished".





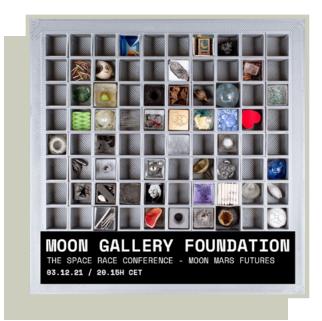


DAY 1 / MOON

The First Permanent Museum on the Moon

What does it mean to be the First Permanent Museum on the Moon? The Moon Gallery Foundation believes that art is not simply marketable goods to hang on walls, but rather transformative dialogues with the human condition - in our quest to understand reality. They invite us to take part in a most urgent dialogue, which mediates between artists and space agencies and will eventually lay the foundation for a roadmap of future space art. During this talk, you will learn about the goals and ambitions of the Moon Gallery Foundation and receive the most recent update about their upcoming space mission.

About The Moon Gallery Foundation is a non-profit and cultural ANBI organisation that aims to provide a platform for enabling interdisciplinary cooperation and knowledge exchange between the sectors of art, space and technology. The foundation aims to set up the first permanent museum on the Moon on a lunar lander as early as 2025 and encourages the development of a culture for a future interplanetary society. The Petri-dish-like gallery is an international collaborative artwork containing ideas worth sending to the Moon. In February 2022 the art pieces will reach the final frontier of human habitat on a first test flight to the International Space Station.













About Anna Sitnikova is an interior architect, speaker and art curator based in Amsterdam. As deputy chair, curator and manager of the Moon Gallery Foundation, she promotes art and culture for a future space society. She is an elected expert at the Technical Committee on Cultural Utilisation of Space (ITACCUS) and the Space Habitats Committee of the IAF.



About Elizaveta Glukhova is a graphic designer, researcher and media artist. As a founding member, curator and manager of the Moon Gallery Foundation, a contributor to the ArtMoonMars collective and elected expert at the Technical Committee on Cultural Utilisation of Space (ITACCUS) of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), she focuses on creating and promoting space-art activities.





DAY 1 / MOON



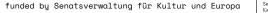
DAY 1 / MOON

Of Fragile Things, Iteration II

The performance takes the form of an audio-visual journey weaving together dark soundscapes from recordings of electromagnetic fields, singing ice-scapes and a chorus of lost voices together with a bright and glistening visual world that explores natural and super-natural environments. "Of Fragile Things" continues the artist's ongoing investigations into the multiple, intricate and fragile connections between living and artificial systems. This piece grew out of research, thinking and conversation around invisible systems and forces, both natural and man-made.

About Jemma Woolmore is a New Zealand artist, who is based in Berlin. Her art practice explores the spatial and emotional possibilities of light, sound and image in immersive and performative environments. She crafts abstract worlds that fluctuate ambiguously in scale between the micro and macro, responding intuitively with sound and environment and blurring the boundaries between real and virtual. In her practice, she explores the possibilities for storytelling and world-building using audio-visual performance and immersive installation. Her artwork is shown internationally, among others in Gropius Bau Berlin (DE), Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (CA), Mass MOCA (USA), MIRA festival (ES), Mapping festival (CH), Sonos Studio (USA).













DAY 2 / MARS

SATURDAY, 4 DEC 2021

13.45 14.00 - 14.45	Online Doors Open Presentation
	Nonhuman Nonsense – "Planetary Personhood – A Universal Declaration of Martian Rights"
14.50 - 15.35	Presentation
	Marcela Chao Ruiz – "From where do we conceptualize planet Mars (and what does that tell us about us earthlings)?"
15.40 - 16.20	Movies
	KOSMICA Film – "Beyond The Deep Blue Sky" by Manuel Díaz
16.25 - 17.10	Presentation
	Bernard Foing – "Our Global Village together on Earth, Moon and Mars"
17.15 - 18.10	Panel Discussion
	Marcela Chao Ruiz, Bernard Foing, Anna Rebecca Green, Sabine Heinz
18.15 - 19.10	Keynote
	Barbara Imhof – "Getting there, being there, staying there"
19.30	End Day II







DAY 2 / MARS

Planetary Personhood

- A Universal Declaration of Martian Rights

Planetary Personhood is an interplanetary campaign pursuing radical space decolonization. The project proposes independent legal personhood for the entire planet Mars, and considers the possibility of solidarity with the entities already there - the stones. Can we be kind to a planet, even without "life"? Seeking to move away from the dualistic divide between living beings and inanimate matter, the declaration recognizes all the native inhabitants of Mars as Martians. Experimenting with how this thinking collides with Earthlings and their institutions, the project seeks citizenship for a Martian meteorite currently residing on Earth - Allan Hills 84001. Planetary Personhood proposes A Universal Declaration of Martian Rights, calling for an end to biocentrism and a rejection of extractivist frontierism on Mars.

About Nonhuman Nonsense is a research-driven design and art studio creating near-future fabulations and experiments somewhere between utopia and dystopia. They seek to transmute our relationship to the non-human and aim to redirect focus to the underlying ethical and political issues, to challenge the power structures that enable and aggravate the current destruction of the (non)human world - allowing other entities to exist. Founded by Leo Fidjeland and Linnea Våglund, it is based between Berlin and Stockholm.









DAY 2 / MARS

From where do we conceptualize planet Mars (and what does that tell us about us earthlings)?

Maybe because of its characteristic color or the erratic movement it has on the sky, Mars has always been in our imagination as a mythical god or the place we could find we are not alone in the universe. It is also the planet most similar to Earth in the solar system, a target for human settlements and an obsession for (bi)millionaires. But what can Mars teach us about our longings, our desires, and our darkest projections?

About Marcela Chao Ruiz is a trained psychologist with a master's degree in museology. She has been dedicated to culture for more than 13 years, collaborating as a curator, exhibition manager, programmer, and advisor in many public and private institutions in Mexico and abroad. In 2016 she founded Marsarchive.org, a curatorial collaborative platform dedicated to the way planet Mars is conceived.









DAY 2 / MARS

KOSMICA Film Presents:

Beyond The Deep Blue Sky by Manuel Díaz

Manuel Díaz presents a selection of seven space-themed videos made between 2012 and 2021. Through these pieces he approaches the relationship of the human being with the Universe from a critical and poetic perspective; a black canvas on which Manuel collects questions and traces reflections on existence.

About Manuel Díaz is a multidisciplinary artist, exploring the relationship of the human being with the universe. His work seeks to be an instrument of reflection on what goes beyond our natural experience in the world. Manuel's artworks have been developed in various media including video, photo, installation and drawing. He is a graduate of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. His work has been exhibited internationally.

KOSMICA Film provides a journey into various topics that are heavily influenced by today's most important conversations about space activities and Earth. Some of their special curations have included screenings dedicated to women in space, artists working in zero gravity, visions of space, climate change, pioneers of space art, and others.







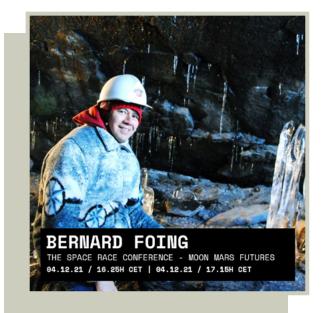


DAY 2 / MARS

Our Global Village together on Earth, Moon and Mars

The presentation gives an overview of several scientific and artistic space activities that Bernard Foing has been involved with, helping to shape a planetary future beyond Earth. It gives insights into the activities of ILEWG and the EuroMoonMars programme, including data analysis, instrumentation, field campaigns, analogue astronaut simulations, moonbase architecture, outreach and education, and cultural activities. It showcases projects such as the EMMIHS campaigns (EuroMoonMars-IMA International Moonbase Alliance-HiSEAS) or EuroMoonMars Etna in preparation for the ExoMars 2022 mission, as well as the ArtMoonMars programme that started pilot projects such as the Moon Gallery and now continues with the Space Renaissance Art chapter.

About Prof. Bernard H. Foing is the Executive Director of the International Lunar Exploration Working Group (ILEWG). He is a professor at several universities and chair of the IAF ITACCUS committee on Socio-Cultural Utilisation of Space. As a former Chief Scientist at ESA/ESTEC, he worked on lunar orbiter and lander missions and is the initiator of the MoonVillage initiative. He was involved in projects such as SMART-1, Mars Express, and ISS/Expose. He published and edited numerous books, articles and papers in lunar and planetary exploration, complex organics in space, astrobiology, instrumentation and more.











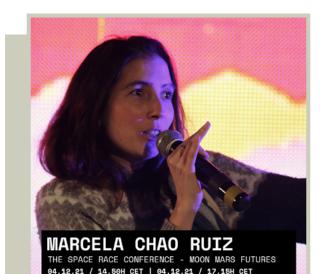
Panel Discussion

DAY 2 / MARS

X SPARTH

About Anna Rebecca Green is the Director of INTENSE and Exhibitions at the Berlin Planetarium Foundation. Green has created accessible planetarium programs for the foundation, collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution and the US-Embassy Berlin to create exhibits and programs about the Space Race, and is passionate about helping young women advance in space science. Before, she was the Planetarium Manager at the James S. McDonnell Planetarium at the Saint Louis Science Center.

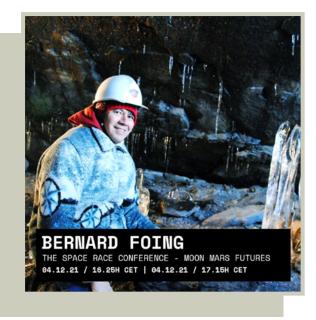
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KOSMICA Stiftung Planetarium

Berlin





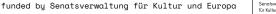
Panel Discussion

DAY 2 / MARS

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About Sabine Heinz lives and works as a freelance artist in Berlin. She is Vice-President of Space Renaissance International, Chair at Space Renaissance Germany and a member of the Mars Society.









DAY 2 / MARS

Getting there, being there, staying there

Mars is very far away. In three parts the lecture will explore the possibilities to establish a sustainable base on Mars in regards to astronauts' accounts, technological challenges, realities of human life and designing habitats beyond the earth's horizon. While we might be dreaming to set foot on our neighbour planet in the near future to explore the incredible wonders of distant worlds, human spaceflight is still in its infancy and Mars is 400 million kilometres away. What needs to be done to be able to approach Mars and how this can also create a positive impact on our life on earth is the topic of this keynote.

About Dr Barbara Imhof is an internationally active space architect and design researcher. She is co-founder and co-managing director of LIQUIFER Vienna – Bremen. Her companies' projects focus on living in limited and transformable spaces and with resource-efficient systems. Learning from systems and principles in nature and integrating biological systems into architecture describe the second thematic path. For more than 20 years, Barbara Imhof has taught at various renowned universities, such as ETH-Zurich, University of Kassel, the University of Applied Arts and the University of Technology, Vienna. She is part of the Adjunct Faculty of the International Space University and a member of the International Astronautical Academy.







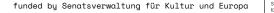


FUTURES/ BEYOND

DAY 3 FUTURES/BEYOND

SUNDAY, 5 DEC 2021

13.45	Online Doors Open
14.00 - 14.45	Presentation
	Michael Najjar – "outer space Cultural implications of future space travel"
14.50 - 15.35	Presentation
	Marie-Pier Boucher – "Space without Progress"
15.40 - 16.35	Keynote
	Rob La Frenais – "Pushing The Envelope"
16.40 - 17.55	Panel Discussion
	Philipp Modersohn, PPKK (Schönfeld & Scoufaras), Sophie-Therese Trenka-Dalton, Ute Waldhausen
18.00 - 18.30	Audiovisual Performance
	Gilbert Sinnott (autr) – "Labours of the Month"
19.00	End Day III









DAY 3 FUTURES/BEYOND

outer space | Cultural implications of future space travel

Michael Najjar's ongoing "outer space" work series deals with the latest developments in space exploration and the way they will shape our future life. The development of the New Space sector, with reusable rockets, new materials and processes, is generating a unique industrial and cultural revolution. We need to extend our existential framework of reference from one that is purely Earth-bound to one which includes Earth orbits and outer space in general. The cultural dimension represented by this transition process is the center of Najjar's work. As one of the pioneer astronauts of Virgin Galactic, Michael Najjar will be embarking on SpaceShipTwo where he will be the first artist to travel in space.

About In his artwork Michael Najjar takes a complex critical look at the technological forces shaping and transforming the early 21st century. He fuses art, science, and technology into visions of future social structures emerging under the impact of cutting-edge technologies. Working in distinct series, since the mid-nineties Najjar has embraced different genres of photography using a wide range of technological approaches. His work continually interrogates the relationship between reality and its representation in the technical image. For the past 25 years Najjar's work has been the subject of prominent solo and group shows at international institutions.









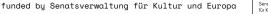
DAY 3 FUTURES/BEYOND

Space without Progress

The space race is a weird and complex clashing and merging of universal claims, competing technology, nationalist ideologies, commercial goals, market forces, imagination, media representation, worries, risks, and unsettling and unearthly dreams and aspirations. Often introduced as embodying the promise of a better future, space exploration is often at odds with the possibility of critical engagement. What processes and methods can bring us to a consideration of space divested from the notion of progress? Space without Progress looks at a series of artistic interventions to interrogate the political implications of the possibility of moving "beyond". Would this concretize itself as a move forward, around, or inward? As a move beyond ourselves or beyond our solar system? Are we capable of imagining a non-return?

About Marie-Pier Boucher works on the artistic exploration of science and technology, with a specific focus on designing environments built to sustain life in extreme environments. She is co-editor of Being Material, MIT Press and more. She is the lead convener of the Space Media research group at the McLuhan Center. Among others, she has exhibited at Centre George Pompidou, Tokyo Wonder Site, Madrid Biennale. Her research residencies include NASA, Johnson Space Center, Banff Center, Max Planck Institute. She is an Assistant Professor at the ICCIT and at the University of Toronto.











DAY 3 FUTURES/BEYOND

Pushing The Envelope

The keynote will represent a slipstream approach to space exploration, ranging from Moon Geese to Black Holes, from ballooning into orbit to creating an exoplanet on Earth, from ancient Vimanas (spacecraft written about in Hindu epics) to modern UFO myths, arriving at the discovery of what could be a flyby by an advanced space-faring civilisation by an eminent Harvard astronomer. "Pushing The Envelope" will discuss the implications of this potential overview of this planet as it reaches climate disaster, a fate possibly already experienced by earth-similar planets and its implications for SETI and METI.

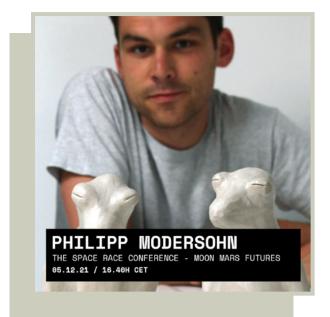
About Rob La Frenais is a curator and writer and has been involved with the space exploration community since taking a zero-gravity flight in 1999 and participating in an expert study on cultural utilisation of the International Space Station (ISS) for ESA. He is the organiser of over 50 artist flights at Star City and of numerous exhibitions, such as "Republic Of The Moon", "No Such Thing As Gravity", and "Aerocene/Space Without Rockets/Exoplanet Lot", with the science-art agency The Arts Catalyst and as an independent curator.











Panel Discussion

DAY 3 FUTURES/BEYOND

About Philipp Modersohn searches in his sculptures, films and installations for the vibrancy of the things which surround and influence us. By confronting them with systems and structures of social organization, he questions the division between biology and geology or life and non-life.



About PPKK is a casual nomadic lab founded in Berlin 2016 by Sarah Ancelle Schönfeld and Louis-Philippe Scoufaras, in the pursuit of analyzing, reflecting upon and digesting specific (local) contexts, generating mythological, technological and excessive trickster outputs in order to shift perspectives and enable fruitful new interpretations.









Panel Discussion

DAY 3 FUTURES/BEYOND

About Sophie-Therese Trenka-Dalton is a visual artist and lives in Berlin. In her work, she investigates the condensation points of cultural processes of displacement and appropriation. Alongside objects, buildings and histories, she traces the continuous migration of cultural motifs. Her work has been exhibited internationally amongst others in New York, London and Dubai, in institutions such as KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Serpentine Gallery, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Kochi Biennale Foundation.

About Ute Waldhausen lives and works in Berlin, London, and in the mountains. After an athletic career in the GDR during her youth, she turned to performance, the moving image, and sound. Today she conducts her physical and spiritual research on stage, in galleries, on the playing field, and on her blog. A body of lyrical texts often sets the stage for her illustrations and performances.









DAY 3 FUTURES/BEYOND

Labours of the Month

Labours of the Month is a reinterpretation of a style of art common during the Middle Ages and Renaissance, tied to symbols of the Zodiac and celestial movements. Scenes and motifs from speculative and science fiction are remade using vintage video editing equipment and combined with radiophonic sound.

About Gilbert Sinnott is an artist and designer working with sound, video, installation and performance. Under the moniker Autr, he focuses on live audiovisual performance using historically obsolete technology repurposed with selfbuilt tools to create otherworldly and synaesthetic experiences that explore embodied cognition and feedback as a feature of cybernetic and natural systems. By fusing practices of electronics, human-interface design and computation, he aims to prototype and explore unknown futures and relationships to technology and the environment.



