



PRESS RELEASE

UK artists join pioneering gallery launch to the ISS

On 19 February 2022, three UK artists Lisa Pettibone, Aoife van Linden Tol and Max Baraister Smith will send their work to the International Space Station with the Moon Gallery Test Mission – the first gallery in space. The artists responded to an international open call for artists’ proposals by the Moon Gallery Foundation, a Netherlands-based organisation supported by the European Space Agency and other cultural institutions. The 64 tiny artworks are housed in a 1cm gridded unit inside a Nanolabs container provided by space payload specialists Nanoracks that includes a video camera to record the artworks in their new habitat. Travelling on an ISS re-supply rocket, it will launch from a NASA facility in Virginia, taking 1-2 days to arrive.

The ultimate aim of the Moon Gallery is to place a permanent gallery, attached to a lunar lander, on the Moon, possibly as soon as 2025. These missions represent a symbolic gesture to include all of humanity in space exploration and develop interplanetary culture for the future. Promoting crossovers between art and science, the project hopes to spark discussion about sustainable missions that include design and aesthetics as we seek life beyond our planet.

The artist’s work:

Pettibone’s sculptural artwork, *Verdant*, is made from green and clear glass tethered by fluorescent green thread, moving freely in the weightless environment. Based on the structure of the chlorophyll molecule, the form represents our biological and aesthetic relationship with plant life on earth and its importance as we leave the planet.

<https://www.pettibone.co.uk/>

Baraitser Smith’s project proposes a new organisation on the moon: The Lunar Bureau of Weights and Measures. Its goal is to establish the lune (abbreviated to ln), a base unit of distance that is more fitting to the lunar environment than existing terrestrial systems of

measurement. The organisation's founding object is a cubic centilune of sand that will be sent to the moon in February 2022.

questionmachines.tumblr.com

Van Linden Tol's copper cube represents her love of the metal that is used predominantly in common electrical devices to conduct current. Copper is an essential trace element for human life on earth and is endlessly recyclable. Forged in stars, it represents a link between Earth, Moon and the natural beauty of the cosmos.

www.aoifevanlindentol.com

Notes to editors

More information about the Moon Gallery:

<http://www.moongallery.eu/>

Lisa Pettibone is happy to answer general questions about the Moon Gallery project at studio@pettibone.co.uk

The other artists can be contacted individually, details at the end.

Artists info:

Lisa Pettibone is an artist, curator and teacher who creates sculpture, installation and print exploring forces, form and energy as filtered through human perception. With an interest in astronomy and physics, she investigates areas where humans and nature intersect through the lens of science. She has an MA in Art & Science from Central Saint Martins and a BA in 3D Design in Glass from UCA Farnham. Selected as a member of the Royal Society of Sculptors in 2021, she was artist in residence at Mullard Space Science Lab in 2019 (with an Arts Council England grant) to follow ESA's Euclid Mission, a space telescope exploring dark matter and dark energy in the universe. An advocate of art/science relationships, she has run creative workshops with scientists at MSSL (part of UCL) in the UK, CERN in Geneva and the European Space Agency in the Netherlands. In February 2022 she will be taking part in Collect at Somerset House, London with her installation *Instrument of Thought: A Mediation on Matter and Light*.

Social Media: Instagram @lisa_pettibone, FB @pettiboneart, Instagram

Aoife van Linden Tol FRSA is an award winning artist working at the nexus of art, science and technology. Specialising in explosives she has fused her interests in nature, cosmology,

chemistry, physics and psychology. Her multi-disciplinary practice spans sculpture, installation, drawing, photography, illustration, video, sound, performance, virtual & augmented reality, science and research. She creates abstract works which often examine concepts of time, density and matter as well as deep human emotions and motivations. She regularly collaborates with scientists and academics to create conceptually rigorous and socially engaging artworks and participatory projects.

Aoife holds a BA Hons in Art & Design from Central St Martins College of Art and Design and is currently studying for her Masters in Space Studies at the International Space University. Aoife was artist in residence at the European Space agency in 2016-17. She was commander of EMMPOL V Mission at the Analog Astronaut Training Centre in Poland, launching the Space Culture Lab concept during the mission. She exhibits internationally including at the ICA, London, the San Francisco MOMA, USA, and Ars Electronica Festival, Linz. Aoife presented large-scale explosive performance in Trinity Square for the Science Gallery Dublin 10th anniversary celebrations. As a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts she believes art has the power to change the world for the better. She regularly presents talks, workshops lectures and seminars internationally including at SCI:COM, the International Space University and NASA.

Social media: Instagram @aoifetol, FB @aoifevanlindentol

Max Baraitser Smith is a practice based researcher and citizen scientist. He studies at the ArtScience Interfaculty in the Hague.

He conducts research through music interventions. In his most recent project, Rhythm (2020-2022), Max builds kinetic and digital instruments which address unconscious rhythmic gestures such as: a breath; the way one foot hits the floor while walking; the micro-timing of the stick bouncing off the drum. By zooming in on these subtle and often unconscious gestures, we can start to hear the signature of a person or material. The instruments act as thinking tools that propel the research.

Instagram @maxbaraitstersmith

Images available: High-resolution images are available at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yj51rl4g5uapwey/AABkLs6fAqqK3-NG3bXev9I8a?dl=0>

Contact:

The artists are available for interviews and can be contacted at:

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