

IAA, Paris - Study Group Form **Proposal for Forming an IAA Study Group**

Title of Study: Spacearts – the Space Art Database

Proposal Update: 22 March 2004 (Report at end of this document, see also 7th Space and the Arts Workshop Document)

Proposer(s):

Arthur Woods, Roger Malina

Primary IAA Commission Preference:

(From Commission 1 to Commission 6)

Commission 6

Secondary IAA Commission Interests:

(From Commission 1 to Commission 6)

Commission 3

Members of Study Team:

Chair: Arthur Woods

Secretary: Roger Malina

IAA Members:

Fred Durant
Richard Clar
Louis Laidet
Hervé Moulin

Members of the former IAA Arts and Literature Sub-Committee will be invited.

Other Members:

Project Management:

- Annick Bureaud – Leonardo/Olats
- Arthur Woods – OURS Foundation

Advisory Committee:

- Richard Clar, Artist
- Nicola Triscott, Arts Catalyst - Arts Administrator
- Anne Nitgen, V2 -Arts Administrator
- Nina Czegledy, ISEA - Arts Administrator & Curator
- David Raitt – ESA – Space Technologist
- Patrick Gyger – MdA – Museum Director
- Carlotta Greadel – Art Historian
- Bettina Tschumi – Art Historian
- Louis Woods – Programmer
- Kara Szathmary – Artist & Prof. Physics & Mathematics
- Garry Harrwood – Artist

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Participating Institutions

These organizations and institutions which are specialized in various areas pertaining to the space arts, have agreed to participate as resources and advisors to the project:

- The OURS Foundation – www.ours.ch
- Leonardo / Olats - www.olats.org
- ESA – The European Space Agency – www.esa.int
- Maison d'Ailleurs – Museum of Science Fiction
www.ailleurs.ch
- Arts Catalyst, London-based art and science agency,
www.artscatalyst.org
- IAAA – International Association of Astronomical Artists –
www.iaaa.org
- IAA – International Academy of Astronautics –
www.iaanet.org

Short Description of Scope of Study:

- **Spacearts** is an online database providing information about art related to outer space since the middle of the 19th century until the present.
- **Spacearts** will be a comprehensive database that focuses on the artists engaged with the themes of outer space exploration and development and documents their significant contributions.
- **Spacearts** will be international in scope and multilingual in practice with English, French and German language versions developed simultaneously.
- The content of **Spacearts** will be curated. It will be open to public submission and each record will be evaluated and edited before being added to the publicly accessible database
- **Spacearts** will be available to the public at:
www.spacearts.info

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Overall Goal:

The main Goal of Spacearts is to show that after over 100 years of space development:

- space art in many cases has anticipated, through the visions and ideas it incorporates, many technological and space developments.
- space art is part of popular culture and of contemporary art
- space art is diverse, complex and includes a variety of art forms
- space art is essential to generating and maintaining the public's support for space development

Intermediate Goals:

- To design and implement a fully functional online database system at www.spacearts.info containing up to 50 artists records by the June 2004 (Phase II)
- To secure funding for phase III

Methodology:

- The project will be co-managed by the **OURS Foundation** (Switzerland) and **Leonardo/Olats** (France)
- Cooperation with major space and art organizations will be established. This activity will be enhanced by having the **IAA listed as co-sponsor** of the project along with the **European Space Agency**.
- An **interactive relational database** will be constructed using PHP 4 and MySQL which will be installed on a high performance UNIX web server accessible to the World Wide Web
- **Spacearts** will be developed via an online web interface. Input from various artists, historians and organizations will be solicited. All information will be edited before publication. Each record will be translated and published in German, French and English.
- Utilizing the annual Leonardo / OURS / IAA Commission VI sponsored **Space Art Workshop** new participation and cooperation will be generated and the project developments reported. Holding the next workshop (2004) at ESA-ESTEC is currently in process (See information below).

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- An **E-mail discussion list** will be set up among the project participants.

Time Line:

- Phase I. Concept, Prototype, Structure, Fund Raising - 3 months (*Completed*)
- **Phase II. Database / Interface Development and Web Site Deployment 25-50 Artists Records (Current)**
- Phase III. Comprehensive Resource Input - 1000+ Artists records – 36 months
- Phase IV. Continuation and Maintenance - Yearly

Final Product (Report, Publication, etc.):

- **Spacearts - the Space Art Database** is designed to be the most comprehensive reference available on the topic of space art.
- An **IAA white paper** detailing the project's concept, the methodology and results will be proposed for publication.
- The publication of a **reference book** is also a highly possible outcome of this study group project.

Target Community:

This project will provide a unique and useful tool to a targeted audience of:

- curators
- art historians
- art critics
- researchers
- journalists
- artists
- scientists
- students
- the general public

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Support Needed:

Financial

- Phase I, II, III have been budgeted at approximately 170,000 Euros
- Phase 4 – yearly maintenance cost are approximately 27,000 Euros per year.

Technical

- Information and cooperation from the various participants and participating organizations

Potential Sponsors:

- Phase I costs have been covered by the OURS Foundation and Leonardo / Olats
- Phase II costs is being sponsored by the European Space Agency Technology Transfer Program (ESTEC)
- Phase III and IV will submitted to various European institutions for support

Current Status: 20 March 2004

The project has been under active development since January 2003. The website was opened to the public in October 2004. Currently 24 artists and 65 artworks have been listed and documented, about half of these have been translated into more than one language. Each artist's documentation is reviewed before it is posted on the website. A professional art historian has been engaged to optimize the works and to translate these into German.

Most of the artists that have been documented up to now come from the contemporary arts scene, a call is being made to more traditional space artists and some historical research is underway.

The goal is to have a broad representation of the genre of space art by May 18, 2004 at which time a presentation of the project will be made at ESTEC to our sponsor. This will mark the end of Phase II funding and additional funding via an extension to the project will be sought.

Concurrently, the project will also be presented to at the 7th Workshop on Space and the Arts: "Space: Science, Technology and the Arts, May 18 – 21, 2004. Over 90 abstracts were submitted for this event and 30-40 participants are expected to attend. This event should be another source of information for the database.