



## FIRST OFF-PLANET ART GALLERY SETS OFF FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

***The Moon Gallery will meet the final frontier of human habitation, as it travels to the International Space Station for its 10-month-long mission.***

The Moon Gallery is an international, collaborative art installation housing the seeds of a future, shared interplanetary culture. In collaboration with Nanoracks , powered by Voyager Space , the test payload of 64 artifacts, each no bigger than one cubic centimeter, is targeting launch aboard the NG-17 Cygnus resupply mission on February 19, 2022. The gallery is represented by artists from Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and Africa.



*Completed Moon Gallery ISS Payload; 8x8 grid 64 pieces; November 2021*

*“Moon Gallery is an incomparable challenge and a chance to rethink the art practice at a drastically new level. It is a chance to ask yourself a truly meaningful question and to test yourself to find a truly meaningful answer. Meaningful for yourself and for the universe, but only within 1 cm<sup>3</sup>,”* said the Berlin-based Russian artist, Kristina Okan.

While it is hoped that the gallery will spark conversation and bring joy to the astronauts aboard the space station, its mission also has a scientific purpose. The Moon Gallery will be installed inside a Nanoracks Nanolab, serving as moving targets for camera observations and performance tests. The gallery offers a diverse range of materials and behaviours for the camera to detect, and in return, the artists will get a chance to learn about the performance of their artworks in microgravity.



*“The passion of those involved in the Moon Gallery project is infectious, and the culmination of their efforts shows that art and science in space do not have to be mutually exclusive,”* says Scott Rodriguez, Vice President of Government Programs at Nanoracks. *“The lessons we learn from this endeavor about containment, material dynamics, and enhanced imagery will help in the design of future experiments and in implementation of The Moon Gallery’s ultimate goal to establish the first art gallery on the Moon.”*

*“We are beyond thrilled that the Moon Gallery, with the support of Nanoracks, is taking its first journey to the cosmos,”* said the Moon Gallery’s curator, Anna Sitnikova. *“We hope that this mission will teach us a lot about the conditions in space, and will inspire artists for our next mission — the Moon, as we seek to extend our cultural dialogue to the furthest reaches of human exploration.”*

The Moon Gallery Foundation is a nonprofit cultural organization based in the Netherlands and founded in 2020 by Anna Sitnikova, Elizaveta Glukhova, Bernard Foing, and Charlotte ten Holder. The foundation provides a platform for interdisciplinary and international cooperation and knowledge exchange between the creative/artistic sector and the space/technology sector.

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