



NASA has a long history of art connections





- These are walls and hallways at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Students from many grade levels and even different countries are already influencing NASA engineers and astronauts with their space art. How might you influence an astronaut artist to do art while on the moon?



Space Art Gallery

This is the first art gallery in space. It was launched by Nanoracks. Each of those little windows is a piece of art that is floating in a small transparent cube.

<https://www.pettibone.co.uk/moon-gallery-iss-mission>

A close-up photograph of a camera lens, showing its intricate glass elements and metal housing. The lens is reflecting a vibrant, abstract scene with shades of blue, green, and purple, suggesting a view of space or a colorful environment. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of these colors.

The Project: Inspire an Astronaut Artistically

- You are to create a work of art that inspires an astronaut to create their own art while they are on the Moon
- Your artwork should demonstrate what kinds of art can be created on the Moon with limited resources
- You will not only show off your artwork, but you must also present on "Why should NASA's astronauts create art while on the Moon?"

Lunar Art

Note #1

This is a very different type of HUNCH project. There is almost no chance your piece of art will be done on the Moon. Instead, this purpose of this project is to INSPIRE an astronaut, who is also an artist, to produce artwork on the Moon. If you choose to do this project, the finished product is yours to add to your portfolio. However, you may be asked if your artwork could be displayed at a NASA site.

Note #2

Travelling to the Moon is extremely expensive, not only in terms of launch costs, but also in astronauts' time. Therefore, there are some EXTREMELY restrictive requirements in this project. Be sure to read each carefully and ASK QUESTIONS of your teacher, your HUNCH mentor, any artists you can contact, etc.

Note #3

There are a lot of different types of art that could be done, but this project is limiting the scope of the art to the fine arts such as paintings and sculpture. We want the art to be created with found materials on the Moon. For this year's project, there will be no literature, photography, music or performance allowed. If you have doubts about your ideas, just ask your mentor.

Note #4

While most art should speak for itself, part of this project will require you to talk about your art. This is a major component of this project. Do not attempt this project if you feel you cannot fulfill this requirement. Again, more specifics later in presentation



Requirements for Artwork

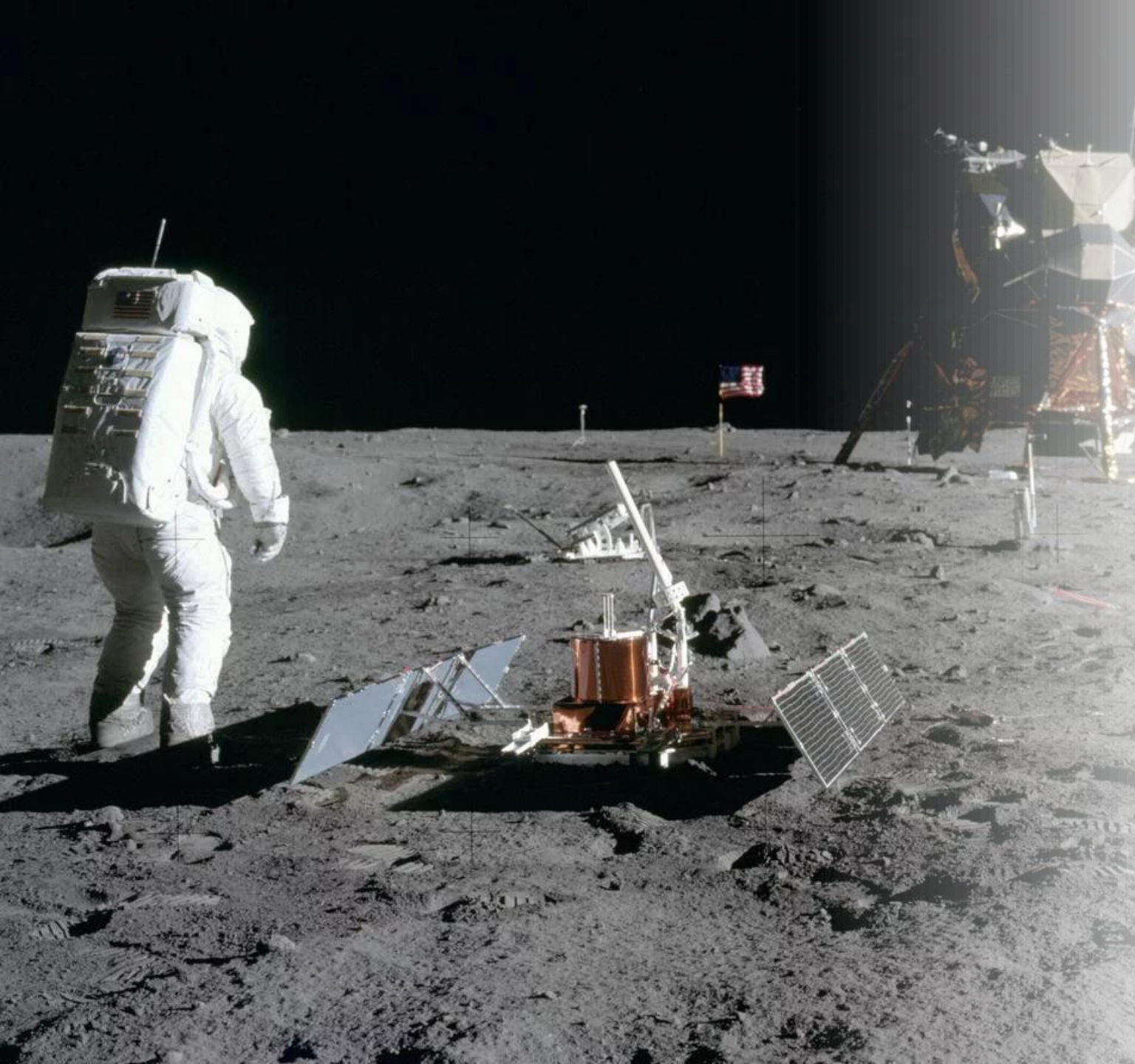
For Astronaut:

- Must be created on the moon, not sent to the moon
- Must include components on the moon (rocks, dust, geography)
- LEAVE NO TRACE - Can not damage the moon (no spray cans on a big rock)
- Can be created inside capsule/ship/habitat or outside on the surface of the Moon
- No materials for final artwork can be shipped to the Moon if their only purpose is for the creation of art. Therefore, the astronaut must restrict their idea of art materials (both tools and supplies) to things that have other uses. They will have to consider things like refuse or other recyclables as "found" supplies

For Student:

- Project must imitate ALL restrictions for artwork that are outlined for the astronaut. This includes representing all materials and tools
- Must be able to explain in detail how an astronaut can create your artwork while on the Moon
- Size of actual finished artwork does not matter; however, you must produce a scale model of the artwork for presentation. This scale model must have a footprint no larger than 2.5' x 3.' This way two finalists' artworks can fit on a standard folding table
- Since you will not have access to the actual things that will be shipped to the Moon, you are free to approximate these materials with what you have on hand.
- Use of available(not brought for express purpose of Art) technology on the moon is encouraged but not required.

Possible Materials that may be Available on the Moon



- Lunar rocks and geologic features
- Lunar regolith (“soil”)

NOTE!! The following materials most likely could not be used in an artwork as they are artifacts of historic missions and therefore are subject to US laws. These lists are provided as reference and inspiration only. Feel free to use representations of them in your artwork but understand the repercussions of their use .


- [Lunar Apollo's Lunar Leftovers](#)
- [Article](#)
- [Actual list](#) of everything we have left on the Moon so far

You will also have available any tools or items brought up for first Artemis Moon landings – with some restrictions. You will have to research the possible plans for Artemis missions to get an understanding of what will be available.



The Inspiration

Most of the time, art is left to speak for itself. This project is being proposed to INSPIRE both the astronauts and NASA itself into wanting to have art done on the Moon. You need to prepare not only to sing the praises of your artwork, but to convince a doubting audience *WHY* doing art like yours on the Moon is important.





Challenges

(or Opportunities)

There can be many challenges when creating art on the moon. These can cause problems as well as create opportunities for art that cannot be done on Earth. Examples:

- Gravity is $1/6$ that of Earth
- Static electricity means that the dust will stick to an astronaut and their tools. It can also create sparks which can be dangerous
- No air at all on the Moon. This means distance perspective is going to be VERY different on the Moon, in addition to other visual problems
- The temperature will vary from 250 degrees F to -250 degrees F on the surface of the Moon
- The angle of the Sun, as well as the amount of time above the horizon, will be very different. A day can last up to 14 days and a night can last up to 14 days.
- The Moon's surface is devoid of color. It is mostly black and white and shades of gray. Most of the color will be on things we bring to the moon

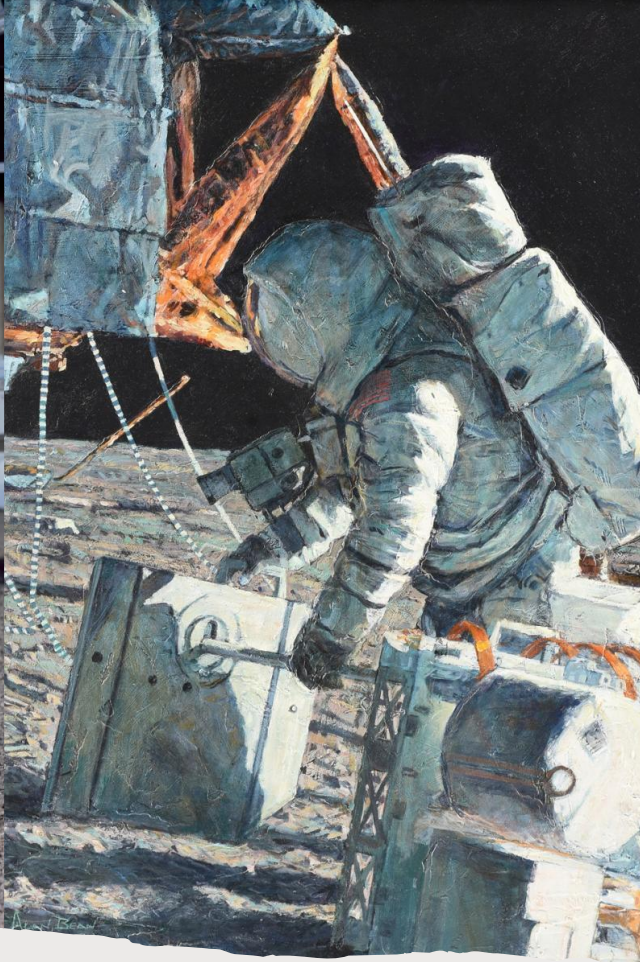


Things to consider...

- If an astronaut does a piece of art on the moon, it will be THEIR art. Art is personal; therefore, you will not be telling an astronaut what to create. If you did, then it would be like a paint-by-numbers set. Is that art?
- Why would NASA allow this to be done? In other words, what is your elevator pitch for WHY your piece of art should be done?
- Why would the astronaut want to do an artwork like yours? Astronauts' time is heavily managed. Most likely the astronaut would have to use their own personal time to perform this art.
- Is your art meant to be completed inside the capsule/habitat or outdoors while in a spacesuit? Is it meant to be created in one location and left there or moved to a different location?
- Remember working outside is a time and money consuming option – as well as having potential safety risks.
- Is your artwork meant to be a permanent structure or temporary (like sand mandalas)
- Will your art piece require more than one astronaut's time/effort?
- Is your art piece meant to be added to during each visit by different astronauts/artists?
- Will your art piece somehow be able to be seen from Earth? For example, if it is outdoors and has high reflectivity, sunlight could hit it at certain times and reflect to Earth.
- The most current idea for a landing site is the Shackleton Crater which is near the Moon's south pole. You may want to research the lighting, as well as other conditions, near this site.

Meet some current Astronaut Artists



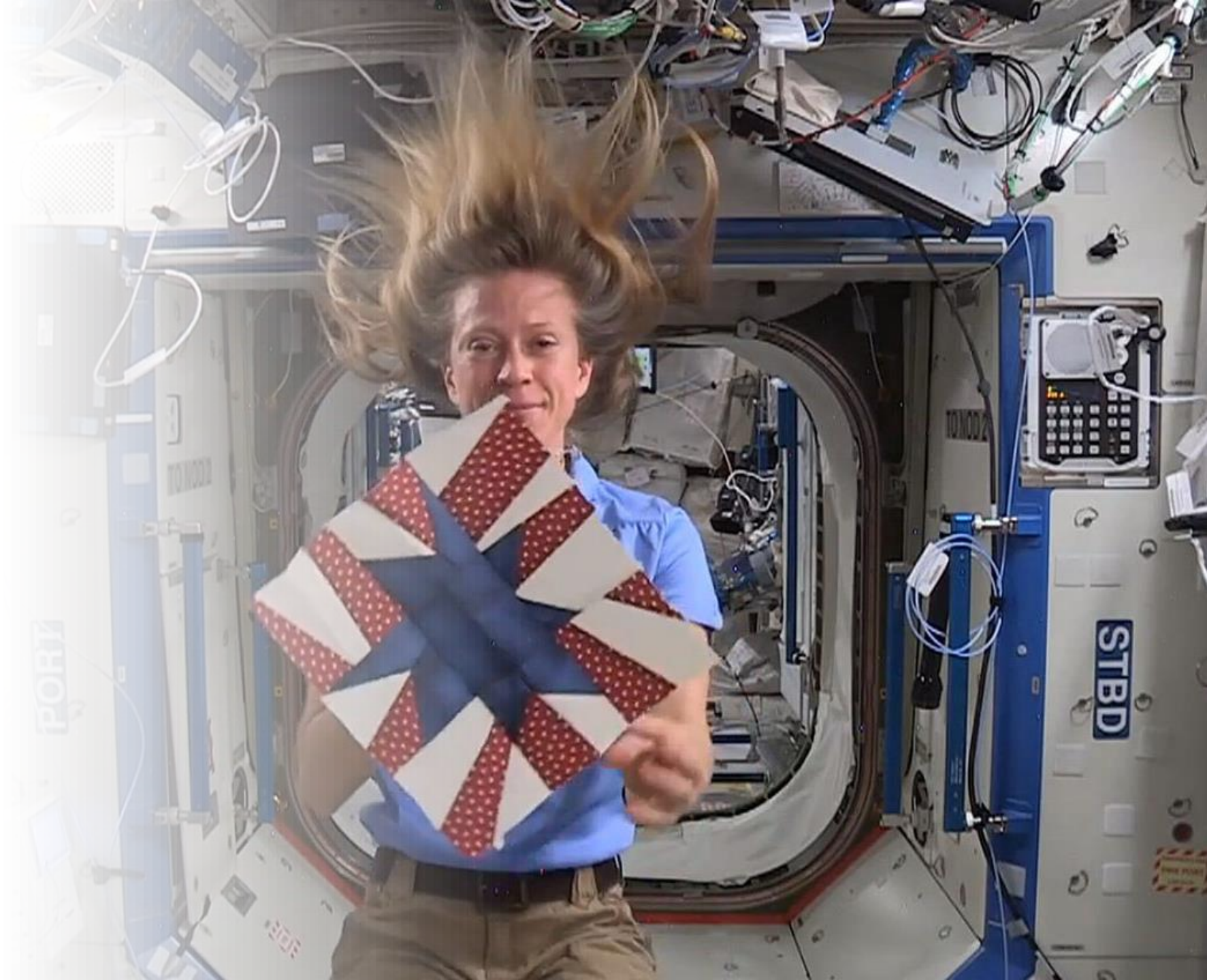


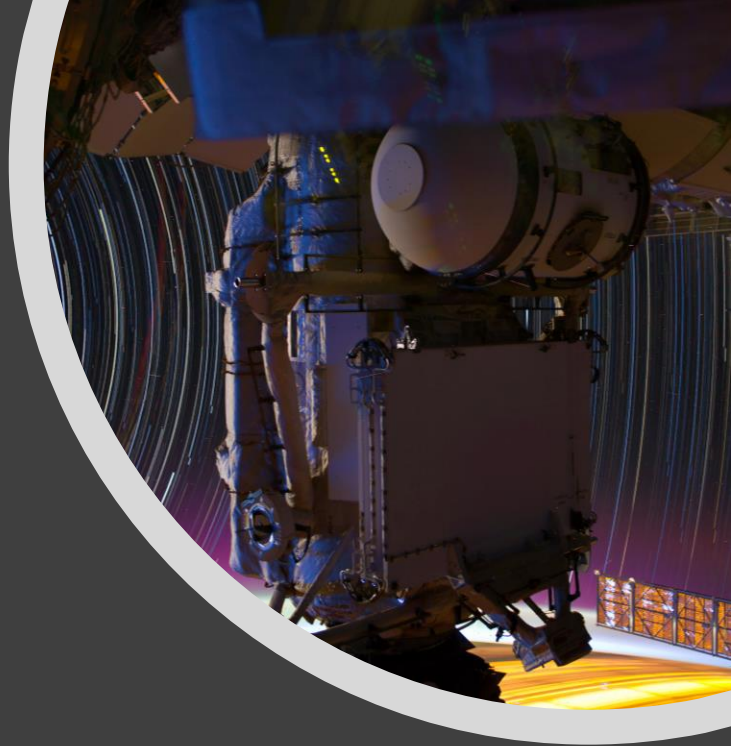
Alan Bean

- Astronaut, Naval Officer, Aviator, Test Pilot, Engineer, Painter, Artist
- Visit his [Website](#)

Karen Nyberg

- Astronaut, Mechanical Engineer, Artist
- [Quilt video](#)
- Visit her [website](#)





Don Pettit

Astronaut, Chemical engineer, Photographer

[Instagram photos](#)



ASTRONAUT
ON INVENT
ZERO-G CO



Nicole Stott

- Nicole is an astronaut, aquanaut, artist, mom,
- First astronaut to paint a watercolor in space (ISS Expedition 21 / Oct 2009)
- Visit her [Website](#)



Art Media you not immediately think
about for the Moon

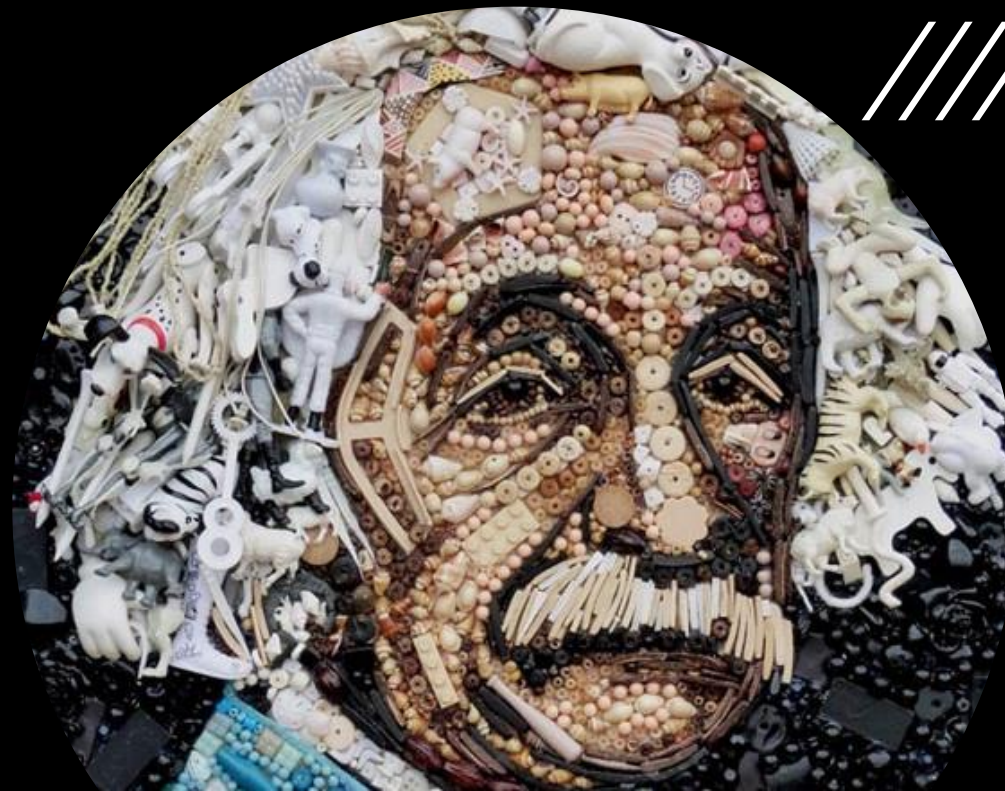


Shadow art?

What could you do with dirt and objects on the moon as the sun changes position?

Sculpture?

Could you create a found object sculpture?



Rock Garden or Rock Art?

- While it would not be possible to have a traditional Zen Garden outside on the Moon, could you create a rock garden that created the same sense of artistic beauty and peace that comes from Zen Gardens?
- Could you create a stone art project out of the rocks and sand on the Moon?



Final thoughts

Could you create a way to create a painting without traditional paints and brushes. (Remember, one of the restrictions of the project is that NO materials may be brought to the Moon for the specific purpose of creating art. So how could you “get around” this restriction?)

