

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The University of Arizona's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory presents the eighth annual **Art of Planetary Science 2021: Space Travel**, an exhibition of art celebrating the beauty and elegance of science. The exhibition features works of art from Tucson and around the world inspired by the solar system, the universe, and the scientific data we use to explore it. The galleries open **Friday, September 24th, 2021**. In-person art will be displayed at the Kuiper Space Sciences building on 9/24 (6-9pm), Saturday 9/25 (11am-7pm), and Sunday 9/26 (12-6pm) (all times MST). Virtual art will be displayed in three galleries: Data Art, Fine Art and Space Travel. Virtual art will remain displayed online until October 31, 2021.

The special theme of this year's exhibition, *Space Travel*, aims to provide a new way of looking at humankind's travels through space and the solar system via spacecraft, satellites and human exploration. We present art created from the images, data, equations, and instruments used to study the cosmos, revealing the underlying meaning that inspires scientists in their work. Being able to view Data Art and Fine Art side by side offers insights into the cosmic arena in which we reside. The theme also celebrates this year's collaboration with the Interstellar Research Group (IRG) 7th Symposium, as engineers, scientists and artists alike come together to envision the ways in which we will travel to remote destinations in the future. For the first time, we are offering a gallery of Kids Art, as well as science fiction writing from young humans, entitled *Space Shorts*.

Along with our galleries, we have a slew of out of this world events over the weekend of our in-person show. The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association will present free night telescope viewing the evening of Friday 9/24 (7-9pm) and safe daytime solar telescope viewing on Sunday 9/26 (12-4pm). Local Tucson band, Daytrails, will play a free set outside the Kuiper Building under the Bicentennial Moon Tree on Friday, 9/24 (7-9pm). On Saturday 9/25, come and find Ms. Frizzle from The Magic School Bus lost in our space art from 1-3pm! The Tucson Children's Museum will host an outreach activity for kids, and Ms. Frizzle will co-host at 2pm. The Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium will be running their laser light shows on 9/25 at 7 and 8pm following the exhibit. On "SciFi Sunday", 9/26, science fiction-inspired astronaut Charlie Walker will give an invited presentation at the Flandrau Planetarium starting at 5pm. This will be followed by a special series of science fiction authors hosted by the IRG starting at 6pm at the University Marriott, following the close of our in-person galleries. Space-themed clothing is

encouraged on Friday 9/24 and Science Fiction character cosplay is encouraged on SciFi Sunday 9/26!

The winning art pieces have been announced on our website and are listed below. Members from the public can cast their vote for their favorite art via our website for the annual “People’s Choice Award” from September 24 to October 31, 2021.

Data Art Winners:

- 1st Place: Molaro, Title: LAR 04315
- 2nd Place: Volk, Title: Distance Dance with Neptune
- 3rd Place: Buinis, Title: VR Mars- Hartman channels Lowell

Fine Art Winners:

- 1st Place: O’Malley, Title: Draa
- 2nd Place: Rey, Title: Oasis
- 3rd Place: Vitkus, Title: Super Earth

Space Travel Winners:

- 1st Place: Allen, Title: A Light in the Dark
- 2nd Place: Medvec, Title: Satellite Approaching Psyche
- 3rd Place: Walters, Title: New Worlds

**To RSVP for the opening weekend virtual streaming events please head over to our 2021 homepage: <https://www.lpl.arizona.edu/art/taps-2021>**

As we are hosted on the University of Arizona campus, we will follow protocols for indoor spaces in which social distancing is not possible and require masks for everyone 5 and older.

The Lunar and Planetary Laboratory (LPL) is an academic institution that pursues scholarly research and education across the broad discipline of planetary and solar systems science. *The Art of Planetary Science* exhibition is a volunteer outreach event founded and coordinated by the graduate students, staff, and scientists of LPL.

Kuiper Space Sciences Building  
1629 E. University Blvd.  
Tucson, Arizona, 85719

For more information, go to [www.lpl.arizona.edu/art](http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/art) or email [lpl-art@list.arizona.edu](mailto:lpl-art@list.arizona.edu)



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