

BUNDESKUNSTHALLE

Media Information

OUTER SPACE

3 October 2014 to 22 February 2015

Since the Art and Exhibition Hall was founded in 1992 there have often been exhibitions and presentation with a scientific connection. For example, *Erdsicht – Global Change* 1992, *Future Garden* 1997, *Arctic-Antarctic* 1997-98, *Gene Worlds* 1999. *Outer Space* is following on from this series.

Since time immemorial space has been a place of yearning, a focus of identity and subject of scientific curiosity in equal measure. How did the Universe come about? Where do we come from? Where are we going? Are we alone? Are there other intelligent civilisations in the Universe? What may life on other planets look like? Can we make contact with extra-terrestrials, if they exist? These questions occupy philosophers and scientists, writers, film makers and artists, spiritual leaders, madmen and visionaries.

This interest reached a spectacular high point in the 20th century when gravity was mastered in early aviation, manned space travel and the moon landing in July 1969. Since the year 2000 humanity has had an “outpost” in space in the form of the International Space Station (ISS). A joint mission by ESA and NASA to Mars is planned for 2016 to investigate signs of life on the Red Planet.

In parallel to the level of knowledge in science and the humanities, artists, designers, writers, film makers and architects have concerned themselves with the subject of space. From the very start, they have worked at the interface between art and science, fiction and fact, with one area influencing the other. In the course of the 20th century in particular, the creative potential of Science Fiction literature, of works of art and films proved to be so fruitful that ESA (the European Space Agency) commissioned a study examining the fictional material for suitability for implementation for innovative technologies. The French philosopher Paul Virilio noted the influence of the new technologies of our new space-time awareness in the dance and choreographies of Merce Cunningham: *here dance is ascending into the air, no longer in the perspective of rising, but of throwing to the stars: the dancer is spun out into space ...* With the Suprematism of the 1920s a variety of weightless utopia also entered the visual arts, which escaped the horizon of traditionally earth-bound painting (Malevitch, Moholy-Nagy, Lissitzky). The line of the horizon, which regulates the transition from visibility to invisibility, is definitively where scientific questions meet artistic questions.

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The subject of *Outer Space* is to be moved to the fore in an interdisciplinary exhibition project at the interface of art, design, film, architecture and science.

In addition to plausible explanations of complicated scientific conditions, the exhibition will also involve the visionary, humorous, delightful and absurd.

An exhibition of the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn, in cooperation with German Aerospace Center (DLR)

The exhibition is under the patronage of the German Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel.

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