

MOON GALLERY ANNOUNCES EXHIBITION IN PLOVDIV'S ANCIENT BASILICA

The exhibition features the Moon Bound Book and space-inspired artworks at the intersection of scientific experiment and creative vision.

Plovdiv, Bulgaria – What can a book the size of a finger-tip tell us about the Moon and humanity?

Visitors to a new exhibition at Bishop's Basilica of Philippopolis can soon find out.

Moon Bound, a miniature book being sent to the Moon this year as part of a science rover, will be presented in Plovdiv, inviting visitors to explore relationships among art, science, and the Moon. The exhibition centers on a single question: *How does the Moon see the Earth?*

Moon Bound is a 1 cm³ volume that gathers responses from creatives and researchers around the world and in multiple languages. Alongside the book, the exhibition features artworks in multiple formats that create an immersive experience blending scientific research with artistic imagination.

Presented inside the Bishop's Basilica of Philippopolis, the exhibition places contemporary space-focused art within a historic setting. The ancient architecture creates a powerful contrast, connecting humanity's earliest cultural history with modern visions of space exploration and our place in the cosmos.

Curator Luis Bernardo Guzmán says that “ I'm intrinsically interested in the role of the arts in space exploration, art in itself is becoming a form for exploring the cosmos. Such a small object contains a lot of information, in this case is not scientific, but information about human imagination” Guzmán is an artist working at the intersections of space and technology and is a doctoral candidate at Northumbria University.

Project founder, the Moon Gallery Foundation is an international platform that connects artists, researchers, and technologists to explore the relationship between art and space. Its projects encourage dialogue around space exploration, creativity, and humanity's future beyond Earth, bringing together artistic experimentation and scientific inquiry.

Lead funding for the Moon Bound exhibition has been provided by the Bulgarian Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Center for Projects – Plovdiv. This exhibition is supported through Project BG-RRP-11.024-0037 'Book for the Moon'; by the European Union – NextGenerationEU, through the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, administered by the National Culture Fund of Bulgaria.

“We have previously sent artwork to the International Space Station,” says Moon Gallery co-founder and art director Anna Sitnikova. “We’re thrilled to share our new Moon Bound book with the wider public.”

Elizaveta Glukhova, co-founder and curator with Moon Gallery,” adds that “in an era of increasing focus on the Moon—because it has water ice—we need perspectives that go beyond technology, science and commerce. We think Moon Bound provides a start to that necessary reflection.”

Exhibition details:

| Item | Information |
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| Exhibition Title | Moon Bound |
| Location | Bishop’s Basilica of Philippopolis, 2 Knyaginya Maria Luiza Blvd. Plovdiv 4000, Bulgaria |
| Dates | 23 February – 15 March 2026 |
| Opening Hours | Monday – Sunday: 9:00 - 18:00 Last entry: 17:15 |
| Organizer | Moon Gallery Foundation (NL) |
| Local Partner | Center for Projects – Plovdiv |
| Curator | Luis Bernardo Guzmán |
| Production Team | Anna Sitnikova, Elizaveta Glukhova, Yana Karol |
| Outreach Programme | Talks, panels, workshops, performances |
| Accessibility | Translation and subtitles provided |
| Featured Works | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Moon Bound Book by Moon Gallery — The ISS Payload by Moon Gallery — FENUA: The Last Fragment by Paulina Almeida — Time Slices by Lakshmi Mohanbabu — Alien from the Mechanical Angel by Luis Bernardo Guzmán — Imprint of Lightness by Jeanne Morel and Paul Marlier — Inner Telescope by Eduardo Kac — Un·Earthing (playsuit for Mars) by Ralo Mayer — Measuring Mistakes by Ulrike Kuchner — Cosmic Dancer by Arthur Woods — Flight Candidate #9 and Substruction by Hans Brooymans — Tantalum Ring, After Schengen series by Kongo Astronauts — Self Portrait on the Hubble Space Telescope of NASA astronaut John Grunsfeld by Michael Soluri |
| Moon Bound Book Contributors | Luis Bernardo Guzmán, Barbara Brownie, Kim Stanley Robinson, Minna Philips, Kyle Dargan, Cody Lukas, Christian Bök, Marjolein Callewaert, Helen Schell (The Human Spaceship), Ralo Mayer, Christopher Cokinos, Evan Lorenzen (Art and Such Evan), Kat Alice Pegler, Mary Pedicini, Maria |

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| | <p>Pia Munzi, ©Kongo Astronauts, Sabine Winters, Richelle Ellis, Udi Edelman, Carrie Paterson, Peter Westenbrink, Eva Petrič, Iwona Fluda, Jeroen van der Most, Peter van der Putten, Michael R Soluri, Shanshan Jiang, Felipe Cervera, Eduardo Kac, Anna Sitnikova and Elizaveta Glukhova (Moon Gallery Foundation), Legboot, Mette Juhl Jessen, Pieter Steyaert, Empress Stah, Marie-Pier Boucher, Manuel Vason, Yana Karol, Dr Adam Kaasa, Moon Village Association Cultural Considerations Working Group, Lisa Pettibone, Jorick de Quaasteniet, Miha Turšič, Ulrike Kuchner, The Space for Art Foundation, Ruth Best, Mary Kuiper, Metal God, Sarah Khan, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), Jeanne Morel, Dr Sarah Jane Pell, Dr Richard Move, Dr David Barnes, Daniel Waghorn, Julie Swarstad Johnson, Arthur Woods</p> |
| <p>Moon Bound Book Creative & Technical Production Team</p> | <p>Initiative: Anna Sitnikova, Elizaveta Glukhova, Stichting Moon Gallery Foundation. Concept: Barbara Brownie. Project Management: Anna Sitnikova, Elizaveta Glukhova, Barbara Brownie. Editor: Barbara Brownie. Texts: Barbara Brownie, Christopher Cokinos, Luis Bernardo Guzmán. Curation: Luis Bernardo Guzmán. Graphic Design: Annegien Schilling, Joanne van der Wal (Figure Ten). Book Development and Creation: Art and Such Evan.</p> |
| <p>Press Contact</p> | <p>Media contacts: pr@moongallery.eu; art@moongallery.eu Official website: https://moongallery.eu/ Moon Bound Blog: https://moongallery.eu/blog/</p> |
| <p>Images</p> | <p>https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10S3ndNUZn-uzsfKrXX69zblZvQAzV0md?usp=drive_link</p> |