

## NEWS RELEASE

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Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences

## NASA Art Program Exhibition to Open at NAS

WASHINGTON – Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “Launching the Future: Looking Back to Look Forward,” an exhibition organized by the NASA Art Program highlighting artwork from its collection. The exhibition opens on Sept. 30, 2022, at the National Academy of Sciences and will remain on view through March 1, 2023.

Space exploration has inspired artists since its very beginning. The NASA Art Program began in 1962 with the recruitment of eight artists to view a launch from Cape Canaveral. Artists from varied disciplines were given the opportunity to observe and do what they do best; to reveal the humanity that underlies our extraordinary endeavors in space exploration. They were given free creative reign, and carried their sketchpads into the white room, onto the grassy shores, and into the labs to show the world the beauty and wonder of the science and engineering taking place. With their talents and ingenuity, these artists took an endeavor that could seem so distant from everyday life and made it human and emotionally resonant.

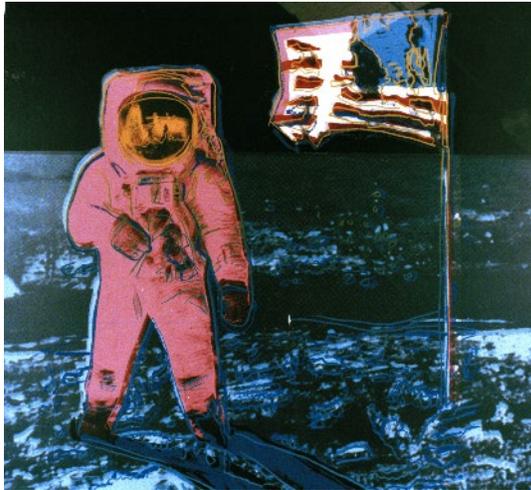
The exhibition features 16 works by artists including Andy Warhol, Kehinde Wiley, Nam June Paik, William Wegman, Annie Leibovitz, Dan Naminha, and Robert Rauschenberg. Included are two of Warhol’s iconic *Moonwalk* prints depicting Buzz Aldrin on the lunar surface. Also on view is MTV’s 2021 Moon Person trophy, a limited-edition sculpture created by Wiley to commemorate the brand’s 40th anniversary, which was presented to winners of the 2021 MTV Video Music Awards. A drawing by Paik, known as the founder of video art, shows the global impact of the Apollo 11 mission on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. Eileen Collins, the first female pilot and first female commander of a Space Shuttle mission, is depicted by photographer Leibovitz in an intimate portrait taken during training at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

“Launching the Future: Looking Back to Look Forward” is on exhibit at the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The building is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and closed weekends and holidays. A photo ID and proof of up-to-date vaccination against COVID-19 is required. For details about our operating status and vaccination policy, visit <https://www.nationalacademies.org/about/operating-status>. For more information about our exhibitions, visit [www.cpnas.org](http://www.cpnas.org).

**Cultural Programs of the NAS** sponsors exhibitions, salons, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. The NAS is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and — with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine — provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.

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## Press Images



Clockwise from top left: Andy Warhol, *Moonwalk*, 1987, silkscreen print, 37.5 x 37.5 inches; Hugh Laidman, *Mission Specialist Shannon Lucid*, 1980, charcoal on paper, 22.125 x 27.875 inches; Tina York, *Fluid Dynamics*, 1995, mixed media, 32 x 40 inches; William Wegman, *Chip and Batty Explore Space* (triptych detail), 2001, chromogenic color photograph, 41 x 40 inches.

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