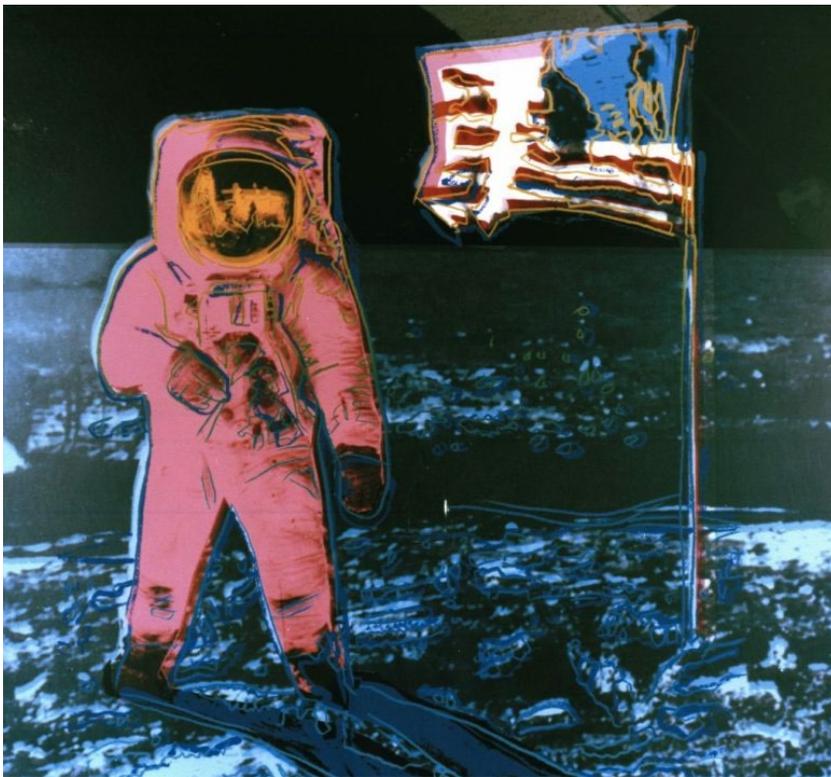


ARTS

Sabrina for Valentine's Day and More Best Bets for Feb. 9-15

A great Super Bowl alternative in RRR, plus Transformer's Heartbreakers Ball, Jenny Wu's whimsical art, and two exhibits at the National Academy of Sciences.

FEBRUARY 9, 2023



SPACE ART - Moonwalk 1 - Silkscreen by Andy Warhol. This piece depicts the famous Apollo 11 Mission. This painting was incorporated into the NASA Art Collection in 1998. (NASA Art Program) COPYRIGHTED by the Andy Warhol Estate. From *Launching the Future*, Courtesy of National Academy of Sciences

Ongoing: Two exhibits at the National Academy of Sciences

It's not widely known, but for the past 60 years, the federal government has been sponsoring artists to document and provide perspective on the NASA space program.

The artists who have taken **Uncle Sam** up on the offer have included some top-tier names, such as **Andy Warhol**, **Nam June Paik**, **William Wegman**, **Annie Leibovitz**, **Robert Rauschenberg**, and **Kehinde Wiley**; their works, as well as an assortment of pieces by lesser-known artists, are on display in the exhibit *Launching the Future: Looking Back to Look Forward* at the National Academy of Sciences. Some of the works are old-school: **Paul Calle**'s graphite sketch of two Gemini astronauts; **Henry Casselli**'s contemplative portrait of **John Glenn**; **Wilson Hurley**'s painting of the Viking spacecraft approaching Mars; and a pair of paintings of experimental aircraft by **Stan Stokes**. Of the more famous artists, the standouts include Warhol, who transformed a famous image of **Buzz Aldrin** on the Moon into one of his trademark pink-and-yellow-hued pop-art diptychs; Wegman's signature Weimaraner pups posing as astronauts; and a trophy for a video awards show designed by Wiley that features (deep breath) a silver cartoon astronaut ringed by vines and plopping an MTV flag into the ground. Separately, and in a cooler vein, the NAS is exhibiting *Altar*, a tall, gold-hued sculpture by Indian American artist **Smriti Keshari** that plays with themes of artificial intelligence by memorializing a matrix of Python coding that helped call into question human intellectual superiority over machines. *Launching the Future* *runs through March 1* and *Altar* is on display *through Sept. 15* at the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. cpnas.org. Free. —**Louis Jacobson**