In the 1880’s, artists accompanied the explorers to the western frontiers and sent back colorful images of the new lands. Paintings of Thomas Moran and Albert Bierstadt spurred further exploration of the west but also helped to preserve Yellowstone, Yosemite and other areas as national parks. In 1872, Frederick Church, the highest paid painter of his day, financed his own expeditions to paint polar aurorae, icebergs in the Arctic Sea, and volcanoes in South America. But soon the Earth’s frontierlands disappeared, and the link between art and exploration broke down.

Today, we receive images from a new frontier, rapidly expanding planet by planet into space. A new link between art and exploration is being re-forged by a new generation of “space artists”. Armed with imagination, creativity, and science, they can construct realistic images of visions throughout the universe. They can swoop down on awesome terrain from Mercury to the moons of Saturn—and beyond. They can look into the future. They can travel faster than light.

Space art serves the most basic function of Fine Art; that of inspiration. It directs our focus towards the space frontier, where human destiny inevitably lies.

We are in the midst of a human adventure that will be remembered when the international squabbles of our century are long forgotten. We are stepping off ancestral Earth, and learning what wonders and resources are scattered around in the sunlit blackness of space. It is an adventure for artists, scientists, and all of us.

COME JOIN US!
Dear artist or enthusiast,

We'd like to invite you to become a member of the IAAA, a new and dynamic organization dedicated to the astronomical artist.

The IAAA is the first and only guild of space artists. Originally conceived by a small core of professionals, we have grown to include associate members, which include agents, collectors, planetariums, writers, and others who wish to keep a close eye on this exciting new school of art.

Although we are a new group, we have some impressive accomplishments under our belt:

* A traveling art exhibit, OTHER WORLDS, sixty pieces of original art which is currently touring planetariums and museums across the US and Canada. The show contains work from 23 of the finest artists in the field.

* A very successful space art auction, sponsored by the Planetary Society, held in Houston in 1984,

* A 7-color art poster, designed and produced by the IAAA. Sales help finance IAAA activities.

* Space artists workshops, held in other-worldly locales, where the artists live, work, teach, and critique each other. Hawaii Volcanoes Nat'l Park, Death Valley, CA, the Arizona-Utah canyons, and Johnson Space Center in Houston have been recent workshop locations. These workshops provided publicity from national magazines and TV, including a PBS special "Space Visions", produced by KCET in Los Angeles.

* Seven IAAA artists were recently brought to Moscow by the Soviet Space Academy to display their art at the Space Future Forum, an unprecedented multi-national conference of space scientists. The artists were encouraged to develop cooperative programs with American, Canadian and European space artists and their Soviet counterparts. The result is a series of joint workshops, exhibitions and meetings planned through the year 1992.

Our goals are, in part,

To nurture the field of space art, providing a forum for the exchange of information and ideas.

To educate the public in the appreciation of space art, its value, virtues, quality, and collectability.

To sponsor and coordinate exhibitions, sales and auctions of space art.

To encourage high quality and workmanship.

We have a monthly newsletter, PULSAR, and a semi-annual journal, PARALLAX. They inform of IAAA activities, including shows, exhibitions, resources, and workshops. There are letters and articles offering tips, resources and advice; the KEYBOARD ARTIST, an ongoing dialog for those into computers and computer graphics, and helpful seminars on technique from the best in the business.

A membership form is attached. We have two classes of membership, so whether you are are an artist or interested observer, you can be kept abreast of IAAA developments.

ASSOCIATE membership is open to anyone. Associate membership entitles you to serve on advisory committees, participate in IAAA workshops on a space-available basis, a subscription to the newsletter and PARALLAX, and a copy of the membership directory. You will also have access to most workshops and IAAA activities.

ACTIVE membership is open to artists who create work of professional quality. Active membership entitles you to vote and hold office, priority access to IAAA workshops, access to the reference library, a subscription to the newsletter and PARALLAX, a copy of the membership directory, and any other IAAA publications published during the tenure of membership. You will also be entitled to our job service, market reports, exhibitions, auctions, workshop reports and referral service.