Art ©2005 by David A. Hardy

In Future Issues of PULSAR:

Date TBD 2006: Life on Other Worlds. Is it possible? Can we detect it? Can we go visit? If life developed here on Earth, it may have arisen elsewhere in the solar system. The Milky Way and distant galaxies may contain other habitable worlds, where even now other intelligent — and possibly technologically advanced — races exist. Or are we alone? As was said in cartoonist Walt Kelly's *Pogo*, "Either way, it's a mighty soberin' thought." **Ed Note:** As Jon Ramer retakes the editorial reins in 2006, the exact content of the issues may change, so watch for art and article notices in upcoming issues and on the IAAA email list.

Date TBD 2006: The Early Universe. Did all that we know, all that we can see or detect with instruments, really start from a sub-microscopic point? What did the universe look like as the first stars were forming? The first galaxies?

Date TBD 2006: Planet X and Beyond. With the recent discovery of a large frozen body - possibly larger than Pluto - in distant orbit about the sun, can we imagine other worlds still to be found in recorded data and new remote scans?

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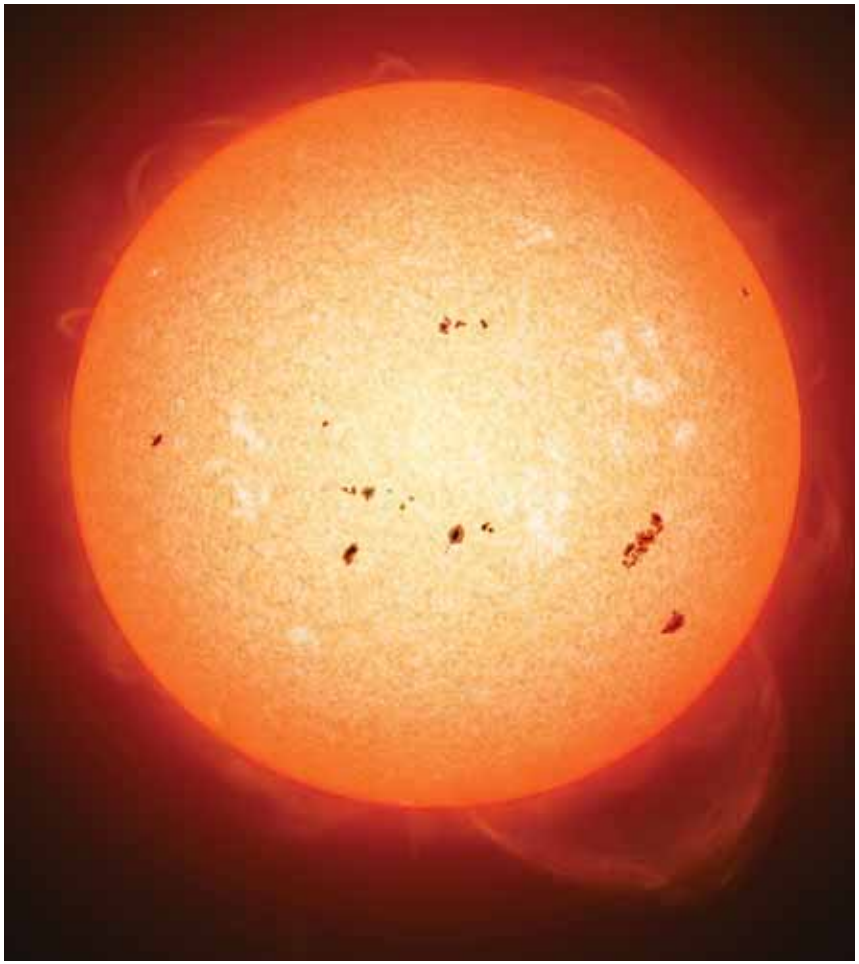
Winter 2005-2006

PULSAR

The Official Newsletter of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASTRONOMICAL ARTISTS



"The Sun" by Fahad Sulehria ©2005

Editor: Rick Sternbach IAAA Website: http://www.iaaa.org

PULSAR Winter 2005-2006

The Official Newsletter of the
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASTRONOMICAL ARTISTS

From the Editor –

Transitions

As I mentioned in the last issue, I am stepping down as editor of PULSAR, and that responsibility will be picked up by Jon Ramer, who has traveled this way before. Printing production will be handled by the able pair of B.E. Johnson and Joy Day; Joy is already serving as U.S./World Membership Secretary, so the coordination of PULSAR content, mailings, and membership operations could hardly be in better hands than with these three. My involvement with the Board has also come to a close earlier than I had anticipated due to personal matters. It has been an interesting experience, and my thanks to all who have contributed a wealth of art to PULSAR during my time here.

It is my hope that the member participation seen at Death Valley 3 and the modest growth we have seen in the IAAA will only increase in 2006. Workshops, exhibitions, and special publications continue to be discussed, all projects that will require the attention of a core membership *passionate* about space art. The new year is a perfect opportunity to renew ties with space artists who had once been in IAAA but have drifted away, increase IAAA's international representation, as well as recruit artists who are just now discovering space as a field through which they can channel their talents. By doing so, future professional activities and productions will join PULSAR as member benefits.

The entire field of space art is still in transition, as we continue to add computer-generated imagery and animation to the established tool set of brushes and boards and canvases. The move to CGI and 2-D image manipulation affects all segments of published media: magazines, books, prints, internet, television and film, and electronic publishing on CD- and DVD-ROM. Sketching and painting will not go away, as we have seen during workshops and in art gallery exhibitions. However, the majority of space artists who make their sole living from scientific visualization and public outreach have embraced the graphic horsepower of the computer. Each medium has its advantages, of course. For a paying magazine assignment, there's no longer any logical reason to paint ten thousand photorealistic Martian rocks when a terrain program will do them with the proper shadows and highlights and atmospheric lighting in a fraction of the time. Conversely, hand-painted acrylics or oils on canvas can still evoke a great array of feelings in depicting, say, plumes jetting up from Triton's frozen surface. It will be interesting to see where these modes of space art, as well as sculpting and model making, are headed in the coming years. What we do in reproducing the things we see in the heavens, aided by the craft used for exploration, is all part of a greater urge to create and communicate.

With a solid foundation of twenty-five years of IAAA space art to stand upon, it's time to get started creating the *next* twenty-five.

Rick Sternbach That's all, Folks! (It's all about the art)

Cover: "The Sun" by Fahad Sulehria ©2005. Sunspots, prominences, granules, and other features of our closest star can be clearly seen in this splendid image.

Materials & Techniques

Recently I received an advertisement from Imagewizards.net promoting art reproductions on brushed aluminum and wood. I requested for samples, prices and specs and they responded with some samples that looked intriguing especially for space art on aluminum. They produce sizes from 12"x16" to 4' x 8' for individual pieces on aluminum and up to 5' x 5' on single pieces for wood. Mural sizes are also available for wood and aluminum. All pieces are sealed with a UV coating and the expected life is 50+ years. Finished pieces do not have to have glass or be framed but should be treated as you would any giclee.

They will produce a sample 16" x 20" piece for $125.00 for aluminum. Normally Imagewizards reproduces art in multiple quantities of a minimum of 12 pieces per image but are willing to produce art at a 6 piece minimum per image at the 12 piece price for the IAAA. Twelve piece orders can be split into two images.

Should you be interested, their website is **www.imagewizards.net.** Product samples are available through their website on the "contact" page. The IAAA contact there is Rosemary Coldebella, rc@imagewizards.net, phone 1-800-849-3390. I have copies of the price list which doesn't appear on the web or you can request it via the "contact" page.

Prices start at $20.07 each for 6, 12" x 16" pieces on aluminum; $16.09 each for 6, 12" x 16" pieces on birch veneer plywood. Proof and setup per image is $100.00. Floating back for hanging artwork is inexpensive. Shipping is extra.

-Julie Jones, keeping an eye out for new materials

PULSAR Submission Guidelines - New Information

We're always looking for news and images for PULSAR. Feature articles generally run 500-1500 words; news bits can be as short as a few lines. Even in this age of internet email lists, if you have anything of interest to the space artist, you can share it here.

Hard copy, mailed: Text should be typewritten, double-spaced. Images can be photographic prints, sketches, or photocopies suitable for scanning, either black & white or color. Mailing address: Jon Ramer, IAAA/PULSAR, 3171 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro, CA 90731 USA.

Email and Other Web Options: email all text to **ramerj@att.net**. Large text files can be saved in any format which can be opened by Microsoft Word. Text files can also be placed on a website for downloading; please furnish the proper URL. Images should be roughly 1800 pixels wide or better. Images can be PSDs, JPGs, GIFs, or PNGs. Other formats, like QuickTime, are also acceptable; please check with your editor first. If emailed, please keep file size to 2MB or zip-compress larger files. Large images can also be placed on websites for download; again, please furnish a URL. Please provide credit and copyright information for articles and images. If no copyright information is provided, a © notice will be placed with the artist's name and current year. For images, please provide a **real title and a sentence or two about the subject**; a file name like "jup345.jpg" won't tell us what we need to know.

Excerpt from *Beautiful Universe 2006* --

There's nothing like looking out a spacecraft window or gazing at Earth from the surface of the Moon to make you appreciate the true majesty of the universe.

The sky looked different from what I expected as I stood on the sunlit, airless surface of the Moon. It was black — not flat black like Earth's night sky, but shiny black, like patent leather. And it was starless. The blinding sunlight kept my pupils from dilating the way they do under a dark night sky; it was like going out on a brightly lit patio at night. But as I surveyed the blackness through my visor, one thing stood out: a bright blue-and-white marble so disappointingly small I could blot it out with my thumb. "That's our Earth," I thought, "home to everything we value and everyone we love." Hanging there in the inky sky, it was most beautiful.

The photos on the following pages tell something of the amazing experience that is human space flight, but they don't tell everything. They simply can't. Earth is so much more dazzling from space than any picture conveys. Photographs can't reproduce the wide range of brightness from black space (darker than the blackest ink) to the sunlit blue-and-white sphere of our planet (brighter than the whitest paper).

Naturally I treasure the variety and detail and beauty of the photos taken on my Apollo and Skylab missions 30-plus years ago, but we did not have time to photograph everything of importance or interest. I left the space program in 1981 to tell other stories, or the same stories in other ways, through my paintings.

— Alan Bean

Thanks to *Sky & Telescope*'s Sandra N. Salamony for the essay and layout image from IAAA member Alan Bean's section of *Beautiful Universe 2006*. Sandra informs us that the IAAA and iaaa.org are mentioned.

"The Doctors" Hartmann, Durda, and Garlick Photo Courtesy David A. Hardy

SPACE ART EXHIBITION IN CAMBRIDGE, 5 – 15 SEPTEMBER 2005

A Report by David A. Hardy

At the Death Valley Workshop in February this year, Dan Durda mentioned to me and some other UK members that the American Astronomical Society's annual Division for Planetary Sciences Conference was being held this year in Cambridge, and wouldn't it be a good idea to try to hold an exhibition of space art at the same time? Naturally we did, and upon my return I started making enquiries.

My first step was to contact Paul Murdin, a noted British astronomer with whom I have had dealings in the past. Through him I then contacted Simon Mitton and Margaret Penston, both of who are involved with the organisation of the conference (Margaret is a past President of the British Astronomical Association). Their first suggestion was to use some university facilities, but initial comments were not encouraging; e.g., from Simon: "I would expect you and your colleagues to take the entire responsibility for the exhibit. My job is to produce a scientific meeting and I can't allow myself to become distracted with hanging an art exhibition. My role would be limited to offering you the space to hang the exhibit.

Importantly, none of the parties involved in this meeting (AAS, RAS, the University of Cambridge) could take any responsibility of any kind for the safety and security of the exhibit."

It soon became clear that this was not going to be viable, and the idea to find a public venue – e.g., an art gallery or such – was mooted, and, in Paul's words, "regarding this exhibition as part of the public awareness aspect of the meeting."

Several places were sounded out by those living and working in Cambridge, and it became clear that most galleries had their exhibitions planned at least a year ahead – one even five years! However, Paul eventually reported that he had found one small gallery – the Lawson Gallery – which could display about 20 paintings, ten small and ten larger, and after several e-mails and phone calls between the owner and myself, mainly concerning matters of security, insurance and transport, we settled upon that. The size of the exhibition, and the time factor, meant that it would not have been a

Bob, Jackie, Arthur, and Dave (see text) Photo Courtesy David A. Hardy

viable option to open up this one to US and international Artist members via our Exhibitions Officer, which is of course the normal route; and indeed the UK Artists were easily able to supply the required number of works! (The same had applied to an exhibition at The Place in Letchworth in July, which was organised by our member Bob Parkinson, on behalf of the British Interplanetary Society (of which both he and I are members), and who also did sterling work in collecting and storing artwork between the two exhibitions.) I produced a flier to go into each DPS delegate's 'welcome pack', stressing the importance of space art, and the IAAA, in explaining astronomical phenomena, including our website and details.

A week or so before the conference and exhibition were due to open there was a flurry of e-mail activity, since Dan Durda and Bill Hartmann were about to fly over for the DPS Conference. It had already been arranged that both the gallery and a local bookshop would stay open late on one evening, Thursday 8th September, so we agreed that Dan and Bill would meet up with as many UK artists as could get there, and then go for a meal. In the event, this turned out to consist of: Jackie Burns, Philip Fidge, Mark Garlick, Arthur Gilbert, Dave Hardy, and Bob Parkinson, with assorted wives and a husband. This meant that only Graham Bate, Richard Bizley and Garry Harwood had work there but were unable to attend. Paul Murdin and Margaret Penston came along, and seemed impressed by the art, as did many other delegates from the conference. Then we were joined by Dan and Bill (and Dan's mother), and finally all went on to dinner at King's College, at the invitation of Simon Mitton. Many thanks, Simon (I never believed in a free lunch, but dinner – ?). If you'd like to put faces to some of the names you see in e-mails, etc., I have placed a number of photographs at **http://www.hardyart.demon.co.uk/cambridge/** to which I hope to add if other attendees send theirs along. A few are also included here.

Our thanks to Christian Kohl, who was in charge of our exhibition at the gallery, and of course to Mr and Mrs Lawson for opening late and providing wine! It was certainly well attended, and a very convivial evening was had by all!

"Mars and Astronauts" by David Robinson ©2005

Spacecraft/The Sun

"Mars Ambulance" by Gavin Mundy ©2005

"Golden Sunset" by Sam Dietze ©2005

"Orbital Insertion" by Aldo Spadoni ©2005

Above: Robin Hart lectures about space art.
Left: Even a cake makes a good canvas.
Photos courtesy Julie Jones ©2005

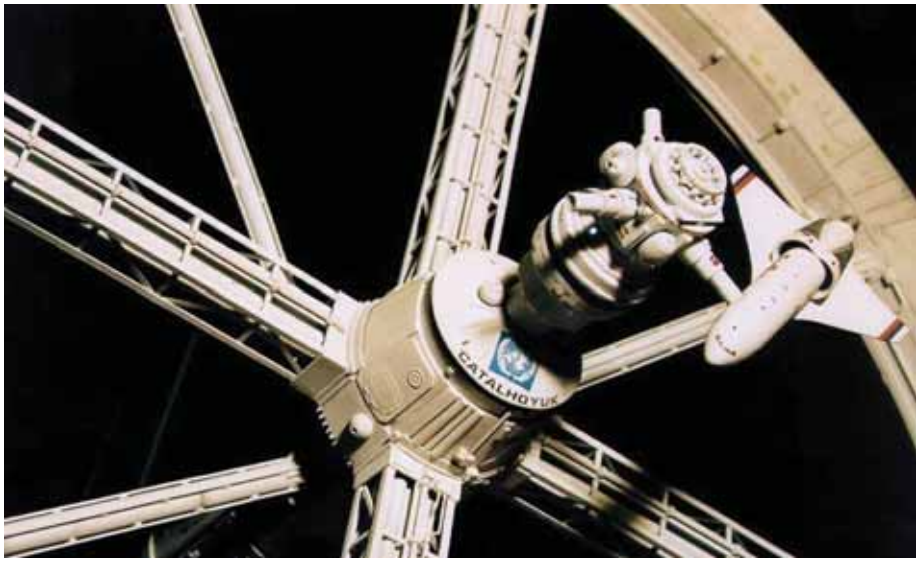
Looking Up: Artists' Views of the Universe

The Imaginarium Science Center in Nevada City, California was host to a professional exhibition of IAAA art April 17 through June 19, 2005. Participating were five IAAA artists showing over thirty pieces on the wall. The virtual slide show had seventeen IAAA artists. Robin Hart organized the event for the IAAA, gathering art from around the globe to be displayed at the exhibit and prepared a continuously running slide show of even more members' artwork and of the genre in general. Robin also created the dazzling IAAA and show signage throughout the exhibit. Judy Nielsen, the Imaginarium's director, professionally hung the show, creating explanations for each of the pieces of art. Artists' names and biographies were also posted with their work. On April 29, the Imaginarium held a public opening and reception where Julie Rodriguez Jones and Robin Hart attended, representing the IAAA. Both made introductory remarks and answered questions about space art. Robin continued with a full discussion about the virtual art slide show of members' works and of the genre of space art. Guests at the reception were greeted with delicious hors d'oeuvres and a one-of-a-kind IAAA cake. Thanks to all those artists who contributed their art to make this a successful show. - Julie Rodriguez Jones

FUTURE ASTROLABE

From IAAA member Italo Rodomonti come two views of his sculpture "Future Astrolabe." I promised Italo some time ago that I would publish these pictures, so here they are for your enjoyment. In a world where most space art is 2-D, it is nice to see something that one can walk around and examine from different angles. We'll have to ask him for more information on the use of the red coloration on the arms and central spire. – Ed.

From NASA: "After a year-long hiatus, Science Update - your newsletter of the latest science news from NASA Headquarters - is back! Look to us as your source of recent newsmakers and upcoming astronomical events every month."
Send a blank email to: **oss-update-subscribe@yahoogroups.com** to receive this news roundup.
Archives can be found at **http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oss-update/messages**

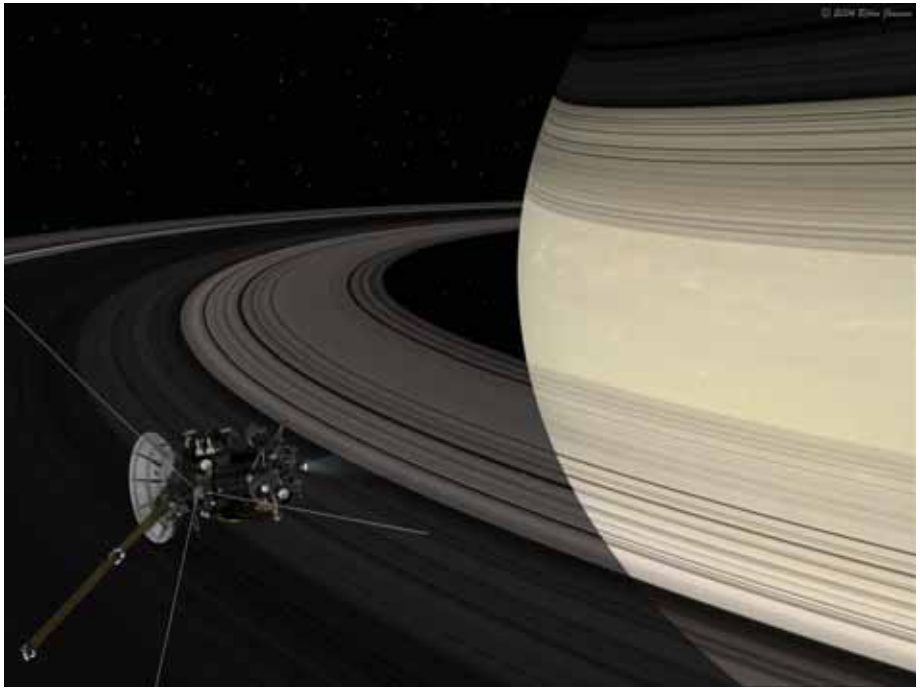


"Catalhoyuk" by Phil Smith ©2005

Spacecraft/The Sun

"Retro Rocket" by David A. Hardy ©2005

"Deep Impact" by Pat Rawlings ©2005



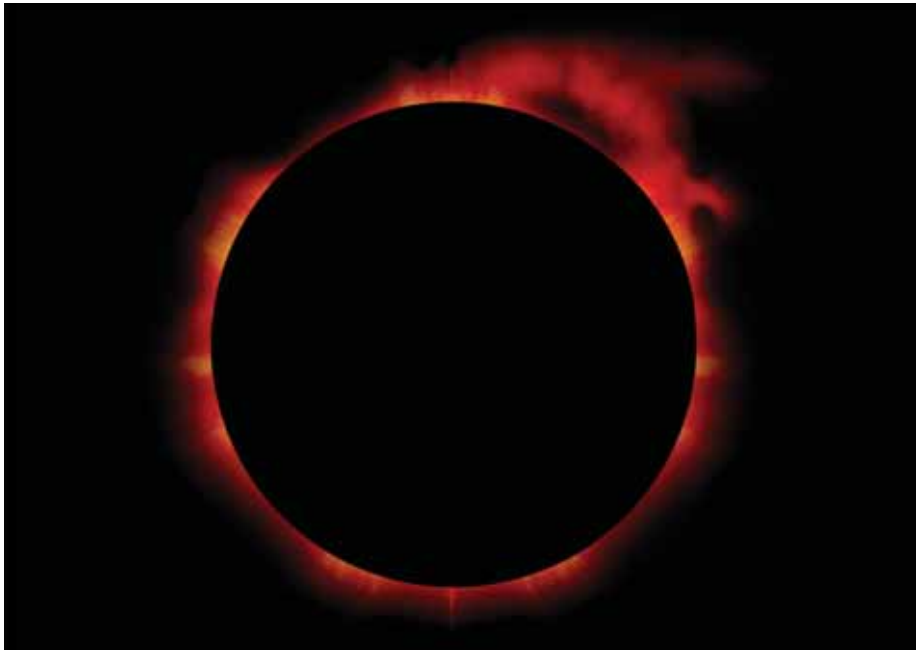
"Getting Captured" by Bjorn Jonsson ©2005

"Mars Shuttlecraft A1" by Tom Peters ©2005

Spacecraft/The Sun
Two Special PULSAR Topics

"SPF 30" by Bob Parkinson ©2005

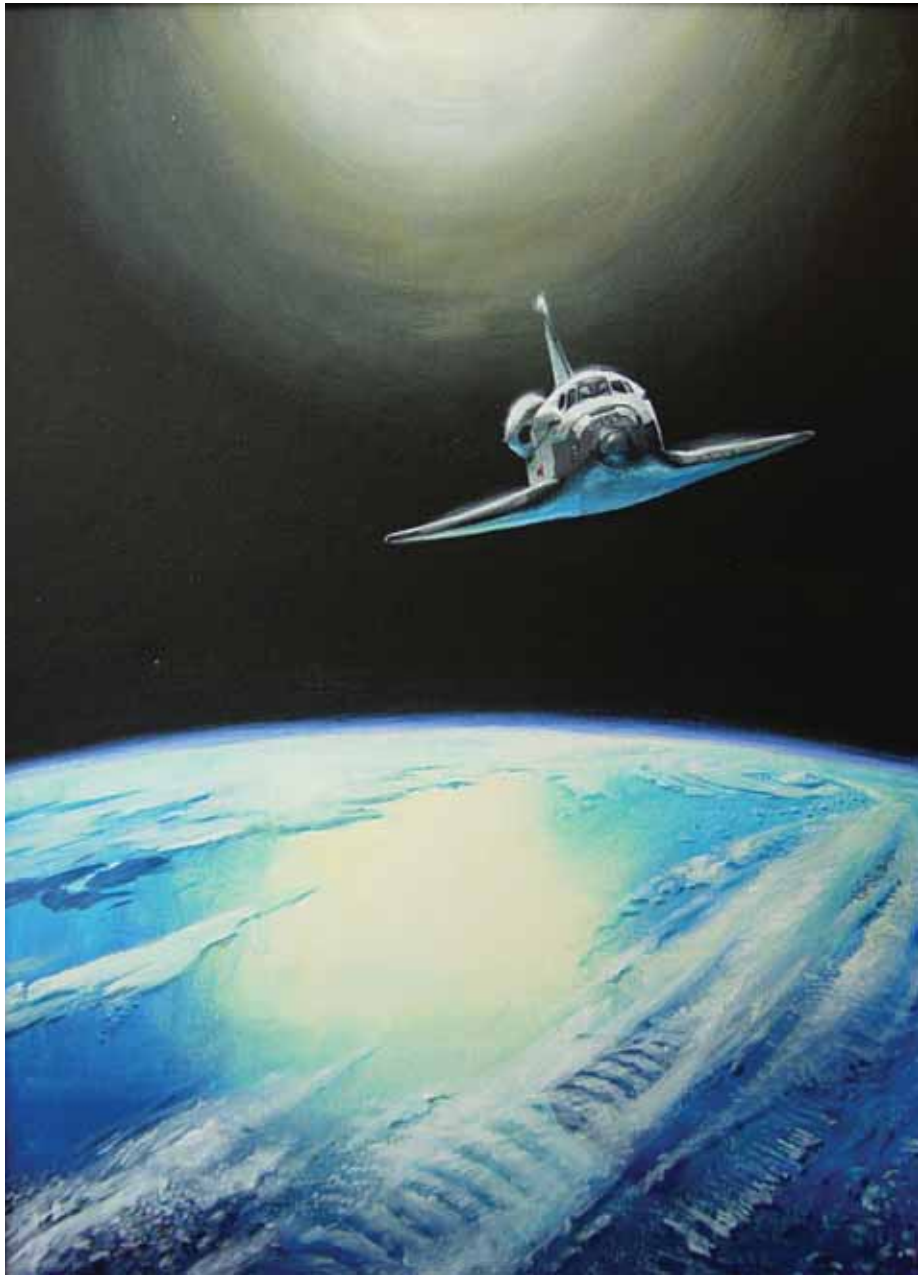
"Starship and Habitable Gas Giant Moon" by David A. Hardy ©2005



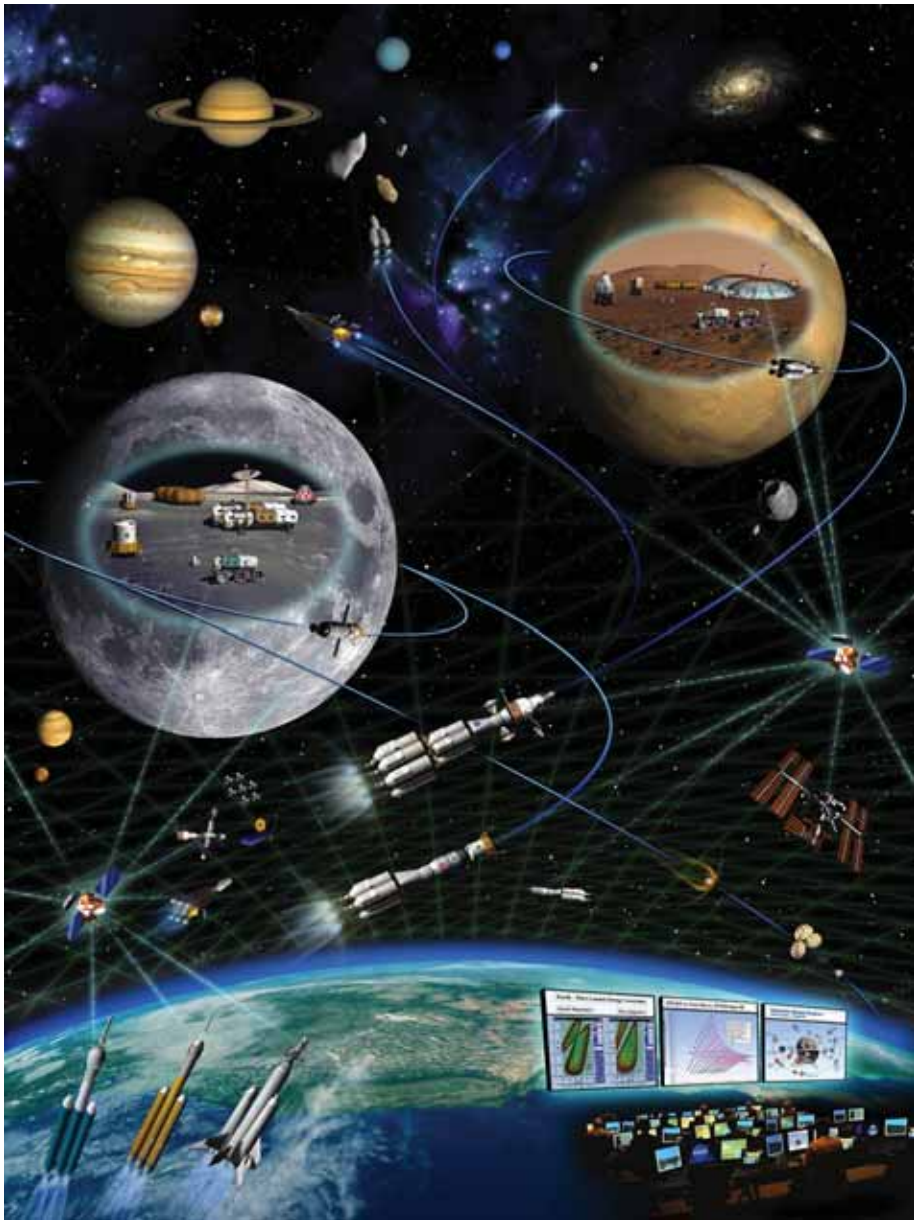
"Red Eclipse" by Julie Rodriguez Jones ©2005

"Sungazer" by Joe Bergeron ©2005

"Martian Rendezvous" by Frank Hettick ©2005

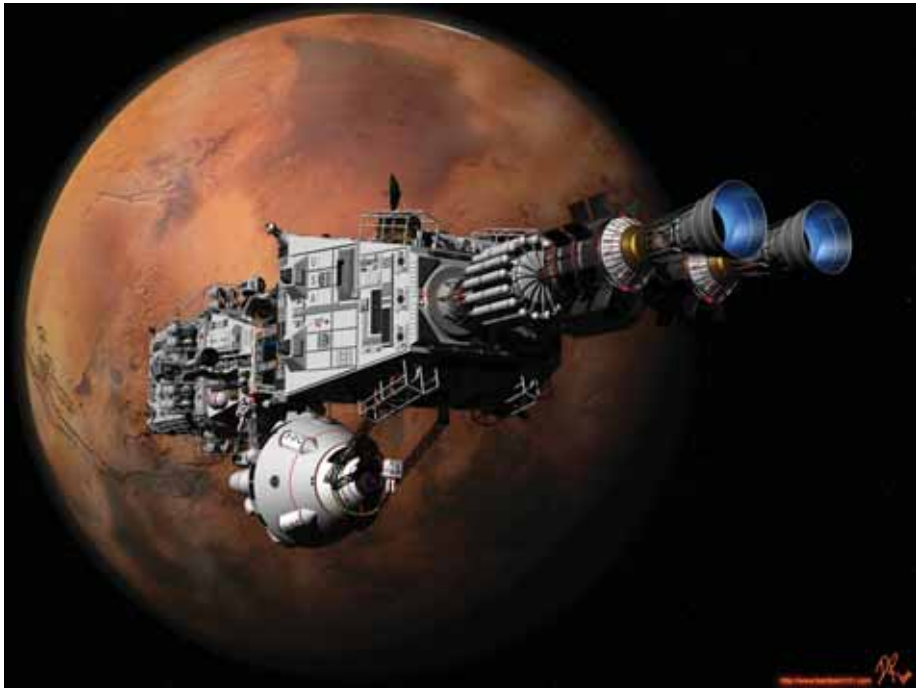


"High Noon" by Gavin Mundy ©2005

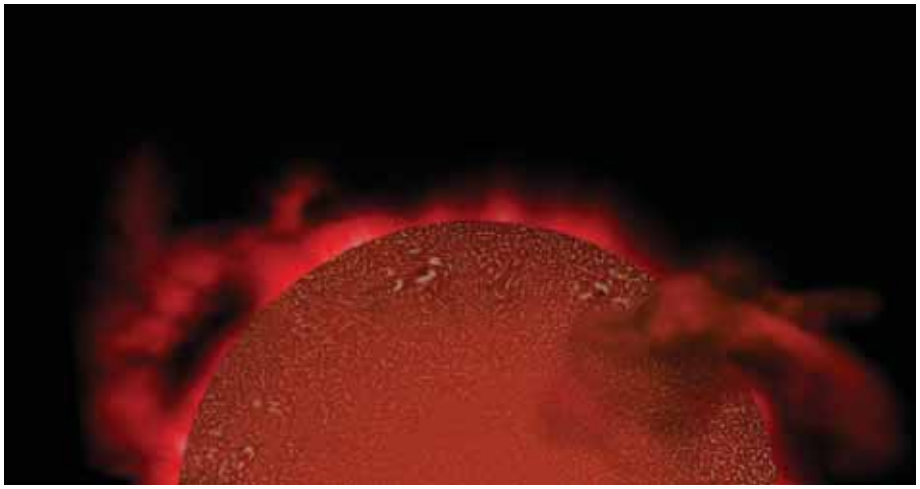


"Space Exploration Poster" by Aldo Spadoni ©2005

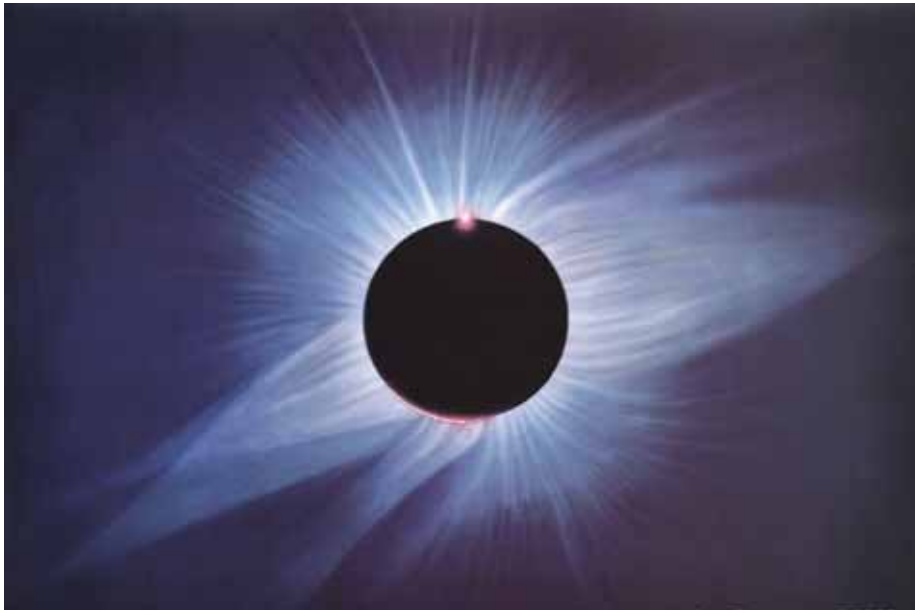
Spacecraft/The Sun
Two Special PULSAR Topics



"Shenandoah Redesign and Mars" by David Robinson ©2005



"Solar Flares" by Julie Rodriguez Jones ©2005



"Eclipse 1992" by Joe Bergeron ©2005

"HOTOL Launch" by Bob Parkinson ©2005