Letter From the President

Hi Folks!

We've come to the end of another busy year and I'm happy to report that next year will be a banner one for the IAAA. First off, we've got the second edition of the Beauty of Space coming out, published by Springer. Next, we've got two workshops on the way, the first one in Las Vegas from March 22nd to 29th, where we are going to explore the amazing landscapes of Red Rock Canyon, the Valley of Fire, and Big Dune Park. Slots are still open, so sign up via the listserver now! The second workshop in the works is to Chile, South America, with the National Radio Astronomy Observatory to see the ALMA Observatory in the Atacama desert AND see a total solar eclipse! In between those workshops we have at least two major art exhibitions, one at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, and another at the Air Force Museum that should last an amazing six months! The Board is embracing new technology and will start conducting quarterly Board meetings via video-teleconferencing so we can react quicker to the needs of the membership. We are also actively looking at ways to do more for the membership, such as the deal we set up to jury art for The Planetary Society to put on the back of every issue of The Planetary Report. Big things are headed our way - it's a great time to be a member of the IAAA! So, Happy Holidays, and we'll see you at the next workshop!

Jon Ramer

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Nebula in a Star Forming Region—William Hartmann

Car's Eye Nebula, Eileen McKeon-Butt

Solar Nebula—William Hartmann

Carina Nebula, Sean Yarbrough

Asteroid Landscape below the Butterfly Nebula. Acrylic on canvas, Jackie Twine

Nebula Azura—Acrylics on 16x20 canvas, Brian Fiore

The Rosette Nebula, Eileen McKeon

Rabbit Hole Nebula—Acrylics on 16x20 canvas, Brian Fiore

Horsehead Nebula, Jacob Coble

The Rossette Nebula, Eileen McKeon

Ring Nebula, acrylic on masonite, 24x48, Samuel Dietze
From the Editor

Hello again! Here we are at the close of another year, and what a great year it was! The IAAA members have had some spectacular shows around the world, including participation in the Apollo 50th Anniversary events, Johnson Space Center, Spacefest, and many more. We also have added so many new members this year! Welcome!

There are also lots of exhibit opportunities coming up for us, so keep an eye out on our listserv for what’s going on. We are moving at light speed with many projects under way!

This edition features some amazing exhibits, the Lucien Rudaux award recipients, highlights from Spacefest X and the biggest gallery pages submission I have ever experienced since being your editor. Thank you and enjoy!

Erika McGinnis, Pulsar Editor, Pulsar-editor@iaaa.org

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Cover Art: David H. Hardy “This was done for my book ‘Futures: 50 Years in Space’ (AAPPL, 2004) with Sir Patrick Moore. It was the last book we did together, and was to celebrate the 50 years we had collaborated, and a kind of sequel to our 1972 ‘Challenge of the Stars’. So it included all types of object, from stars, planets and moons to galaxies and nebulae. This is of course the Orion Nebula, seen from a planetary system nearby. It is a combination of paint and digital, but I have strengthened the greens as the human eye is more sensitive to that colour.”

Cover Nebula, Eileen McKeon-Butts

Orion Sword, acrylic on masonite, 48x22, Samuel Dietze

Veil Nebula, Size: 20” x 60” Medium: oil on canvas, Carol Johnson

Crab Nebula, Jacob Coble

Nebula, David H. Hardy

Crab Nebula, Eileen McKeon-Butts
Kudos for members of IAAA


- Abby Garrett had an interview on Style Engineering Worldwide. You can view that here: www.styleengineersworldwide.com/style-engineers-blog/abbygarrett

- Nick Stevens got to witness the first test launch of ERL, a British designed rocket. He designed the concept art six years earlier.

- Jackie Twine had her work of Apollo 11 published in an Apollo memoir released by the UK Space Agency.

- Marilyn Flynn, Doug Forrest, Mark Garlick, Mayuko Ishii, Simon Kregar, Mark Maxwell, Aldo Spadoni and Lucy West Binnall all had work accepted in the latest issue of Ad Astra, the magazine for the National Space Society.

- Pamela Lee was given the Lucien Rudaux Award for Lifetime Achievement, along with a posthumous award given to Alan Bean. See article on p.

Tim Males exhibits his work at Starry Night

An annual one night event at the Florida Museum of Natural History, located in his home town, Gainesville FL.

“I get a positive and enthusiastic response to my art from the students, families, and couples who attend the event. Like me, they have a romance with the stars!”

Photos courtesy of Tim Males

Earthlike planet against a backdrop of Nebulosity, William Hartmann

From my early days in astronomy, I was interested in the fact that stars tend to form not alone, but in clusters embedded in luminous nebulosity. Hence interesting opportunities to show subjects such as an early Earth-like planet while it’s parent star is embedded in a nebula.

Cat's Eye Nebula, Eileen McKeon-Butts

Nebula, Stephen Duzick

People of Creation Nebula, Sean Yarbrough

Interstellar Filaments, oil on masonite, 32x48, Samuel Dietze

Cat's Eye, oil on canvas, 24x36, Samuel Dietze
Welcome New Members!

Ken Naiff is an astrophotographer with sensational imagery of galaxies, nebulae, and clusters. “My deep appreciation of the natural world and my interest in technology has been played a meaningful role in my life since early childhood and throughout my career. When moving to Arizona in 2004, my passions in astronomy, art, and technology were all realized in one endeavor – astrophotography.” www.DarkSkyImagesByKen.com

Sean Yarbrough “I aim to remind viewers of our deep connection with the earth and the cosmos through surreal and imaginative astro imagery. Interweaving narratives of colorful nebulae, fiery suns, luminous galaxies, star maps, and more, I aim to show the complexity of the visionary realms we beings of light are so blessed to experience.” spyartwork.com

Bron White “I am a self-taught artist, amateur astronomer, space enthusiast. I work for a rocket company in Australia. Working around engineers, aeronautics and space technology definitely influences my art, especially the various paint mediums I work with. When I’m not painting you can find me behind the lens of a camera or stargazing at the night sky. I am also a member of the National Space Society Australia, and local astronomical society.”

Cristina Cerada “I was born in Monza, Italy, on the 4th August 1963 and I am a teacher at the Scuola d’Arte of Merate, in the province of Lecco. I fell in love with stars when I was already 4 years old. I remember that my father (he was an amateur astronomer) used to take me in his arms and he used to teach me how to tell the difference between planets and stars in the sky. At the same time my mother supported my natural inclination towards drawing.”

Müzeyyen Abika is an expressionist painter. She is impressed by Chesley Bonestell’s artworks. Although she paints illustrative, she cares about global warming. Since her childhood, she watched the constellations and is consumed by the stars – she has an interest in Quantum Physics and reads lots of articles on the subject. She started to sketch and draw at an early stage in her childhood, around 5 years old. She lives in Turkey.

Chris Calle is an artist who has designed more than 35 postage stamps for the United States and hundreds more for countries as diverse as Sweden and the Marshall Islands, as well as designs for the United Nations. Chris’s US postage stamp design work includes the two stamps in 1994 celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the first Moon Landing jointly designed with his father Paul Calle who designed the iconic First Man on the Moon stamp in 1969. Perhaps Chris’s most well-known artwork is the $2.40 Priority Mail stamp design of 1989, which depicts Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin planting the American flag on the Moon. During his 20+ years as an illustrator and today, much of his artwork is related to the theme of Space Exploration. Astronaut portraits, future space exploration, and the manned space program were favorite subjects produced in paint and pencil for publications, advertising, coins and philatelic First Day Covers. www.callespaceart.com

Don White is a mixed media, watercolor, gel pen, acrylics and alcohol inks artist have gone digital. He shares his lifelong passion for astronomy and space travel through his art, dedicating the effort to those who are fascinated with the possibilities and vastness of space and are energized by the adventure ahead for humans as we enter the galactic playing field. www.spacetravelart.com

Priscilla Thomas captures the human touch within the setting of our reach for the stars. Her representational depictions of transformative and encouraging human moments both reassure and warm the spirit. Her activities include travel to NASA rocket launches, NASA open houses and, as media, to NASA media events. She also participates in crowd-sourced space image identification and classification of NASA images. PriscillaThomasVisual.com

Jason Riley “I studied Technical, Life-science and General Illustration at Falmouth and left with a distinction in 1992. For twenty years I have been involved with a lot of imaginative artwork in AAA computer games titles, but I knew that creating for Science visuals was something I dearly missed. So I set up on my own to focus on my dreams of representing new and amazing discoveries particularly in Space Exploration in both Illustration and Animation forms. My most recent work has been for SEArch + and Apis Cor.”
Welcome New Members (continued from p. 5)

Lois Rosson  
“I’m currently a fourth year Ph.D student in the History Department at U.C. Berkeley. My dissertation looks at how pictorial representations of outer space changed over the course of the twentieth-century, especially given the geopolitical context of the Cold War. I’m currently posted up at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. on a research fellowship, where I’ve been working on a chapter about Chesley Bonestell for the last few months.”

Adarsh Deepak is VP, President (2 years), and now BoA, of Peninsula Fine Arts Center (PFAC), Newport News, VA. One of the 10 small accredited art museums/galleries in USA, awarded during my Presidency.

Additional new members: John Vermatte, Geoff Notkin and Jacob Coble.

New Journeymen to the IAAA: Kelly Dorton,

Rudaux Award

I am delighted to announce that the Fellows and the Board have decided to give the Lucien Rudaux Award for Lifetime Achievement to two of our members.

We did not give out one in 2016 due to too many things happening and time slipping by the deadlines of our by-laws, but we decided that one particular artist truly deserved the honor, despite the deadlines, and, well, if you can’t bend the rules for a deserving person, what are rules for? :-) And the Board also decided that a prestigious award like this should be more than a certificate, so we created our very first physical award to give to recipients, a beautiful glass sculpture bowl that looks like a nebula and galaxy made by our very own Joy Day and BJ Johnson.

So, I am happy to announce that Pam Lee is our Rudaux Award recipient for 2016! We presented our new award to Pam at SpaceFest in Tucson. Best of all, we managed to keep the award a total secret from Pam and surprised her with the announcement! A true delight and more than deserving honor for one of our very best. Please congratulate Pam!

I am also pleased to announce the 2018 Rudaux award winner. Sadly, this one is posthumous, but the recipient knew just how much his art meant to each and every space artist in the world. He was one of the few people in this world who was my personal hero and I am honored to have met him at Spacefest in the past. Jon did a masterful job arranging for the production of the beautiful Lucien Rudaux Awards and presenting them at Spacefest XI. We had a ceremony that was well attended, right after the Artist group photo and right before the VIP reception and art show grand opening event. Alan Bean’s award was announced with the actual delivery of the award deferred until next year as Jon mentioned, since no one from the Bean family was present to receive it.”

Pamela Lee receiving her award, photo courtesy of Aldo Spadoni.

Celestial Fireworks - oil on canvas 3 x 3 feet - 2016, Barbara Sheehan

Cosmic Raven. Michael C. Turner, acrylic on stretched fine linen canvas 48x36. This is a somewhat fanciful painting of a genesis nebula in a distant galactic realm. The imagery of a raven with its wings stretching across light years of space is created using an array of celestial phenomena. The newly forming stars along with the illuminated gases and cloaking stellar dust particles combine to mimick a soaring raven. Nomadic stars create comet-like effects within the wings and body of the raven nebula. A newly forming planet is juxtaposed between the raven and foreground stars and the “cosmic raven nebula” is given the illusion of soaring around the planet, capturing the new celestial bauble

Lois Rosson “This piece is from an older series I started a few years ago in art school, and it was one of the pieces that actually got me into painting space art. I was in a SFA Life Painting class, and I wanted to do something more interesting than put a wall in the background.”

Pamela Lee receiving her award, photo courtesy of Aldo Spadoni.

Pamela Lee — Photo courtesy of David Ginsberg

Pamela Lee — Photo courtesy of David Ginsberg

Pamela Lee — Photo courtesy of David Ginsberg

Pamela Lee — Photo courtesy of David Ginsberg

Pamela Lee — Photo courtesy of David Ginsberg

The Future is Here, Amber Allen, Oil on Canvas

This piece is from an older series I started a few years ago in art school, and it was one of the pieces that actually got me into painting space art. I was in a SFA Life Painting class, and I wanted to do something more interesting than put a wall in the background.”

Welcome New Members (continued from p. 5)
This weekend I was invited to participate in the Apollo 12 50th Anniversary in Wheeler, TX (Alan Bean’s hometown). Also attending were Mrs. Leslie Bean, Alan’s daughter Amy, Pete Conrad’s son Peter, Apollo EECOM John Aaron, Jim Kelly and Apollo FIDO Jerry Bostick and author of “Go, Flight” Rick Houston.

To help support the museum and its programs, I painted a retrospective of his professional life. The challenge as I saw it was to honor the man who excelled in three different careers in his life.

The description:

AVIATOR

Bean was commissioned a U.S. Navy ensign through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) at UT Austin, and attended flight training. After completing flight training, he was assigned to Attack Squadron 44 (VA-44) at NAS Jacksonville, Florida, from 1956 to 1960, flying the F9F Cougar and A4D Skyhawk. After a four-year tour of duty, he attended the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland, where his instructor was his future Apollo 12 Commander, Pete Conrad. He then flew as a test pilot on several types of naval aircraft. Following his assignment at SNTPS, he was assigned to Navy Attack Squadron VA-172 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida, flying the A-4 Skyhawk from 1962 to 1963, during which time he was selected as a NASA astronaut.

Bean logged more than 7,145 hours of flying time, including 4,890 hours in jet aircraft.

ASTRONAUT

Bean was selected by NASA as part of Astronaut Group 3 in 1963 (after not being selected for Astronaut Group 2 the previous year). His first crew assignment was as the backup command pilot for Gemini 10, but was unsuccessful in securing an early Apollo flight assignment. He was placed in the Apollo Applications Program in the interim. In that capacity, he was the first astronaut to dive in the Neutral Buoyancy Simulator and a champion of the process for astronaut training. When fellow astronaut Clifton Williams was killed in an air crash, a space was opened for Bean on the backup crew for Apollo 9. Apollo 12 Commander Conrad, who had instructed Bean at the Naval Flight Test School years before, personally requested Bean to replace Williams.

Bean was the Apollo Lunar Module pilot on Apollo 12, the second lunar landing. In November 1969, Bean and Pete Conrad landed on the Moon’s Ocean of Storms—after a flight of 250,000 miles and a launch that included a harrowing lightning strike. He was the astronaut who executed John Aaron’s “Flight, try SCE to ‘Aux’” instruction to restore telemetry after the spacecraft was struck by lightning 36 seconds after launch, thus salvaging the mission. They explored the lunar surface, deployed several lunar surface experiments, and installed the first nuclear power generator station on the Moon to provide the power source. Dick Gordon remained in lunar orbit, photographing landing sites for future missions.

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Bean was the spacecraft commander of Skylab 3, the second crewed mission to Skylab, from July 28 to September 25, 1973. With him on the mission were scientist-astronaut Owen Garriott and Marine Corps Colonel Jack R. Lousma. Bean and his crew were on Skylab for 59 days, during which time they covered a world-record-setting 24.4

(Continued on p.8)
Aviator—Astronaut—Artist. continued from p. 7

million miles. During the mission, Bean tested a prototype of the Manned Maneuvering Unit and performed one space-walk outside the Skylab. The crew of Skylab 3 accomplished 150% of its mission goals.

ARTIST

Bean resigned from NASA in June 1981 to devote his time to painting. He said his decision was based on the fact that, in his 18 years as an astronaut, he was fortunate enough to visit worlds and see sights no artist's eye, past or present, has ever viewed firsthand and he hoped to express these experiences through his art.

As a painter, Bean wanted to add color to the Moon. "I had to figure out a way to add color to the Moon without ruining it," he remarked. In his paintings, the lunar landscape is not a monotonous gray, but shades of various colors. "If I were a scientist painting the Moon, I would paint it gray. I'm an artist, so I can add colors to the Moon", said Bean.

Bean’s paintings include Lunar Grand Prix and Rock and Roll on the Ocean of Storms, and he used real Moon dust in his paintings. When he began painting, he realized that keepsake patches from his space suit were dirty with Moon dust. He added tiny pieces of the patches to his paintings, which made them unique. He also used a hammer, used to pound the flagpole into the lunar surface, and a bronzed Moon boot to texture his paintings.

******************************************

I first met Alan Bean in the late 1980's when he spoke at the Talcott Mountain Science Center in Avon, CT. I gifted him with a portrait I sketched and enjoyed an all too brief exchange.

I moved my family to Titusville, FL in 1991 and had the opportunity to speak with Bean at numerous events supporting the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. On two different occasions I was displaying my art work and he graciously stopped by my booth to look at my work and chat. It meant the world to me. In this piece I wanted to depict him as though he might be the artist of this painting, a retrospective of his life. He's wearing his painters apron stained with the paint from other works. I had fun recreating that as I wiped my brushes on his apron. The photograph this portrait is based on shows him holding three paint brushes. Here I have him holding two. You'll notice the third brush has been placed on the lunar surface.

Both patches and signed and numbered prints will be sold by the Wheeler Historical Museum. Although they may not be on their website until Monday.

The link is: https://wheelerhistory.org/

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Fallen Stars—Alexie Leonov

Born in Listvyanka, West Siberian Krai, Russian SFSR, Soviet Union in 1934, Leonov would go on to graduate from the Chuguev military pilots’ academy. Throughout his military career, he attained the rank of Major General in the Soviet Air Force, serving primarily as a fighter pilot.

He was also an artist—becoming the first person to create art in space in the form of pencil drawings of inspirational landscapes of what he saw out the windows of his spacecraft and spacesuit helmet. The first picture ever drawn in space was created by Leonov after watching the Sun rise over Earth’s horizon on Voskhod 2. He also used his imagination for several other portraits, including some of the moon.

During the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project flight in 1975, Leonov drew portraits of his fellow Apollo astronauts. He was the first person to perform a spacewalk on March 18, 1965, and leave the confined safety of a spacecraft in orbit and was the commander of the first international mission in space history.

He passed away on October 11, 2019 at the age of 85.

A memory of the IAAA in Russia on a workshop by Bill Hartmann:

"We were being herded into a big auditorium and onto a stage in front of a big audience (all quite exciting), and Kara was to speak on our behalf, so some of us prevailed on Natasha the younger (who wasn’t really an official translator but joined our group as a friend of one of the Russian artists, and a general helper) to translate for him. Poor Natasha didn’t really have enough command of English to be a translator, and as Kara launched into his enthusiastic speech about our international collaboration, she was struggling to keep up and didn’t know many of the words. The audience, realizing that she wasn’t up to the task responded with someitering about the awkward situation, and she was very flustered, having been rafted into that task. That’s when Alexie gallantly appeared and took over! Another colorful bit of IAAA history!

Alexei Leonov was a true gentleman and the embodiment of a “higher perspective.”

-Pamela Lee
Spacefest X, continued from p. 11

All those extraordinary moments, which we shared around Spacefest!

About how I got the chance to become a member of the IAAA and even a part of that beautiful Space For Art Foundation project with the school of my little one.

And how I hope to extend my ‘The Creation Of Space Inspiration’ theme to a cooperation between the IAAA and the GrundschuleStierstadt ...

— Alex Neumann

Spacefest X—what an amazing experience for me. I attended my first one this past summer, held at the Starpass Resort in Tuscon, AZ, during the hot month of August. My intention was to write up an article of all the things happening there, but there was so much going on and the fact that I was also an exhibiting artist, I realized about halfway through that my experience was going to be very limited (especially for a first timer) and that I would need a little input from other’s perspectives. Thankfully, we have those experiences from other IAAA attendees!

First of all, I can’t begin to tell you how giddy and terrified I was to go. Driving from Boise (a multiday adventure of over 1200 miles), my husband and I decided to take state highways as much as we could. The car was packed full of artwork and camping gear—prepared for anything. We stopped at Bryce Canyon, the Grand Canyon, and many other sights along the way. We watched the terrain change from the Coconino Forest to the wild Tonto Desert on a very lonely highway. There was also a revisit for me to the Biosphere II, a place of a previous IAAA workshop. On day three, we finally arrived for a good rest at the Starpass.

After an early morning artwork setup, I went to attend a very special panel about our very own founding members of the IAAA. The panel was led by and narrated by Andrew Chaiken and the artists present and speaking about our history were William Hartmann, Pamela Lee, Marilynn Flynn, Michael Carroll, Rick Sternbach, Don Davis and Joel Hagan. It was really nice to see pictures of the members from various workshops over the years during the slide show presentation by Andrew Chaiken and to hear the history of our organization. Many tales were told that afternoon by the members and orange food was shared.

I had so many memorable moments at Spacefest, met so many wonderful people. A few highlights for me: having one of my metal prints signed by Michael Collins and finally getting to meet in person a friend who I have known for over a decade online, Fred Becker. He was the handler of my artwork at my first International Space Development Show in Florida years ago and we have stayed connected ever since. That was a really special moment for me.

Now on to Aldo Spadoni, Marilynn Flynn, Alex Neumann and David Ginsbergs’ reports of their experiences at Spacefest X!

—Erika McGinnis

(continued on p. 10)
Spacefest X, continued from p. 9

I had the pleasure of attending and displaying my space art at Spacefest X in Tucson Arizona, August 8 – 11, 2019. After sorting through my photos, I realize that in the whirlwind of activity, I managed to not get any photos of or with many of my dear friends. In any case, here’s a snapshot of my experience. What a fantastic time! I love hanging out with my space artist tribe. Great to see everyone and meet some fellow artists face-to-face for the first time!

1. On Thursday August 8, Spacefest hosted an IAAA Founders panel discussion moderated by Andrew Chaikin, Kelsey Poir introduced the panel and dedicated it in loving memory of her father Kim Poir, Spacefest founder and first IAAA president. The photo shows Kelsey Poir at the podium. Next to Kelsey, from left to right, we have a motion-blurred Andrew Chaikin, Dr. William Hartmann, Pamela Lee, Don Davis, Marilyn Flynn, Rick Sternbach, Joel Hagen, and last but not least, Michael “Mikey” Carroll. This stellar group offered many fascinating recollections from the early days of the IAAA and several of its workshops. This wonderful event was easily one of the highlights of Spacefest X.

2. Mark Pestana expertly moderated a fascinating panel session on 2001: A Space Odyssey, followed by an outdoor screening of the film. The panel featured actor Gary Lockwood, who portrayed Dr. Frank Poole in the film, along with three astronauts: Ed Gibson, IAAA member Nicole Passonno Stott, and Mario Runco, Jr. What a great panel! Using the film as a springboard for discussing the day-to-day aspects of living and working in space was wonderful. Well done, Mark!

3. Following the traditional Spacefest artist group photo session and right before the VIP reception and art show grand opening, the IAAA conducted a special Lucien Rudaux Award ceremony. This event was well attended by the many IAAA members and supporters who were present. IAAA President Jon Ramer did a wonderful job emceeing the event. The beautiful Lucien Rudaux Awards were created by IAAA members Joy Day and B.E. Johnson. The Rudaux was awarded to Pamela Lee and posthumously to Alan Bean. Alan Bean’s award was announced with the actual delivery of the award deferred until suitable arrangements can be made, since no one from the Bean Family was present to receive it. Pam Lee was completely surprised and taken aback when her award was announced. It was truly a wonderful moment!

4. Every year, Spacefest hosts a free public STEM/STEAM event to encourage young people to pursue their interests in science and engineering. The local chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronauts (IAAA) hosted a Space Ship Design Station at this event, organized by Michelle Rouch. Several IAAA members are also AIAA members and supported the event. The Space Ship Design Station featured a set of “rocket stamps” designed by Aldo Spadoni. These are good old fashioned rubber stamps used in conjunction with traditional ink stamp pads. Each stamp is approximately 1.5 to 2 inches squared and features a stylized spacecraft component (e.g. fuselage, rocket motor, fin, crew capsule, solar array, etc.). Students simply line up the components and stamp out whatever spacecraft design they like. In the photo from left to right is Elsiika Jepson, IAAA members Michelle Rouch, Aldo Spadoni, and Mark Pestana, and Allie. We had so much fun exposing kids to the world of rocket science!

5. The IAAA space artist “decommission dinner” took place on Sunday evening, as Spacefest came to a close. It was one last chance for the tribe and friends to gather and say our goodbyes. We topped off the dinner with a birthday celebration for Rudaux winner Pamela Lee. Happy birthday Pam! Everyone is missed already.

Meeting Gary Lockwood! 2001 (the movie) was a huge influence on my fledging space art ambitions. He and Keir had been at Spacefest together a few years ago and I’d just missed meeting them so I was determined not to this time. I’m a big fan of 2001 and Star Trek so it was great fun to meet him although I didn’t get to talk to him much because I had to watch my booth. He called me “the girl from Finland” because he thought I was Scandinavian (I get that a lot, LOL). 2001 was really important to me because my Dad took me to see it when it first opened at the huge “Cinerama” movie theater in downtown Detroit. I was 14 and beginning to seriously get into astronomy and art at that time. I was totally blown away, having, up to that point, been living on a diet of cheesy 1950’s black and white sci-fi flix that usually consisted of a scary alien thing chasing a clumsy woman (they always trip and fall, don’t they?). So 2001 was the first movie I’d seen that made me feel like I was really in space - I said, finally someone got it right!!!

—Marilyn Flynn

A day before Spacefest X kicked off in August, Chris Calle generously provided a very engaging guided tour of a special exhibit of artwork by his father, Paul, at Western Spirit: Scottsdale’s Museum of the West in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The exhibit was nothing short of amazing. It covered Paul’s entire artistic life beginning with one of his earliest drawings done when he was 12 to the last painting that was on his easel. There were six rooms filled with astonishing and historic original artwork. Paul’s subject matter focused on explorers of the North American West and manned space exploration covering the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs. Paul was one of the first eight artists chosen in 1962 for the newly established NASA Art Program. The program’s purpose was to record for history, space exploration through the eyes of artists.

Naturally, I was drawn to the space illustrations which represented about one third of what was there to enjoy. In addition to the two large areas devoted to space subjects there were four other rooms devoted to exploration of the North American West.

Displayed alongside several corresponding works by Paul were companion pieces drawn by Chris that echoed his father’s style. The pairings demonstrated strong evidence of the wonderful and supportive relationship Paul had with Chris. Chris clearly has learned a great deal from his father beyond the innate skills that were carried down by heredity.

It was an incredible experience to be present while Chris, himself, spoke of his father’s artistic life, as well as the influence his father had upon him and his artistic career. I was witnessing a historical lecture by someone who had lived it.

The exhibit has been extended a number of times, and now is scheduled to run through October 11, 2020. I highly recommend a visit, even for a repeat time if you already have been there. Be prepared to allocate several hours to pore over the vast amount of original artwork on display.

—David Ginsberg