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New Museum Los Gatos Presents Making Contact: SETI Artists in Residence

October 27, 2016 - March 5, 2017



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LOS GATOS, CA – September 2016 – New Museum Los Gatos (NUMU) is pleased to announce the opening of *Making Contact: SETI Artists in Residence*, on view October 27, 2016 to March 5, 2017. A Members and Special Guests Preview Party will be held on Thursday, November 3, 7pm-9pm. A Public Opening Celebration will be held on Saturday, November 5th, 11am-5pm

This group exhibition features artists from the SETI Artist in Residence (AIR) program, including Dany Bazo, George Bolster, Charles Lindsay, Marko Peljhan, Rachel Sussman, Martin Wilner and Karl Yerkes. *Making Contact* marks the first SETI AIR group exhibition.

The work in *Making Contact* expands upon the SETI Institute's mission to explore, understand and explain the origin, nature and prevalence of life in the universe. The exhibiting artists bring fresh perspectives to help navigate difficult concepts and help build bridges to broaden awareness of the science carried out at the SETI Institute. Additionally, many of the works have never been exhibited to the public. "We're excited to bring together the art, science and ideas of this unique international program and share it with our community," says Marianne McGrath, NUMU art curator.

SETI AIR Exhibited Works

The artist team of Danny Bazo, Marko Peljhan and Karl Yerkes has created *Somnium* which examines both the micro and macro when considering planetary potential within a swath of the universe captured by the Kepler telescope. George Bolster's film, *The Moon, McMoons, and The Moon Museum* illuminates our human endeavors to preserve culture relating to our fascination with the Moon. The sculpture and mixed media works by Charles Lindsay manifest in the confluence of re-purposed technology and Apollo images to create imaginary machines and lunar landscapes. In exploring the origins of our universe, Rachel Sussman integrates intention into the quest to understand the nature of the cosmos and our role as its inhabitants. Artist and psychiatrist Martin Wilner renders his series of monthly conversations with SETI scientists using a calendar format, creating spectacular illustrated diaries of correspondence with his subjects.

***Making Contact* Artist/Scientist Panel Discussion** will be held at NUMU on Saturday, November 5th from 3pm-4:30pm. Program details are available on the NUMU website (numulosgatos.org).

About SETI and SETI Institute

SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, is an exploratory science that seeks evidence of life in the universe by looking for some signature of its technology.

Our current understanding of life's origin on Earth suggests that given a suitable environment and sufficient time, life will develop on other planets. Whether evolution will give rise to intelligent, technological civilizations is open to speculation. However, such a civilization could be detected across interstellar distances and may actually offer our best opportunity for discovering extraterrestrial life in the near future.

The SETI Institute's mission is to explore, understand and explain the origin, nature and prevalence of life in the universe. It is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to scientific research, education and public outreach. Founded in November 1984, the SETI Institute began operations on February 1, 1985. Today it employs over 130 scientists, educators and support staff. Research at the Institute is anchored by three centers, the Center for Education, the Carl Sagan Center for the study of life in the universe, and the Center for Public Outreach. For more information: <http://www.seti.org>

Making Contact is generously supported by The Robert Lehman Foundation, Applied Materials Foundation, Montalvo Arts Center and The Lucas Artist Residency Program. NUMU gratefully acknowledges support from the Town of Los Gatos, SETI Institute and its many donors and members. Addition funding provided by UBS.

New Museum Los Gatos (NUMU), formerly the Los Gatos Museum Association founded in 1965, is a non-profit art and history museum located in the Civic Center Plaza in downtown Los Gatos. NUMU's mission is to engage the community at the intersection of art, history and education through innovative, locally connected and globally relevant exhibitions, programs and experiences.

The NUMU Atelier offer classical instruction in painting and drawing. NUMU MakerSpace programs offer weekday, weekend and evening hands-on art engagement for children and adults.

Museum hours are Wednesday 1pm-5pm, Thursday 11am-8pm, and Friday through Sunday 11am-5pm. General admission is \$10. Admission for members of the military and students over 18 years is \$6, and free for members and visitors under 18 years of age.

Image: Martin Wilner, *January 2015: Jill Tarter (Making History: The Case Histories)*, 2015, India Ink, watercolor-based inks on Bristol board,, 16.5 x 17.125 inches, Courtesy of the Artist and Sperone Westwater

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