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Contemporary Arts Practice and Outer Space: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach (3)

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THE IMPULSE TO DRAW, THE INVENTION OF IMAGERY, THE BENEFIT FOR SPACE

**Abstract**

The Impulse to Draw, The Invention of Imagery, The Benefit for Space Barbara Amelia King

Abstract The impulse to draw, to pick up a stick and create an image from memory is one of the most significant brainwaves that humankind has ever had. A bold statement to emphasize a bold act. The imagination to visualize the arc of a spear and the ability conceptualize a figure was just that fortuitous spark that allowed Modern Homo Sapiens (MHS) to steadfastly and sustainably differentiate themselves from the Neanderthal. Although artistic inclination is certainly not the only talent that brought civilization to the precipice of living off world, it was one of the first. As such, art is the oldest discipline involved with space. Artists were the first humans to express, interpret, invent imagery, and simultaneously link their destiny to space. The practice of art progressively nurtured an instinct for curiosity, creativity, and ingenuity in human beings. One might surmise, then, that an artistic imagination is the one instinct without which the discipline of space science, (which also currently acknowledges its requirement for similar talents used in the arts) would likely have needed a much longer incubation period. This author postulates that the practice of art has been more impactful on civilization than the taming of fire or invention of the wheel, yet the significance of artists remain the least acknowledged. Until fairly recently, that is, as studies have drawn neurological relationships between visual art and human cognition. For example, in 2017, Professor Richard Coss theorized a causal relationship between enhanced hunting skills and the development of visuomotor coordination within the parietal cortex. These same enhancements also advanced the concentrated mental imaging and eye-hand coordination necessary for the drawing process. And draw they did, on everything, everywhere, all the time. Imagining what might be in the Universe has been the focus of space artists for centuries, as they resolutely kept the fascination of space in the communal mind. From finger painting on cave walls to satellite cams, image is everywhere, and civilizations has become image dependent. Image-making had been the sole domain of the artist, but now polymathic space scientists and engineers have joined the club. Because artistic visualization has proved pivotal in humanizing society, these findings have determined that the ability of art, especially involving space, to sustain creativity and innovation is a critical factor for maintaining societies on and off Earth.