LA LUNE

Du voyage réel aux voyages imaginaires

GRAND PALAIS
3 APRIL – 22 JULY 2019
1. REAL AND IMAGING JOURNEYS

This exhibition marks fifty years since two men set foot on the Moon. The magnitude of this event, which saw humanity exceed its natural limitations, is not only a matter of progress, technology or even “conquest”. It is also powerfully symbolic of the nature of the Moon’s relationship with humanity, perhaps more strikingly so today, half a century on. It has been chosen here as the culminating point of our companionship with this satellite, the light in our night sky and a measure of time’s passing.

As varied as it is paradoxical, this relationship takes many forms: fascination and satire, the attraction and fear generated by its power, its veneration as a divine sign, and our disappointment with this sterile stone, which has been likened to cheese since Antiquity. The Moon is a place of endless possibilities and dreams, a blank page on which Earthlings continuously write their stories.

The resulting kaleidoscopic image is, to us, the most accurate one: the Moon really belongs to everyone and cannot be confined to a single discourse, hence our choice of the imagination and poetry as a means to shed light on the lunar world.

2. APOLLO XI

On the night of 20 to 21 July 1969, the unthinkable happened: two men stepped on the Moon. This marked the culmination of years of research and a series of missions that had begun in 1958 with the Mercury program, followed by the Apollo program. On the eleventh Apollo mission, three men were sent to the Moon: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, who remained in orbit. NASA’s decision to simultaneously broadcast the lunar landing live to hundreds of millions of people made it one of the first truly global events. The purpose of the mission was to retrieve rock samples and take photographs of the Moon.

Some of the objects they took with them on their eight-day journey show how they survived from day to day.

3. JOURNEY

The journey to the Moon has been a subject of literary fiction for some two thousand years. Starting with second-century author Lucian of Samosata, it became a vehicle for satire and parody in which the Moon was another Earth, but topsy-turvy, for good or ill. These literary fantasies took a new turn in the 19th century in the form of pseudo-scientific stories, the fore-runners of science fiction. Long before Saturn V, cinema and then comics launched audiences on a virtual exploration of the lunar surface.

A source of international rivalry in the twentieth century, the Moon became a symbol of the societal and cultural demands of those excluded from it. Today, it is once again sought-after, with worrying implications for its future, and a tempting prize for an earthly world always eager to discover and exhaust new resources in other places.

4. OBSERVED MOON

In the early seventeenth century, man turned the refracting telescope - initially intended for terrestrial observation - towards the sky. Its development and the subsequent invention of the optical telescope allowed the Moon’s surface to be observed and mapped in greater detail. By producing maps of a world no one yet intended to visit, science demonstrated its rational ability to describe and name.

The challenge was now suddenly symbolic: cartographers who were naming the lunar sites discovered through their lenses now fought with astronomers, rival rulers, over this new territory.

Photography supplanted etchings in the 19th century and paved the way for a new, scientific form of exploration, which continues to move, surprise and inspire us today.
5. THREE FACES OF THE MOON

The three faces of the goddess Hecate reveal the many ways in which the Moon has influenced humanity. A benevolent satellite lighting the night sky, the Moon visited the sleep of mortals and watched over lovers. Constantly changing, it gave rhythm to the passing time and the lunar cycle became the basis for many ritual and religious calendars. As it varies in appearance, it also became a symbol of inconsistency and moodiness. Goddess of the passage between our world and the other, Hecate also presided over the afterlife, spells and torments.

6. THE MOON IS A PERSON

Although everyone can see the Moon, humans have always felt the need to give substance to it by establishing a dialogue with this entity that is both near and far. Mostly female, the Moon is sometimes embodied by men. When deified, it holds a place in a cosmogony but is rarely the object of a cult. People have long observed that it reflects the sun's light rather than produces its own.

Selene, Luna, Diana, Chandra, Soma, Khonsu, Thoth and Tanit are some of its many names. The Immaculate Conception and the Queen of the Night also borrow from its crescent symbol.

7. AN INVITATION TO BEAUTY

Although now known to be barren and bare, the Moon still has the power to amaze. In silent contemplation, beyond knowledge, it offers, in a moment out of time, a more personal experience in which discourse gives way to poetry.

Diana, Selene, moon of radiant metal, who reflects towards us, by your deserted face, in the unending monotony of the sidereal calm the regret of a sun for whose loss we weep.

O moon, I begrudge your purity harmful to the vain efforts of poor souls, and my heart, ever weary and ever restless, longs for the peace of your nocturnal flame.

Jean de La Ville de Mirmont (1886 -1914)

Curators: Alexia Fabre, Chief Curator, Director of the MAC VAL (Musée d’Art Contemporain du Val-de-Marne), and Philippe Malgouyres, Chief Curator, Département des Objets d’art, Musée du Louvre.

Exhibition design: bGc studio, Giovanna Comana, Iva Berthon Gajsak

The exhibition benefits from the scientific partnership of the Palais de la Découverte, a Universcience site.

This exhibition is organized by the Réunion des Musées Nationaux – Grand Palais.
AROUND THE EXHIBITION

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Free entry to the Grand Palais auditorium.
Priority access with an invitation available on grandpalais.fr

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS
Opening conference
Wednesday 3 April – 6.30 pm
The Moon - Real and imaging journeys
Exhibition presentation by Alexia Fabre, Director of Mac Val and Philippe Malgouyres, Département des Objets d’Art du Musée du Louvre, both Chief Curators and curators of the exhibition.

Season "From the Earth to the Moon"
Wednesday 17 April – 6.30 pm
The Moon, a world within sight
Lecture by Sébastien Fontaine, manager of the Astronomy Unit at the Palais de la Découverte

Wednesday 22 May – 6.30 pm
Destination Moon!
Lecture by Roland Lehoucq, Astrophysicist at CEA Saclay, President of “Les Utopiales” festival

Thursday 12 June – 7 pm
What if we went back?
Discussion with Philippe Coué, engineer, author and lecturer, member of the International Astronautics Association (IAA); Bernard Foing, Space Astrophysicist of the European Space Agency (ESA) at ESTEC, Director of the International Lunar Exploration Working Group & EuroMoonMars; Claudie Haigneré, astronaut, ESA and Jean-Philippe Uzan, astrophysicist at the Institute of Astrophysics of Paris, founder of the Sanctuary lunar project

This round table discussion is part of the Palais de la Découverte season “Il y a 50 ans on a marché sur la Lune!” and is held in the Planetarium

MUSIC
Sunday 12 May – 3 pm
Dark side of the moon
Acoustic siesta with Sonarium; presentation and discussion led by Julien Bitoun, musician, professor of rock history, journalist and writer
A reasonably priced brunch will be available in the refreshments area from 12 pm to 3 pm

EUROPEAN NIGHT OF MUSEUMS
Saturday 18 May: Full Moon!
Free exhibition admission from 8 pm to midnight
In-room activity by Paris-Dauphine University students
Fugue au Clair de Lune by Yoann Bourgeois / CCN2-Centre chorégraphique National de Grenoble
Designed and performed by Yoann Bourgeois
Music: Clair de lune by Claude Debussy performed by Alexandre Tharaud
Grand Palais, Salon d’Honneur from 8.30 pm

THE DOCUMENTARY
Wednesdays 3 April, 17 April and 22 May at 4 pm
La Lune dans tous ses états
a film by Alexander Abela, 2014, 1h45
First part: Lune, sous la lumière de la Lune, 52’
Second part: Lune, de la Terre à la Lune, 52’

PERFORMANCES
Wednesday 8 May, 12 pm to 3 pm
Create together at the museum
with students in theatre, dance, FSL and digital arts at Paris 8 University
professor: Katia Légeret, Eur ArTeC and UPL in the exhibition gallery

Audiovisual and History of TV, Paris 3, Sorbonne nouvelle; moderated by:
Florence Porcel, author, popular scientist and youtuber
9.30 pm: Second episode Force of Life (45’)
10.30 pm: Third episode Collision Course (45’)

FAMILY-CINE
Sunday 26 May - 3 pm
From Méliès to Tintin, take a family trip to the Moon!
Destination Moon followed by Explorers on the Moon, 1991, animation, 1h30
Preceded by: A Trip to the Moon by Georges Méliès, 1902, silent, 14’

DANCE
Sunday 2 June - 3 pm and 5 pm
Vous ne comprenez rien à la Lune
Dance-spoken word duo by Alice Zeniter (prix Goncourt des lycéens, 2017) and Orin Camus, choreographer for Yma, 30’
Discussion with the performers and Jean-Philippe Uzan, astrophysicist, between the two performances

CINEMA
Sunday 30 June
at 3 pm Woman on the Moon by Fritz Lang, 1929, 2h43, silent with French subtitles
at 6 pm Destination Moon by Irving Pichel, 1950, 1h32, in English, no subtitles
Monday 1 June
at 3 pm The First Men in the Moon
by Nathan Juran after H. G. Wells, 1964, 1h43, in English with French subtitles
at 5 pm 2001, a Space Odyssey by Stanley Kubrick, 1968, 2h21, in English with French subtitles
Wednesday 3 April
at 5 pm Moonwalk One by Theo Kamecke, 1970, documentary, 1h48, in English with French subtitles
at 7 pm Apollo 13 by Ron Howard, 1995, 2h20, in English with French subtitles

THE CULT SERIES
Saturday 25 May from 7.30 pm
Space 1999
Screening of the first three episodes of the series created by Sylvia Anderson and Gerry Anderson, 1975, with Martin Landau and Barbara Bain (all rights reserved)
7.30 pm: First episode Breakaway (45’)
20h30: discussion with Jean-Philippe Uzan, astrophysicist, Institute of Astrophysics of Paris and Barbara Laborde, teacher and researcher,
CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

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On site, from €5
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ADULTS
Guided tour
Accompanied by a lecturer, discover the fascination of all civilisations for the nocturnal star, then let yourself be carried away in dreaming...
Duration: 90 mins Price: €25 Concessions: €17
Tribu ticket offer (for a group of 4 paying visitors, including 2 young people aged 16 to 25): €67

Guided tour with two guides
Accompanied by a lecturer and a representative from the Palais de la Découverte, you will benefit from the expertise of specialists to better appreciate the artistic and scientific dimensions of the works.
Dates: Wednesdays 22 May, 12 & 16 June, 10 & 17 July at 7.30 pm
Saturdays 18 & 25 May, 8 & 15 June, 6 July at 2 pm
Duration: 90 mins Price: €24 Concessions: €17
Tribu ticket offer (for a group of 4 paying visitors, including 2 young people aged 16 to 25): €67

Adult individual workshop-tour
Dessins en promenade
Take a tour with our tour guide and complete the pages of a sketch book featuring creations inspired by the night star.
Drawing equipment not provided.
Date: Tuesdays 21 May and 25 July, 2 pm
Duration: 2 hours Price: €30 Concessions: €22

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
Family workshop tour (for ages 5 and over)
Enlightened by a speaker’s commentary, rediscover the lunar exploration and fascination of this satellite!
Duration: 1 hour Price: €22 Concessions: €15
Family ticket (2 adults and 2 young people aged 16 to 25): €49
Tribu ticket (2 adults and 2 children aged 16 and under): €59

Family workshop tour (for ages 5 and over)
Sur la Lune
After the guided tour, participants take inspiration from lunar cartography to create a 3-dimensional work.
Duration: 2 hours (1 hour tour, plus approx. 1 hour workshop)
Price: 1 adult + 1 child under 16 years: full price €31
Concessions: €24 Additional adult: single price €24
Child under 16 years old: single price €7

Children’s workshop, for ages 5-7
Coup d’œil sur la Lune
After the guided tour, the children choose and create views of the Moon that they assemble into a disc.
Duration: 90 mins Price: €8

Children’s workshop, for ages 8-11
Couleurs de Lune
After the guided tour, children choose real views and create imaginary landscapes, which they assemble into a disc.
Duration: 2 hours Price: €10

DISABLED
French sign language tour
For 2 hours, accompanied by a signing deaf speaker, rediscover the Moon of a thousand faces and changing forms.
Duration: 2 hours Price: €7 for disabled card holders Assistant price: €10
Saturday 18 May 10.30 am
Wednesday 12 June 6.30 pm

Audio description tour for the blind and visually impaired
Take a tour with a tour guide and discover the exhibition effortlessly through a selection of translated works on embossed boards with adapted commentaries. Then, return to the galleries to take a journey through works inspired by the Moon.
Duration: 2 hours (1 hour in the room, plus approx. 1 hour for the exhibition): €10 for each disabled person and free for their assistant

Audio guides
Free visit of the exhibition with Audio description (en) on the Grand Palais mobile application (Google Play, Appstore)
tinyurl.com/appligrandpalais

GROUPS

ADULTS
Guided tour
Accompanied by a lecturer, discover the fascination of all civilisations for the nocturnal star, then let yourself be carried away in dreaming...
Duration: 90 mins Price: €215

SCHOOL
Through paintings, sculptures and installations, the exhibition takes you on a tour through art and science.

Immersive visit
Accompanied by a guide, young students are invited to explore the thousand faces of the moon through play and interactivity!
Audience: kindergarten, CP and CE1
Duration: between 30 and 40 mins Price: €84

Guided tour
Accompanied by a guide, pupils discover the fascination of all civilisations for the night star.
Audience: from CE2 to high school
Duration: 90 mins Price: €105

Visit in English
Visit the exhibition accompanied by a lecturer who will present a set of works in English to relive the Apollo Mission and rediscover the Moon through the imagination of international artists.
4 time slots:
Thursday 11 April 11 am and 3 pm Thursday 18 April 11 am and 3 pm
Public: students in primary school in bilingual classes only, and from middle school to high school
Duration: 1h30 Price €105
Workshop-tour Couleurs de Lune
After the guided tour, children choose real views and create imaginary landscapes, which they assemble into a disc.

Audience: from CE2 to CM2
Duration: 2 hours Price: €120

Workshop-tour Sur la Lune
After the guided tour, participants will take inspiration from lunar cartography to create a 3 dimensional work.

Audience: Middle school
Duration: 2 hours Price: €120

Workshop-tour Coup d’œil sur la Lune
After the guided tour, children choose and create views of the moon which they assemble into a disc.

Audience: youth groups
Duration: 90 mins Price: €105

PUBLICATIONS

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE
La Lune. Du voyage réel aux voyages imaginaires
Under the direction Alexia Fabre and Philippe Malgouyres
240 x 330 mm, bound, 256 pages, 250 illustrations, €45

FACSIMILE
La Lune encyclopédie de voyage
110 x 155 mm, bound, 180 pages, 96 illustrations, €19.90

GRAPHIC NOVEL co-published with Bloom
Le Fou caché de la Lune, 190 x 260 mm, bound, 48 pages, €12.50

JOURNAL OF THE EXHIBITION
215 x 420 mm, 24 pages, 30 illustrations, € 6

MULTIMEDIA

PODCAST
Fou de lune, chronologie d’un fantasme" (free):
5 themed episodes (5 minutes) to immerse yourself in the artistic and fantastic world of the Moon.
On Soundcloud (and also iTunes, Deezer, Spotify)

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SPRING 2019

GRAND PALAIS

ROUGE
ART ET UTOPIE AU PAYS DES SOVIETS
20 March – 1 July 2019
This exhibition will allow you to discover the repercussions of the revolution of October 1917, and its dramatic social upheaval, on artistic creativity, and how many artists adhering to the communist project wanted to contribute to the construction of this new society until the progressive establishment of socialist realism.

LES NABIS ET LE DÉCOR
BONNARD, VUILLARD, MAURICE DENIS...
13 March – 30 June 2019
This is the first exhibition in France dedicated to the decorative and ornamental art of Les Nabis. These artists wanted to break the boundaries between fine arts and applied arts to bring beauty into everyday life.

FROM 3 MARCH TO 22 JULY 2019
AT THE GRAND PALAIS, SQUARE JEAN PERRIN ENTRANCE
OPEN EVERY DAY EXCEPT TUESDAY
MONDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM 10 AM TO 8 PM
WEDNESDAY FROM 10 AM TO 10 PM
Earlier closure on Thursday 16 May at 6 pm
Closed on Wednesday 1 May and Sunday 14 July.
Free “Places aux jeunes” night visits for under 26-year-olds on the first Wednesday of each month – except in May: closed on 1 May, evening staggered on 8 May – between 7pm and 10pm, last admission 9:15 pm
European Night of Museums Saturday 18 May: all the exhibitions are open and admission is free after 8 pm. Last entry at midnight.

The exhibition is organized with the kind support of IBM France, Crédit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank, OMEGA and ArianeGroup.

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