

MOON MUSEUM

Curating
Outer
Space



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

MAY 28-29, 2026
TU WIEN

organized by

Magdalena Grüner (USC Los Angeles)

Thomas Moser (TU Wien / NDU St. Pölten)

supported by

TU Wien

- > Research Unit of History of Art
 - > Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs
 - > Faculty of Architecture and Planning
 - > Vice Rectorate for Academic Affairs
- University of Southern California

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Theresa Knosp

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Technische Universität Wien
Karlsplatz 13, 1040 Vienna



THURSDAY MAY 28

KARLSPLATZ 13
ROOM AD 0117,
1ST FLOOR

13:30

Welcome
Magdalena Grüner & Thomas Moser
(USC Los Angeles & TU Wien/NDU St Pölten)

14:00

Wenjie Su (Princeton University/University of Arkansas)
*Curating the Shared Blind Spots: From Traveling Cosmic Machines
to Immersive Planetariums in the Eighteenth Century*

Chair
Mihály András
Németh
(TU Wien)

Alena Williams (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)
*"Earth, Air, and Space": Imaging Conceptualism at the
Hayden Planetarium*

15:30

Coffee

16:00

Lois Rosson (NASA History Office)
*Frederick C. Durant's Interplanetary Space Art Emporium:
The Provenance of a Cold War Cultural Exchange*

Chair
Florian Bettel
(University of
Applied Arts
Vienna)

Saulesh Yessenova (University of Calgary)
Curating the Space Age: Myth, Empire, and the Politics of Display

17:30

Coffee

18:00

Keynote (Festsaal, 1st Floor)
Barbara Imhof (University of Innsbruck/LIQUIFER)
*Staging Space Futures: Architecture, Agency, and
the Planetary Imaginary*

Chair
Sandra Häuplik-
Meusburger
(TU Wien)

FRIDAY
MAY 29

KARLSPLATZ 13
ROOM ADEG
GROUND FLOOR

09:30

Ellie S. Armstrong (University of Leicester)
Storying NewSpace Enterprises: The Politics of the Cosmos

Chair,
Sophie Ramm
(TU Wien)

Ralo Mayer (Vienna)
"I'm a meteorite licker." Storying Plots of Un-Earthing through Performative Research

11:00

Coffee

11:30

Joseph Popper & Lauren Reid
(University of Vienna & Leuphana University Lüneburg)
Golden Records, Spherical Telescopes and Mashed Potatoes: Curating First Contacts and Mediating Alterity in Outer Space

Chair
Christian Klösch
(Vienna Museum
of Science and
Technology)

Gudrun Rath (University of Art Linz)
Ticket to the Moon

13:00

Lunch

15:00

Magdalena Becker (Technical University of Munich)
Crafting Outer Space: Pop-Cultural Imaginaries and Diorama-Making at the Deutsches Museum in Munich

Clemens Finkelstein (LMU Munich/global dis:connect)
Cosmic Proxies: The Exhibitionary Life of Planetary Analogs

Chair
Alexander C. T.
Geppert (New York
University/NYU
Shanghai)

16:30

Closure