



COSMOS CODEX: Commissioned work by Vargas-Suarez UNIVERSAL

Exhibition: May 2—August 2, 2014

Vargas-Suarez UNIVERSAL (VSU) is primarily known for large-scale murals, paintings, drawings, and sound recordings. He sources American and Russian spaceflight programs, astronomy, and aerospace architecture to create commissioned, studio-based and public artworks for museums, galleries, private and public spaces. A major aspect of the exhibition is VSU's dialogue with scientists and other subject matter experts at the NASA Ames Research Center to gather information directly informing the artworks in the exhibition. Vargas-Suarez is exploring concepts for retrieving materials from Mars, asteroids and other orbiting bodies in our solar system. The exhibition installation in MACLA's gallery will be set up as a mock "clean room," or spacecraft processing facility, typically found at NASA operations centers. The installation will include hand-intervened new digital prints, murals, paintings, sculptural objects, and a video produced in collaboration with artist Barbora Bereznavova. The exhibit was curated by Mónica Ramírez-Montagut, the Senior Curator and Associate Director at MACLA.

Panel Discussion: May 2, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Vargas-Suarez UNIVERSAL and members of the NASA Ames Research Center will be in discussion about the innovative ways in which scientists and artists use their complementary skills and sets of knowledge to produce new perspectives and exciting projects.



Vargas-Suarez UNIVERSAL (VSU) is an artist based in New York. He was born in Mexico City and raised in the Houston suburb of Clear Lake City adjacent to the NASA Johnson Space Center. VSU has conducted post-studio research at the NASA Ames Research Center; Arecibo Observatory, Puerto Rico; Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, FL and the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. His work are in the following selected collections: The Museum of Modern Art Library; Whitney Museum of American Art; El Museo del Barrio; Brooklyn Museum of Art; Baltimore Museum of Art, MD; Mexic-Arte Museum, Austin, TX; Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno (CAAM); Winzavod Contemporary Art Centre, Moscow; and, the UBS Art Collection.



Christopher P. McKay, Ph.D., Planetary Scientist Planetary Systems Branch, NASA Ames Research Center

Dr. McKay holds a Ph.D. in AstroGeophysics from the University of Colorado. His research focuses on the evolution of the solar system and the origin and evolution of life. He is also actively involved in planning for future Mars missions, including human exploration. He has conducted research on planetary atmospheres, including the atmospheres of Titan and Mars. He has also been involved with polar and desert research, traveling to the Antarctic Dry Valleys, the Atacama Desert, the Arctic, and the Namib Desert to conduct research in these Mars-like environments.



Yvonne Clearwater, Ph.D., NASA Project Manager Technology Partnerships Office, NASA Ames Research Center

Dr. Clearwater received her Ph.D. in Psychology and Design Research from the University of California, Davis. Her career is centered in the convergence of science, technology, art and design. Accepting a NASA position on the research and design team for the International Space Station in 1984, she built and led the award-winning NASA Habitability Research Program. Later, she conducted design concept studies for Mars and lunar habitats before managing NASA projects, ranging from robotics and a lunar orbiter concept, to the first NASA mobile app and *NASA ArtSpace*.