

Space is the place

Press kit
September 2023



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Space is the place

08.09.2023 – 04.02.2024

mudac presents *Space is the Place*, a programme that focuses on the complex relationship between the cosmos and our planet. Bringing together the work of designers, artists and science fiction writers, as well as a wide range of stakeholders in these issues, the programme includes two exhibitions, three publications and a series of events both on and off the Plateforme 10 site.

Our fascination with outer space is an anthropological constant: we have projected our destinies, our desires, our beliefs and, since the beginning of the space age, our bodies and our habitat into space. Since the scientific revolution, space exploration and our relative planetary condition have been intrinsically linked to advances in science (astrophysics) and technology (observation instruments and aeronautics). These are also intertwined with the visions of the future that are dedicated to them, and with shared dreams expressed through such forms as space operas – a sub-genre of science fiction. *Space is the Place* investigates our relationship with outer space and takes us on a journey there and back.

The first exhibition, entitled *Cosmos*, examines the universe from Earth. It explores designers' and artists' fascination with the laws of astrophysics, observable phenomena and the fascinating beauty of the cosmos. It invites aesthetic reflection on time and space, origins and ends. The second exhibition, *Terra*, reverses the perspective. Here, in keeping with the second Copernican revolution, we look at our planet from space. The exhibition examines the techno-scientific promises of absolute control and manipulation of our planet, inherited from the Age of Enlightenment and largely accelerated by the industrial revolution and, more recently, geoengineering. *Space is the Place* also includes three publications, *Cosmos*, *Keep it Flat* and *Objectif Terre*, as well as a rich public programme of screenings, lectures, performances, workshops and installations.



***Space is the place*, a programme featuring:**

- Two exhibitions
 - Cosmos. Design from Here and Beyond
 - Terra. Designing Our Planet
- A series of events
- *In situ* installations
- Outreach cinema
- Three publications

CTRLZAK, *Vases Glome X*, Y, 2018.
© Silvio Macchi

Cosmos. Design from Here and Beyond

Black holes, dark matter, nebulae, exoplanets, gravitational waves, the Big Bang, the multi-verse... The countless cosmic objects and phenomena that make up our universe are sources of inspiration for literature, music, visual and performing arts... Design is no exception to this fascination.

Since the dawn of humanity, the universe has been an inexhaustible source of wonder. What is our place in this immense expanse of space, whose origins date back 13.8 billion light years? How did cosmic evolution unfold? Are we alone? Why does the universe exist?

Cosmos, an exhibition produced and presented in 2021 and 2022 at the CID – Grand Hornu in Belgium, unveils the work of designers who have, in conceptual, technical or poetic ways, questioned the architecture of the universe and the hidden laws of physics that govern it. From Einstein's theory of relativity to quantum theory, from gravity to the nature of space and time, from the micro to the macro, the modern image of the cosmos is embodied in various design and architectural projects that take us far beyond its scientific roots, bearing witness to its mysteries and beauty.



Curator

Marie Pok
Thomas Hertog

Scenography

Ghaith&Jad

Visual identity

Ekta

Margaux Hendriksen, *Scramble for the Moon*, 2017.
© Margaux Hendriksen

Cosmos. Design from Here and Beyond



Studio Furthermore, *Moon Rock*, 2019.
© Mihail Novakov



Vico Magistretti, *Eclisse*, 1967.
© 2021 Artemide S.p.A. – All Rights Reserved



Charles et Ray Eames, excerpts from the film *Powers of Ten* (1977).
© Eames Office, LLC.

Terra. Designing Our Planet

Has Earth become a design object, an artefact that humans can measure, control and even modify?

This exhibition takes stock of an action that has unfolded since humans first settled, i.e. that of designing our planet. Born of necessity linked to agriculture and then to the organisation of human activities, accelerated by utilitarian and conquering ambitions, then by a techno-scientific vision linked to the industrial revolutions, the design of our planet is embodied in different processes: representing the world through cartography, shaping it through land-use planning, modelling it to anticipate natural phenomena and, nowadays, influencing it through geoengineering projects that aim to react to the new climate regime through artificial interventions on a planetary scale.

If we understand design as a method that produces projects and relationships rather than objects or if we focus on the attitude of human beings towards the rest of the living and non-living world, then considering our planet as a design project, as this exhibition suggests, allows us to critically examine our contemporary Western stance.



Curator

Jolanthe Kugler
Scott Longfellow

Scenography

Camille Neméthy

Graphic identity

Notter+Vigne

Veronica Green, *Anthropocene*, 2022.

Photo © Nicolò Rampazzo

Terra. Designing Our Planet



Fragmentin, *Displuvium*, 2019.

Photo © Vandy, Edited by Renaud Defrancesco & Fragmentin



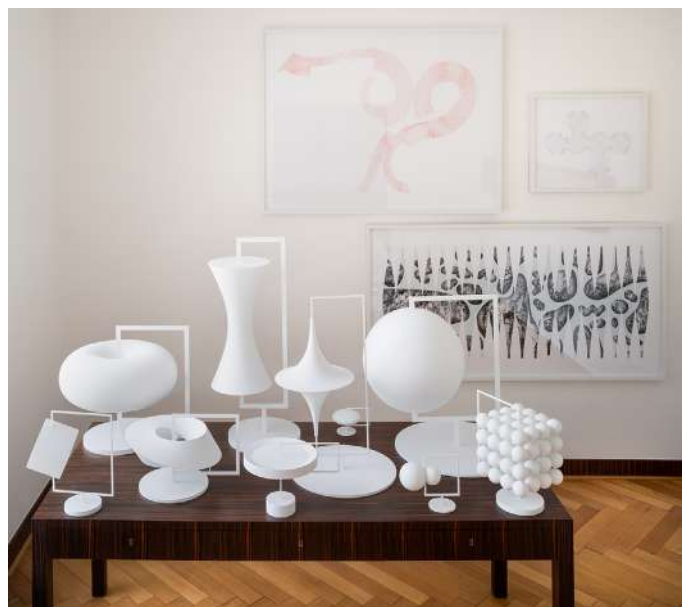
Joanie Lemerrier, *Slow Violence*, 2019 – ongoing.

© Studio Joanie Lemerrier



Carte de la terre carrée et stationnaire, Orlando Ferguson, L.H. Everts & Co., 1893.

© Library of Congress



Archive of Impossible Objects : Globes, Dunne & Raby, 2019.
View of the exhibition, *Alternatives for Living*, Haus Lange, Krefeld
Kunstmuseen Krefeld.

© Dunne & Raby, Photo: Dirk Rose

A Series of Events

The *Space is the Place* programme features two exhibitions and a series of events which, in different formats, explore the programme's themes in greater depth.

OPENING

07.09.2023

This special evening will feature *Hysteresia*, a listening station for zombie satellites, whose surprising features will be showcased and activated through two artistic interventions: first by Stéfane Perraud and Aram Kebabdjian who will come into contact with the celestial ruins, and then by Aho Ssan who will offer a sound performance.

NUIT DES MUSÉES

23.09.2023

14:00 - 02:00

The aeronautical association Hepta.aero will feature a day-long series of events linked to the deployment of several hundred radar reflectors (TCR – Trihedral Corner Reflector) as a SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite from the European Space Agency's Copernicus programme passes overhead.

→ **Micro-tours**

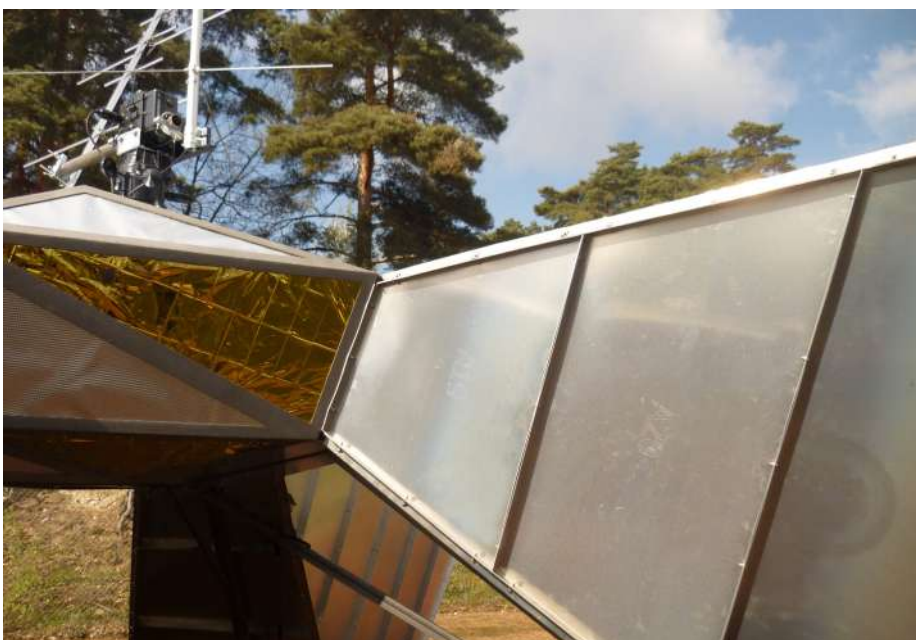
In the afternoon, education officers will be on hand to guide visitors through the *Cosmos* and *Terra* exhibitions, offering micro-tours.

→ **An olfactory journey by perfumer Philippe K**

In conjunction with the work *Candle*, an olfactory journey by perfumer Philippe K will take you from Earth to the moon.

→ **Cartomancy**

Three ways of looking at cartomancy, from evolutionary astrology to the astrological oracle.



Stéfane Perraud and Aram Kebabdjian,
Hystérésia, 2022.
© Stéfane Perraud

A Series of Events

FLAT EARTH

The driving forces behind a conspiracy theory

07.10.2023

What is the flat-Earth theory? How does it twist political and scientific events to create an alternative narrative? How do people come to believe this theory? mudac invites you to find out what lies behind this conspiracy theory.

→ **Projection of *Operation Lune*, a film by William Karel (2003)**

14:30 - 15:30

In this mockumentary, the director shows the US authorities seeking to cover up for the possible failure of the Apollo 11 mission by producing studio footage of man's first steps on the Moon with the help of Stanley Kubrick.

→ **Sung performance**

14:15 and 15:45 (15 min)

A sung performance of flat-Earth propaganda by Ludmila Schwartzwalder (medio-soprano) and Clément Huber (pianist).

To demonstrate the various ways flat-Earthers make use of popular culture, the two musicians perform two songs that promote the flat-Earth theory, the first of which – *The Nebular Hypothesis* – dates from 1898 and was written by Lady Elizabeth Blount, one of the first female proponents of this alternative theory. The second has become a global hit on YouTube: to the tune of Adele's *Hello*, Amber Plaster sets new lyrics in support of the conspiratorial theory.

→ **Guided tour of the *Keep it Flat* installation**

16:00 - 17:00

Designers Antoine Foeglé and Emma Pflieger have made an inventory of the various material or informational elements used as “proof” by flat-Earthers to demonstrate the validity of their theory. This “evidence”, often drawn from popular culture, religious writings or common sense, is showcased in the *Keep it Flat* installation. The two designers will explain the deliberate bias of this installation, which is shaped like a disc world, and the choice of the phantom ride to illustrate the conspiratorial dynamic.

The visit will be followed by an open discussion on the power of forms and their use in narrative to understand the role of aesthetics in conspiracy theories, with the exhibition curators, Alexandra Midal, design historian and exhibition curator, and the authors of the installation.

A Series of Events

CTRL EARTH

Technologies and climate change

09.11 – 16.11.2023

Throughout November, mudac will present a series of events looking at technology in the face of climate change.

→ **Lecture by artist Joanie Lemerrier and Juliette Bibasse, Studio Joanie Lemerrier**
Thu 09.11.2023

18:00 - 20:00

Much of Joannie Lemerrier's studio practice is inspired by nature and reflects the representation of the natural world through mathematics, science and technology. Abstract environments rendered in refined grids, lines, shadows and volumes give way to majestic landscapes assembled from these same minimalist forms. In recent years, the artist has become increasingly concerned with climate change and environmental degradation, using her projection skills and artistic talent to support various causes and groups such as Extinction Rebellion.

Featuring Joanie Lemerrier, visual artist and climate activist, and Juliette Bibasse, independent curator and co-director of the studio.

The installation *View from the Moon* (see page 14) will be launched during the lecture.

→ **Potential Cartography workshop with the Terra Forma project**

Sun 12.11.2023

14:30 - 17:30

Terra Forma explores our own planet as a *terra incognita*, reinterpreting traditional cartography to offer a new perspective on our home environment. Using concepts from the Earth sciences and contemporary ecology, *Terra Forma* invites political reflection on issues such as erosion, resource depletion and accelerated urbanisation.

Axelle Grégoire, one of the authors of *Terra Forma*, will offer a cartography workshop to rethink the representation of the Lausanne basin using these new cartographic tools.

→ **World Game workshop with Fragmentin**

Thu 16.11.2023

17:30

How far are we prepared to go to optimise the management of the entire planet? Fragmentin's G80 installation speculates on a global management system for planetary problems by bringing together different types of intelligence around a control console.

The presentation of the installation will be followed by an introduction to the history and ambitions of total design and a workshop/debate. A web interface has been created for the occasion, containing the fundamental variables of the work, but also allowing new ones to be added and the surface to be extended.

A Series of Events

INFINITE TANGIBLE

Design and astrophysics

07.12.2023

How do design and astrophysics interact? How did so many parameters come together to shape the cosmos that we see today? Why and by whom have things been arranged with such precision? Art, through images, sound and light, conveys the emotions aroused by these scientific and metaphysical questions.

→ **Lecture by Thomas Hertog**

17:30 - 19:00

In his recently published book *On the Origin of Time*, astrophysicist Thomas Hertog presents the latest theory from Stephen Hawking, with whom he collaborated for twenty years. This theory offers a Darwinian perspective on the origins of the Universe, calling into question the laws of physics, which are engraved in stone like commandments. Hawking and Hertog explored a deeper level where these laws evolve as the Universe itself takes shape.

Hertog's lecture will focus on this research, culminating in a revolutionary idea that is shifting our perception of our place in the cosmos. It will be followed by a signing of the author's latest book, published by Odile Jacob.

→ **Performance *The Solitary One***

19:00 - 19:45

Featuring Klaas Verpoest (video artist), Vincent Caers (composer), Benjamin Glorieux (cellist) and Stéphane Detournay (physicist).

The Solitary One is a performative installation that transforms the most extreme and paradoxical object in our Universe – the black hole – into an immersive audiovisual experience. Through this performance, the artists help the audience experience cosmological phenomena and the driving forces and processes behind them.

A Series of Events

WAY BEYOND

18.01.2024

18:00 - 20:00

In January, we will team up with Pauline Julier, who will be presenting *La vie sur Mars* ("Life on Mars") at the Théâtre de Vidy-Lausanne, to explore the cosmos through stories, rituals, science, fiction and images. *La vie sur Mars* consists of an exhibition of her work, the screening of a multi-screen film (*Follow the Water* with Clément Postec) and a conversation/show (*A Million-Year Picnic – Conversations on Mars* with Eric Vautrin).

→ **Screening of the film *Way Beyond* by Pauline Julier**

At CERN, Julier documented in images the Future Circular Collider (FCC), a huge collaborative particle accelerator project involving more than 150 institutions that could help trace the origins of the universe. Her film, *Way Beyond*, offers a captivating look at this multi-faceted human, terrestrial and scientific adventure, exploring its communication elements, political implications and funding. The retro-futuristic archive footage and soundtrack contrast with the pragmatic discussions between the experts.

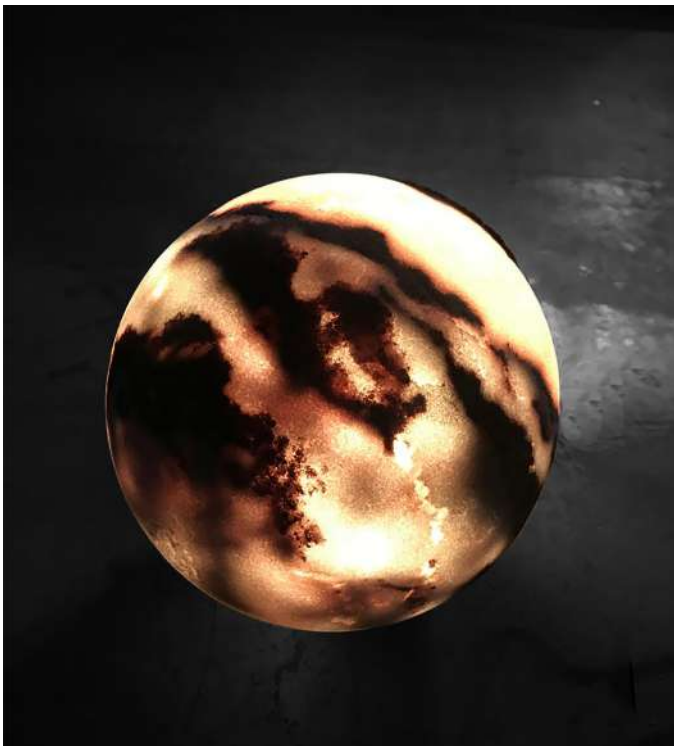
→ **Screening followed by a conversation with the artist**

Julier is an artist and filmmaker. She explores the connections that humans create with their environment through stories, rituals, knowledge and images. Her films and installations are composed of elements from a variety of sources (documentary, theoretical, fictional) in order to convey the complexity of our relationship with the world. In this talk, Julier will discuss her work in relation to space exploration.

A Series of Events



Gui Bonsieppe, *Cybersyn operations room*, 1972 - 1973.
© Gui Bonsieppe



Roxane Lahidji, *Planets*, 2021.
© Roxane Lahidji



Billboard for the Flat Earth International Conference, 2018.
© Courtesy Flat Earth International Conference

In situ Installations

HYSTÉRÉSIA, STÉFANE PERRAUD & ARAM KEBABDJIAN, 2022

Patio of the mudac-Photo Elysée building

Hysteresia is an open-air sound installation that picks up the residual waves from 31 “zombie” satellites – satellites that have been decommissioned and moved into graveyard orbits but that continue to broadcast. The installation broadcasts live the songs that are created from their signals, telling the story of these celestial ruins and revealing their ghostly presence. The installation works autonomously, but can also be activated during readings, performances or DJ sets.

Activation of the installation at the opening of *Space is the Place* on 7 September 2023 at mudac.

VIEW FROM THE MOON, JOANIE LEMERCIER STUDIO, 2020

West façade of the MCBA

Opposite mudac, on the west façade of the Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts (MCBA), visitors will see the bright silhouette of a star. The image looks familiar: it must be the moon. And yet they discover details of craters, irregularities made up of fine shadows and reliefs, and recognise the contours of continents, seas and oceans that are also familiar. What remains are traces of disasters and the monochrome reveals the absence of an atmosphere and the disappearance of the oceans. The projection will run from 9 to 30 November.



Studio Joanie Lemerrier, *View from the Moon*.

© SIGNAL2021, photographer : Dušan Vondra

In situ Installations

***A PARTICULAR SCORE*, AATB, 2019**

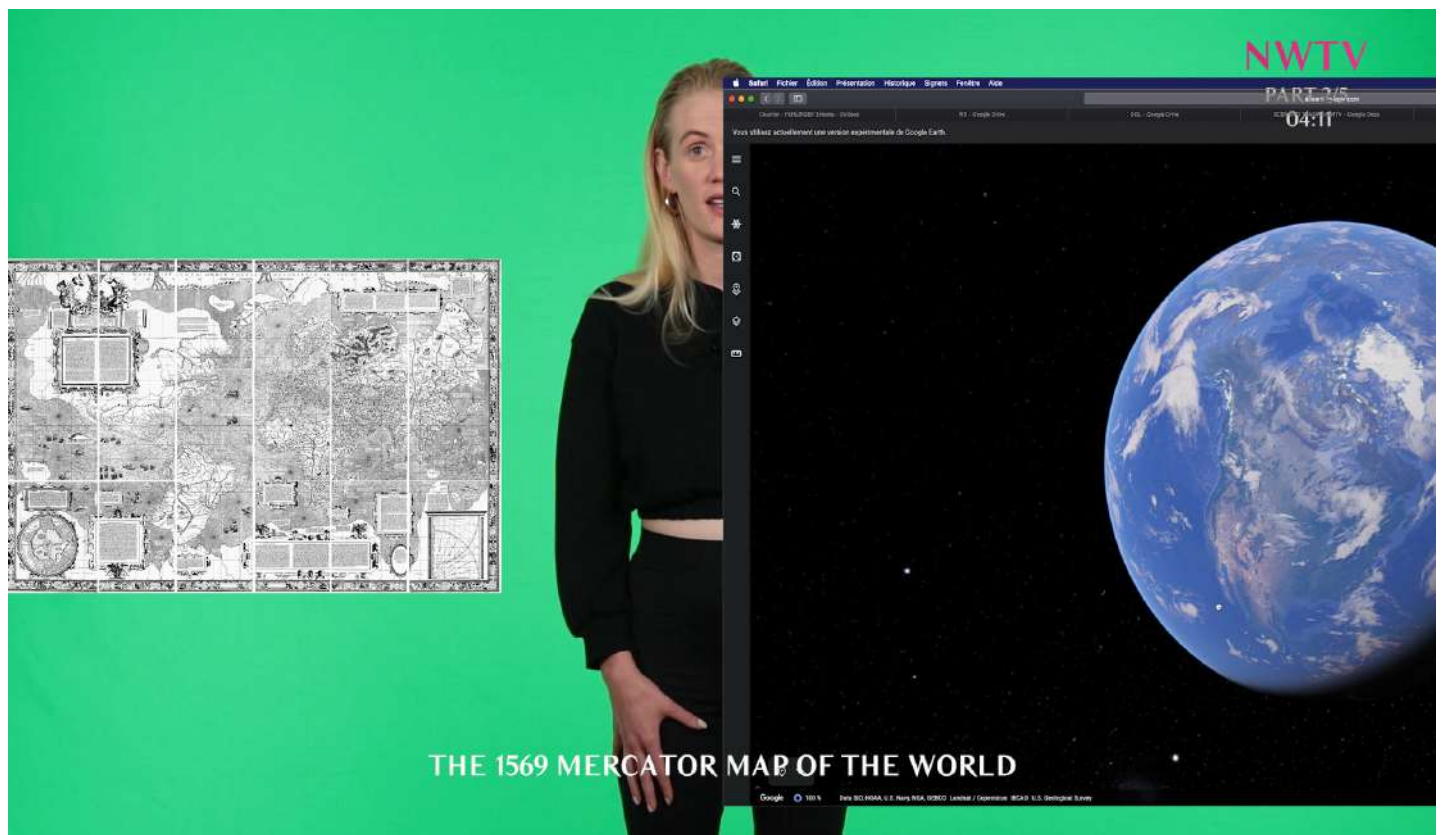
Arcade 12, Plateforme 10

The sound installation captures cosmic rays, particularly those emitted by a supernova explosion. The magnetosphere protects us from these rays, but some transform into secondary cosmic rays and reach us. *A Particular Score* uses its sensors and quartz crystal tubes to make us aware of this: when a secondary magnetic ray reaches us, the installation echoes.

***NEW WEATHER TV*, SIMONE FEHLINGER, 2019**

Arcade 14, Plateforme 10

Based on the hypothesis that the earth has been transformed into a video installation, a television studio and a design studio, *New Weather TV* looks at the production, broadcasting and reception of weather report images and the modern fictions they embed in our everyday realities – fictions that evoke our environment as an external, calculable, exploitable and controllable object, and that cling to the image of nation states.



Simone Fehlinger, *New Weather TV*, 2020.

© Simone Fehlinger

Outreach Cinema

RETROSPECTIVE OF SCIENCE-FICTION FILMS AT THE SWISS FILM ARCHIVE

23.08 - 29.10.2023

In collaboration with mudac, the Swiss Film Archive has programmed a vast cycle of over 32 films devoted to space exploration in cinema. This major retrospective is an integral part of Space is the Place and explores in greater depth the question of humankind's place in interstellar space.

→ Projection of *High-Life*, a film by Claire Denis

To celebrate this programme, an event around the notion of the hyper-interior will be held on the evening of 13 September at the Swiss Film Archive.

Browse the [programme of the Swiss Film Archive](#)

LE P'TIT CITY CLUB

08.10.2023

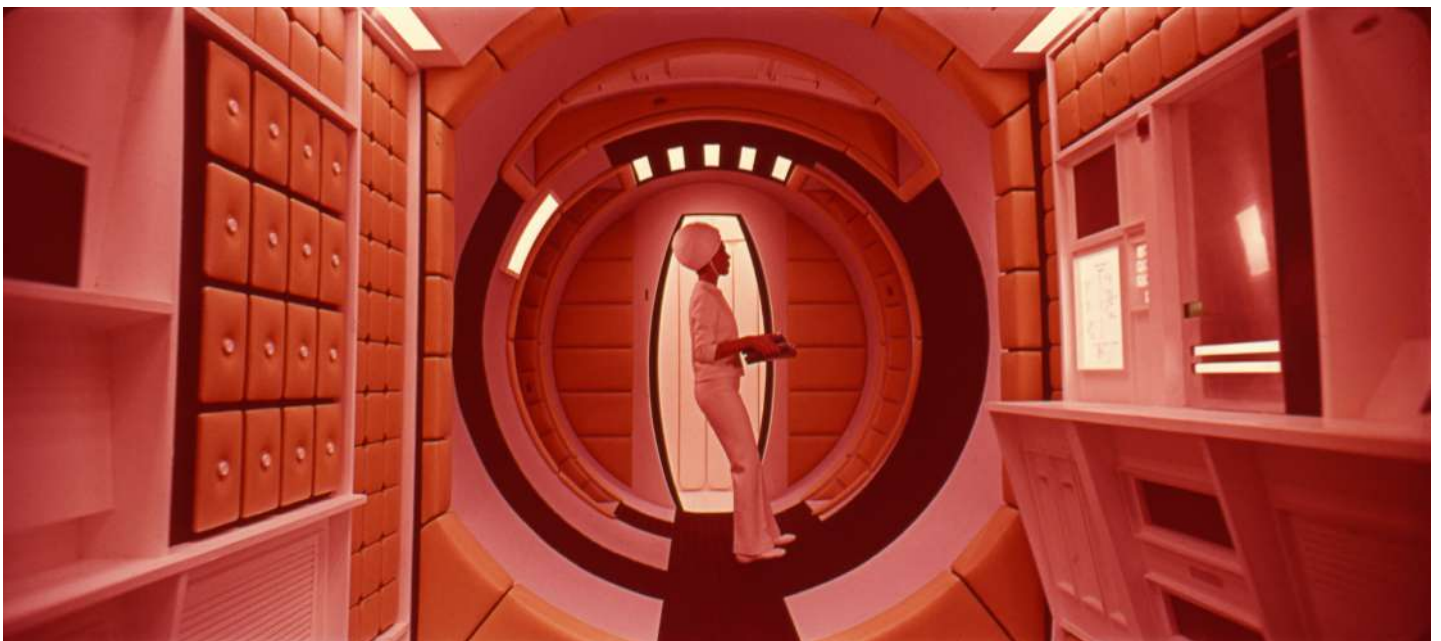
In collaboration with mudac, Cinéma Pully's P'tit City Club will screen a film that is specially adapted for young audiences aged 10 and over.

→ Screening of *Explorer*, a film by Joe Dante

14:00 - 16:00

Directed by Joe Dante (*The Gremlins*) and starring the very young Ethan Hawke and River Phoenix, *Explorers* is a typical 1980s all-ages entertainment film, in the vein of *E.T.*, *The Goonies* or *The NeverEnding Story*, where the desire to follow one's dreams prevails. The screening will be followed by a workshop with mudac education officers, and a snack.

Browse the [programme of the CityClub Pully cinema](#)



2001: A Space Odyssey by Stanley Kubrick, 1968.

© Collection Cinémathèque suisse. DR.

Three Publications

COSMOS

Exhibition catalogue



The catalogue for the exhibition *Cosmos. Design from Here and Beyond* compiles some forty projects, showing how the cosmos and its architecture inspire designers: lamps in the shape of a star or planet, a black hole vase, an electromagnetic pendulum, a mirror that acts as a gravitational lens... Thanks to the contributions of cosmologist Thomas Hertog, author of the highly acclaimed book *On the Origin of Time*, and Francesco Lo Bue, this catalogue weaves fruitful links between the worlds of science and design.

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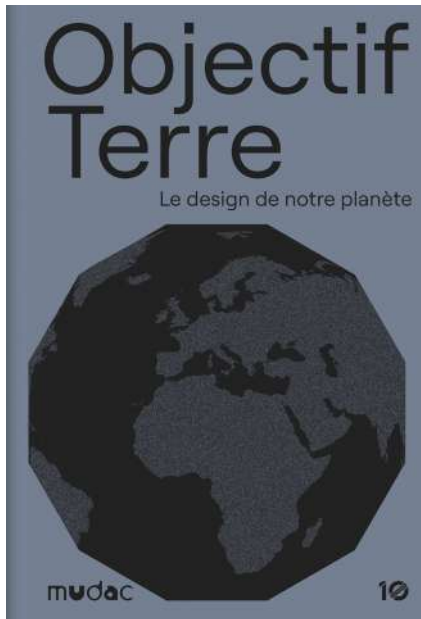
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Three Publications

OBJECTIF TERRE Designing Our Planet



Has our planet become an object of design? In the face of geoengineering, cloud seeding and ambitious projects to control planetary ecosystems, the question seems justified. Designed alongside the exhibition as a free object, the book traces the development of the objectification of Earth and critically examines its effects on our planet. It opens with a glossary of 20 key techno-scientific concepts. It then invites committed artists and designers to explore their approaches in greater depth in a series of texts: although they use technology, they take a critical look at the systemic disruptions we are facing. Finally, three essays by researchers provide a multidisciplinary perspective: technology historian, Sabine Holler frames this stance in a recent but important history of the concept of Spaceship Earth, design curator Scott Longfellow considers it within the context of total design and philosopher Frédéric Neyrat invites us to become aware of that which cannot be apprehended and to do so, scours the depths of the earth.

Project management

Jolanthe Kugler
Scott Longfellow

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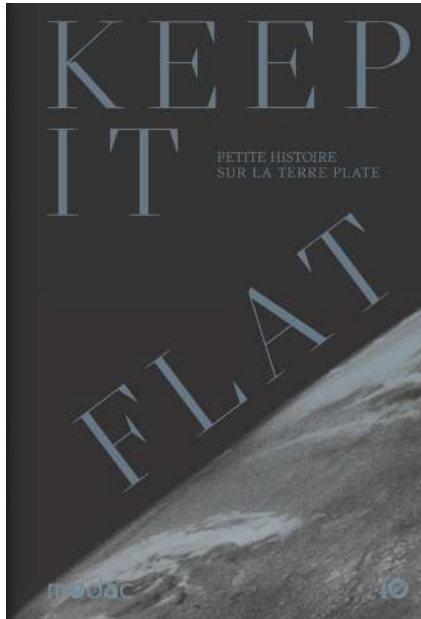
Iconography

Timon Ganguillet
Diane Maechler

Three Publications

KEEP IT FLAT

A Short History of the Flat Earth



On the back of a turtle, domed or undomed: the many shapes of the flat Earth act as a cartographic representation of dissent, a final bulwark against modernity. What is the flat earth theory? How has it hijacked political and scientific events to offer an alternative narrative?

The theory was born in the 19th century and runs counter to the very idea of modernity. And yet, from trains to YouTube videos, radio and photography, flat-Earthers have skilfully capitalised – and continue to do so – on the means of disseminating information at their disposal to cast doubt on the Earth's sphericity and try to win followers by opposing scientific and political institutions.

Keep it Flat. A Short History of the Flat Earth brings together the views of a design theorist (Alexandra Midal), a neuroscientist (Albert Moukheiber), two designers (Antoine Föglé and Emma Pflieger) and the curators of the *Terra* exhibition (Jolanthe Kugler and Scott Longfellow) in an attempt to escape from the Manichean vision that is generally at work in the collective unconscious, and to understand the underlying mechanisms that underpin the theory of the flat earth.

Project management

Jolanthe Kugler
Scott Longfellow

Authors

Alexandra Midal
Antoine Föglé
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Production of the exhibition *Cosmos. Design from Here and Beyond*



Collaboration for the retrospective of science-fiction films

cinémathèque suisse

Partners of *Space is the Place*



Exhibition Programme at Plateforme 10

PHOTO ELYSÉE

- Richard Mosse. Broken spectre
03.11.23 – 03.03.24
- Deborah Turbeville. Photocollage
03.11.23 – 03.03.24
- Virgine Otth. A lake in the eye
03.11.23 – 03.03.24

For more information: elysee.ch

MCBA

- Immersion. The Origins: 1949-1969
04.11.23 - 03.03.24
- Steinlen. Swipe of the Claws and Velvet Paws
22.09.23 - 18.02.24
Espace Focus
- Mirage. The BCV Art Collection is pleased to invite Natacha Donzé, Gina Proenza, Jean-Luc Manz, and Denis Savary
29.09.23 - 07.01.24
Espace Projet

For more information: mcba.ch

LE SIGNAL L

- Jonas Staal x Théâtre Vidy Lausanne
08.09.23 - 22.10.23

For more information: plateforme10.ch

Practical Information

Press visit

→ Wednesday 6 September 2023 at 10:30

Opening exhibition and official opening of *Space is the Place*

→ Thursday 7 September 2023

Space is the place

→ From Friday 8 September 2023 to Sunday 4 February 2024

Opening times for the *Cosmos et Terra* exhibitions

- Monday: 10:00-18:00
- Closed on Tuesday
- Wednesday: 10:00-18:00
- Thursday: 10:00-20:00
- Friday to Sunday: 10:00 – 18:00
- Free admission on the first Saturday of the month

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mudac – museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts

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Press kit

mudac, the museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts, is a museum of the Canton of Vaud managed by the Plateforme 10 Foundation.

