

Experiencing the mysterious nature of exoplanets through painting

Mai Wada (1), Anastasia Kokori (2, 3) and Angelos Tsiaras (4)

(1) University of the Arts London, London, UK (lalalaspecola@gmail.com), (2) Royal Observatory Greenwich, London, UK, (3) Birkbeck University of London, London, UK (anastasia.kokori@gmail.com) (4) University College London, London, UK (angelos.tsiaras.14@ucl.ac.uk)

Abstract

Most people may think art and science are incompatible. However, we believe that originally, they share a common root: creativity and curiosity for understanding the Universe. Science collects observations and uses reasoning and data analysis to construct a realistic image of the cosmos. On the other hand, Arts is inspired by experiencing the world and depicts an enhanced version of reality. In order to explore how science and arts can contribute to each other, we started an effort of bringing together astronomical concepts/ objects and their representation/interpretation through paintings. Our project is the challenge for creating a new perception of the universe for the future by turning back to the essential baseline/ foundation of science and art. We present here the result of the co-operation between arts and astronomy. In our project an important element is combining accurate scientific information with the artist's imagination and perspective. Different paintings of astronomical bodies will be demonstrated as an outcome of this effort, but the main topic that we focus on is the field of exoplanets which is currently growing to a great extent.

There have been discovered more than 3900 exoplanets which is already a revolutionary knowledge for understanding our position in the universe. Despite this knowledge, we do not much about the nature of these planets. How do they look like? What's their weather?

This is where art can play a very significant role; visualizing these exotic bodies and provide an alternative perspective. Our project can be used as case for other collaborations between scientists and artists, help science to evolve and finally contribute to the general exploration of the cosmos and our origins.



Figure 1: A 15 x 15 cm oil on board painting of the lava planet 55 Cancri e by Mai Wada.