

Daniela de Paulis

'Astronomers Without Borders

'Astronomers Without Borders (AWB) brings people together through astronomy, a common connection that has been a part of all cultures throughout time. AWB observing programs, including individual local events and online group observing, connect people around the world. Sharing the sky with the public is a large part of amateur astronomy, and sharing our resources with each other across borders is a large part of what AWB does. Telescopes to Tanzania trains teachers in rural schools in Tanzania to teach astronomy and provides resources not available in-country. Sharing Telescopes and Resources (STAR) sends donated equipment, often surplus in developed countries, to clubs and schools in developing countries where they are otherwise out of reach. A growing slate of AstroArts programs include astronomy-related art, performance, astropoetry, film screenings, and more. A project bringing together people and organizations that bring astronomy and science to people who are disabled seeks to make ideas and resources more widely available to all. Partners collaborate to produce broader, innovative programs that are not otherwise possible. Ideas often come from the worldwide member community. Astronomy is the common thread and inspiration and the outcome is sharing and understanding -- peace-building as much as anything else. Only astronomy has the ability to inspire this kind of universal connection. AWB's motto is One People, One Sky' (Mike Simmons, Astronomers Without Borders CEO).

AstroArts is the international, online cultural platform of Astronomers Without Borders (AWB). Co-founded in 2012 by visual artist Daniela de Paulis (IT/NL) and astronomer Thilina Heenatigala (Sri Lanka), AstroArts features creative works inspired by astronomy. AstroArts is an international initiative - lead by professionals working in different fields - and includes the 'guest artist of the month' and the Global Astronomy Month programmes. For the 'guest of the month', we feature one artist through a series of weekly blog posts and a Google Hangout on the last week of each month. The Hangout usually includes guests from several of the AWB ongoing programmes, together with the artist, in order to foster collaboration and interdisciplinary discussion. The 'guest of the month' programme is currently expanding to include a virtual residency initiative, which will allow one artist at the time to develop a project in collaboration with scientists affiliated with the AWB network. The projects developed as part of the virtual residency will foster global participation, making the most of online resources. Global Astronomy Month (GAM) is the most popular project of Astronomers Without Borders: founded in 2009 as a follow up of the International Year of Astronomy, GAM is a global platform for astronomy related events that take place every year in April. During GAM, AstroArts is widely featured through online panel discussions with artists and scientists, live film screenings and live performances, often especially designed for web streaming. More information on AstroArts can be found on: <http://astronomerswithoutborders.org/news.html>