

Juno and the New Renaissance

by Theo Clarke

There is an intangible societal need to connect with the universe. This is why the space program is so popular. Through the space program the people of the world can touch the universe, touch infinity.

Spacecraft reconnaissance of our solar system continues a legacy of exploration ingrained in our psyches. As a human race, we explore. We ask, Who am I and where do I come from? In the process of this exploration the aura and soul of NASA's Juno mission to the planet Jupiter, like the Medici of the Renaissance, has inspired, facilitated and embodied a broad spectrum of human creativity, including not only science and technology, but also history and literature, art and music, and visualization and public engagement. Indeed, through Juno the world is witness to a remarkable convergence of art and science, witness to a New Renaissance. Juno is an ambassador to the universe of this New Renaissance.

In my paper I will unveil the Juno mission at Jupiter, the Earth encounter that slung it to Jupiter, and the amazing cultural connection that defines its mission. I will speak of Juno's public engagement program called Science in a Fishbowl. The Science in a Fishbowl program encourages public participation in processing, in often artistic ways, imaging data taken of Jupiter by JunoCam, the camera on Juno. I will show some of the best of these citizen scientist works of art. I will also assemble and describe a 3-D scale model of the orbital mission of Juno at Jupiter. The scale of the model is $1'' = 2 R_J$.

In summary, I will unveil a dimension of the Juno mission to the planet Jupiter that will appeal to a broad sector of the global public.