

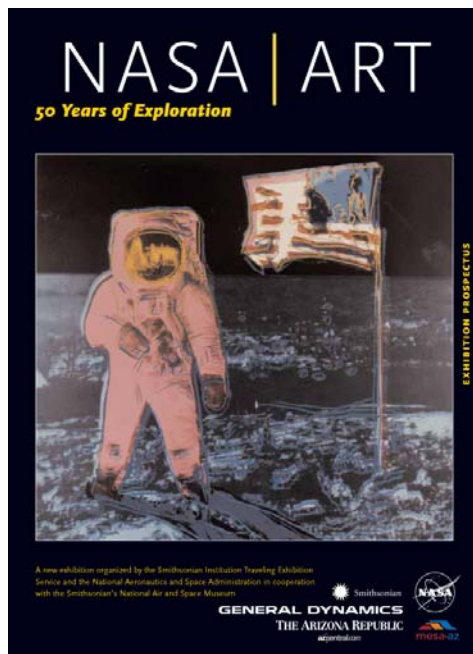


Arizona Museum for Youth

For Immediate Release
Contact: Latonya S. Jordan-Smith

Director of Marketing & Public Relations
(480) 644-4129
Latonya.Smith@MesaAz.gov

News Release



Smithsonian Celebrates NASA's 50th Anniversary With Traveling Art Exhibition at Arizona Museum for Youth!

Mesa, AZ— NASA's historic triumphs and pioneering legacy are well known to millions, but the inspiring rocket launches, moon landings and planetary explorations also have had an impact on the imaginations of America's leading artists. In celebration of the space agency's 50th anniversary, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) presents "*NASA / ART: 50 Years of Exploration*," featuring 72 works from those artists.

"NASA / ART" opens Saturday, October 30, 2010 at the Arizona Museum for Youth in Mesa, AZ. It will be on display through January 23, 2011 before it continues across the country in a 10-museum tour.

The exhibition is organized by SITES and NASA in cooperation with the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. It features nearly five decades of creations by artists as diverse as Annie Leibovitz, Nam June Paik, Norman Rockwell, Andy Warhol and William Wegman. Drawn from the collections of NASA and the National Air and Space Museum, the exhibition includes drawings, photographs, sculpture and other forms of media. These works – ranging from the illustrative to the abstract – offer unparalleled insight into the private and personal moments, triumphant victories and tragic accidents that form the storied history of NASA.

The works featured in the exhibition date from the inception of the NASA Art Program in 1962, when NASA administrator James E. Webb asked a group of artists to illustrate, interpret and elucidate the space agency's missions and projects. Since then, painters, musicians and conceptual artists have been with NASA every step of the way, strolling along launch pads, training in flight simulators, talking with engineers and technicians and visiting with astronauts before and after their flights.

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington D.C., for more than 50 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. Exhibition descriptions and tour schedules are available at www.sites.si.edu. For more information about the Arizona Museum for Youth, hours and admission, please visit us online at www.ArizonaMuseumforYouth.com.

Arizona Museum for Youth

The Arizona Museum for Youth (AMY) is a fine arts museum for children and families and serves as a terrific place to introduce life-changing art. The museum hosts 6 world-class exhibitions, annually, and features *ArtVille*, a special art township for kids under 4 years of age. As part of the exhibitions, a dynamic array of art classes, fun workshops, and family programs are available to teach basic art principles and techniques.

"Inspiring children of all ages to experience their world differently through art, creativity and imagination."

NASA / ART : *50 Years of Exploration* was organized by the Smithsonian Institution Travelling Exhibition Service and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in cooperation with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

The national sponsor is: **National Aeronautics and Space Administration.**

Local support provided by:



###