

Alternative Ecology: Redistributing the Sensible

Thu 15 Aug – Sat 31 Aug 2024

Brother Joseph McNally Gallery, LASALLE College of the Arts

Artwork Information

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Elena Soterakis

Better Morrow, 2020

Winter 2020 marked a pivotal moment in our collective history. As the world grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, many lives were lost, and the fragility of our systems, both human and environmental, became painfully apparent. *Better Morrow* was conceived in response to the disturbing scenes that unfolded in my Brooklyn community—streets littered with discarded masks and gloves, once symbols of protection, now stark reminders of the crisis.

The title "*Better Morrow*" reflects a yearning for a future that learns from these challenges—a hope for healing, reconnection with our environment, and a world where such scenes are not forgotten but transformed into catalysts for change.

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Great Pause Project -- Elena Soterakis, Isabel Beavers and Richelle Gribble Ellis, & Arch Mission Foundation

Lunar Library, 2024

'The Great Pause Project' is an open-source global repository of COVID-19 experiences, capturing humanity's story and reflections during this unprecedented time through both visual and written mediums. It was created using the emergent technology of space-resistant nickel nanofiche.

Now residing on the Moon's South Pole within Arc Mission's Lunar Library 2.0, this project has achieved historic milestones. On February 22, 2024, this collaborative effort—brought to life by the Arch Mission Foundation, Galactic Legacy Labs, and the Lunaprise mission—made its lunar landing, marking the first time in history that the Moon's South Pole was reached and that such experiences were embedded in a way that it could be preserved for hundreds of thousands of years.

This endeavor transcends mere archiving; it represents the collective wisdom, creativity, and resilience of humanity, forever preserved on the Moon's surface. By integrating our COVID-19 reflections with other cultural treasures like Wikipedia and the Rosetta Project, this mission stands as a testament to our enduring creativity and universal connectivity.

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Beyond Earth -- Elena Soterakis, Richelle Gribble Ellis, and Yoko Shimizu*To Space, From Earth, 2021*

'To Space, From Earth — DNA Capsule' is a unique artwork exploring the new frontiers of art, biology, and space exploration. In 2022, this capsule journeyed to the International Space Station, carrying a visual message encoded within the building blocks of life—DNA. By converting the binary code (0's and 1's) of digital artworks into the AGCT of DNA, this project symbolizes the essence of our planet: our humanity, our environment, and the pressing challenges of the 21st century.

This radiation-resistant, small, lightweight capsule—designed to withstand the harsh effects of space—serves as a record of our world today. It preserves reflections of our time and offers insights into the future we strive to create. Through this work, we aim to connect with the vast unknown, hoping these encoded messages may one day provide new perspectives on our path forward.

Elena Soterakis' artwork, "Better Morrow," a reflection on the COVID-19 pandemic, is preserved in this DNA capsule, along with other artworks created by her fellow Beyond Earth artists. This project, created in collaboration with Twist BioScience, was featured in the International Space Station as part of the Moon Gallery Foundation's initiative.

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Beyond Earth -- Elena Soterakis, Richelle Gribble Ellis, and Yoko Shimizu*To Space, From Earth -- DNA Capsule: Process Video, 2021*

'To Space, From Earth — DNA Capsule: Process Video' invites viewers into the creative worlds of Beyond Earth artists Elena Soterakis in Brooklyn, NY, Richelle Gribble in Los Angeles, and Yoko Shimizu in Linz, Austria. The video takes you behind the scenes to explore the cutting-edge future of DNA storage with the San Francisco-based biotech company, Twist Science. It also offers a sneak peek into the emerging era of commercial passenger flights to Earth's stratosphere, allowing passengers to reach the edge of space and witness Earth from this unique vantage point. This collaboration between Beyond Earth and Space Perspective culminated in the launch of the DNA Capsule, alongside the Living Light Sculpture, from Cape Canaveral, FL, into Earth's stratosphere on June 18, 2021.

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Chng Nai Wee*Market Forces: Contemporaneous Action in Technology, 2024*

Market Forces: Contemporaneous Action in Technology translates real-time data from NASDAQ into a multisensory experience of financial markets. Embedded within colour, shape, sound, and movement are the trading actions of millions of people, across national, global, and thematic sectors.

The state of financial markets produces and is produced by the narrative of the world at large. While the global economy responds to social, cultural and geopolitical affairs, humans likewise respond to the economy with buy and sell actions. With sufficient concerted market action, even viewers can influence the outcome of this audiovisual experience.

During trading hours and extended trading hours, the projected animations depict the demand for NASDAQ technology stocks in USA and China respectively. By juxtaposing these stocks without prescribing an interpretation of their performance, the artwork facilitates intuitive study of the dynamic interplay between the performance of technology companies marked to market as well as the landscapes in which they operate. During non-trading hours, the animations interpret the futures market of NASDAQ 100.