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Abstract

On May 22, 1993, my sculpture called the Cosmic Dancer was launched to the Russian Mir space station on a Progress rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The Cosmic Dancer - a painted geometric form constructed of welded aluminum tubing measuring approximately 35 x 35 x 40 centimeters and weighing exactly one kilogram - was the first three-dimensional artwork to be specifically conceived for and officially realized in a space habitat. The purpose of the project was to investigate the properties of sculpture in weightlessness and to evaluate the integration of art into the human space program. After its arrival on the Mir space station the Cosmic Dancer was allowed to slowly spin and freely float in the weightless environment. Freed from the force of gravity which causes any sculpture on Earth to rest or be positioned in a certain way, the sculpture could be viewed from any perspective and angle. Through this realization in the macrocosmic environment of space as an artistic visual interpretation of the "cosmic dance" at the microcosmic level, it assumed a broader cosmological interpretation of humanity's current and widely accepted cosmological myth.

A short bio

Arthur R. Woods is an astronautical artist and independent researcher with two art projects successfully flown on the Russian Mir space station: the Cosmic Dancer in 1993 and Ars Ad Astra in 1995 in the context of EuroMir95. He is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics and co-chair of the Moon Village Association Cultural Considerations Working Group.

What inspired me most, in my art work

Science Fiction books and movies,
 Evolution of humankind and its cosmic destiny,
 The beauty, the mystery and the majesty of the universe,
 Space exploration,
 Space settlement,
 Expanding civilization into space,
 Kostantin Tsiolkovsky, Krafft Ehrlicke and other philosophers,
 Science and Technology,
 The natural beauty of Planet Earth and other planets,
 Humans, the people of Planet Earth,
 Social themes and needs,
 Philosophy,
 Humanism,
 Civilian rights.