

Astronomical Art – Francisco Mora Lucas

English translation of the work for Museology – University of Murcia

Introduction

Astronomical Art is a movement included in Scientific Art, whose task is to represent scenes of the cosmos.

The scientific knowledges are very important, over all in subjects like astronomy, physics, geology...

It is not necessary to be faithful to reality because it is art. There are also fantastic landscapes/spacescapes.

The difference between astronomical art and sci-fi art is very little, being important the conception of the artwork.

Work directed for pupils of Second Cycle of Primary

Saturn – Real image from Cassini, 2008

Planet Saturn.

Saturn is the second gas planet further from the sun in our Solar System.

The four concentric rings of Saturn are formed by millions of particles covered with ice that turn over it.

It is as big as 740 Earths.

Chesley Bonestell – Saturn as seen from Titan

Chesley Bonestell was one of the fathers of Astronomical Art.

In this painting, so iconic, you can see Saturn far away from its satellite Titan.

There is other previous artwork, similar to this by the same author, so this one is a re-edition.

Ron Miller – Saturn seen from Rhea

Ron Miller has a huge collection of paintings, not only about Saturn, also about the other planets and beyond.

View of Saturn from its satellite Rhea.

You can do paintings not only painting, also with informatic programs like Terragen and Photoshop.

Ed Hengeveld – Saturn Pioneer

Gouache painting by Ed Hengeveld, gear space portraitist.

The Pioneer 11 Probe was launched by NASA and reached Saturn, passing by Jupiter, and then continued its travel beyond the Solar System.

Corina Chirila – Saturn and Enceladus

Corina Chirila stands out by her fantastic landscapes/spacescapes.

View from Saturn from its satellite Enceladus with the sun in the center.

Composition by a vertical line.

Deneb Arici – Saturn

The paintings of Deneb Arici have an epic character.

Saturn is represented as a powerful and immense planet, with that tonality in grey scale, and the rings seen of this form, perceived as a thin line.

Erika McGinnis – Saturn

Erika McGinnis has many paintings with great colorful.
This is a charcoal drawing about the Cassini images.

Ron Miller – Saturn instead Moon

How would you see Saturn if it was instead Moon? Here is the answer.
This is not the only artwork of this style by Ron Miller. There is a whole serie, with all the planets of the Solar System.
Though this is impossible due to factors like gravitational forces, it is very illustrative.

Snake Jagger – Saturn Spa

Snake Jagger stands out by his surrealist landscapes/spacescapes.
In this painting appears a Spa in one of the moons of Saturn, where the planet is seen far.
It is a clearly surrealist scene but very funny.

Robert McCall – Space Mural

Robert McCall is other of the great pioneers of Astronomical Art.
Great colorist with images very related with sci-fi.
In this painting you can see the triumph of man over space, and Saturn is represented in the background, as a clear icon of our identity as specie of the Solar System.
It is in the National Air and Space Museum, Washington D.C.

Practice

How would you represent Saturn?
In an A4 the pupils must represent the planet Saturn according to the above