

Artist Statement
by
Ellen D. Ladwig

The inspiration for my painting came from pictures from NASA's three telescopes: Hubble for optics, Chandra for X-ray and Spitzer for depth. My artwork began as a study to render the heavens by using three color schemes: complimentary, analogous and triadic while utilizing various color theories to explore the hues and values of mixing my own oils in the manner of the Old Masters. Upon enrolling in a college Astronomy class, the world that science and NASA revealed stirred my imagination as an artist. A great artist once said, "Color is the keyboard, the eyes are the harmonies." A single color flows through all of my NASA compositions while the geometric lines flow like music notes from a symphony. The abstract nature of the heavens creates its own palette of color.

My hope is that future explorers can hear the "music" within the color harmonies as they watch "The Perseid Meteor Shower on a newly Terra-formed Moon", which is my painting. As a small child, I watched the Moon rise at night from a dormer window dreaming that one day we would travel to the stars. That was 1960. My imagination was first stirred by photos of astronauts when the NASA expedition landed on the Moon. In class, I imagined a moonscape with green hills, a sky shimmering with stars, and a deep lake with a waterfall.

The painting is an original artwork with my dreams woven into the composition. My hope is that this painting will keep the dream alive. Man must first terra-form the Moon so that future generations can live on the Moon; then expand to Mars and beyond. Creating a living environment with water, plants, and a breathable atmosphere is another "Great step for Mankind".