Space, Art and Culture Competition

In conjunction with the opening of the virtual art exhibition, *Canto III* by internationally renowned artist Wafaa Bilal at San Jose State's Natalie and James Thompson Art Gallery, students from across the university are invited to submit innovative designs for a cubesat, a small scale satellite 10x10x11 centimeters in dimension, in any medium.

Opening April 6, 2021, the *Canto III* virtual exhibition will feature a small scale satellite designed by Wafaa Bilal. *Canto III* mimics the form of a 1994 monument to Sadaam Hussein, designed by members of the Ba'ath party in Iraq, who intended one day to send a golden bust of the ruler into space orbit. Bilal's satellite is both an anti-monument to Hussein, a protest commentary on Middle East politics, and a provocative exploration of national identity.

The virtual exhibition will feature works from Wafaa Bilal's 20 year artistic career, designs for the satellite, literature related to the project, and digital materials collected from the Iraqi-American community.

The competition:

This first-ever interdisciplinary satellite design competition, sponsored by the Thompson Art Gallery and a College of Humanities and the Arts Artistic Excellence Programming Grant, invites San Jose State Students to reflect on the cultural impact of space activities and generate exchanges between artists and scientists.

Some questions for exploration include:

What is the impact of space exploration on culture?

What do we want to do in space and why?

How can we imagine a sustainable and equitable access to space?

The design should take the form of a Cubesat and can be an illustration, digital design, painting, sculpture, whatever you can create — just as long as you can submit a digital image of your creation.

The best designs will be selected according to their relevance to the prompt and their degree of innovation and aesthetic qualities.

You will submit:
1. A design for a small scale satellite 10x10x11 centimeters in dimension, in any medium.
2. A 500 word max description on the motivation or inspiration for your design.

The contest:

Opens March 5, 2021

Closes: April 3, 2021, 5pm

Winners Announced: April 6, 2021

Winners of the competition will receive Spartan Bookstore gift cards of $200, $150 and $100 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, respectively, and will be featured in a virtual exhibition on the Thompson Gallery website.

FAQ

What is a Cubesat?

CubeSats are part of a class of research spacecraft called nanosatellites. CubeSats are built to standard dimensions (Units or "U") of approximately 10x10x11 centimeters. They can be 1U to 12U in volume, and typically weigh less than 1.33 kg (3 lbs) per U. A 6U CubeSat typically has a mass of about 26.5 pounds (12 kilograms). The final allowable mass of a CubeSat depends on the selected deployment device and launch vehicle.

Small satellites like CubeSats play a valuable role in space exploration, technology, educational, and science investigations, including planetary exploration, Earth observation, and fundamental Earth and space science. [1]

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[1] https://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov/about/
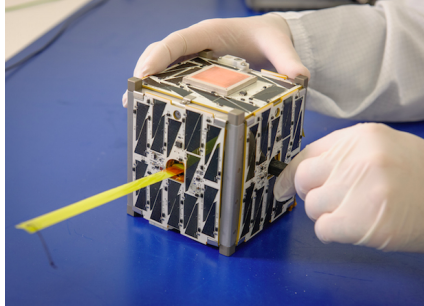
Qualifications

Any students (graduate or undergraduate) at San Jose State University are eligible to participate.

How do I enter the competition?

To enter, submit your design using our online submission form. Upload your design in Hi resolution Jpeg or PNG file format with a size limit of 10 MB. If you are the winner or a runner-up you may be contacted to provide alternative file formats at a later date. Please title your submitted work with both your last and first name.

Please provide a short text (maximum 500 words) on the motivation or inspiration for your design.

How many designs can I submit?

There is no limit to the number of submissions, just make sure that they are all sent separately and of the highest resolution possible while still being under 10 MB (the size limit for the submission form).