

THE BASS

EL FIN DE LA IMAGINACIÓN

ADRIÁN VILLAR ROJAS WITH MARIANA TELLERIA

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Adrián Villar Rojas with Mariana Telleria

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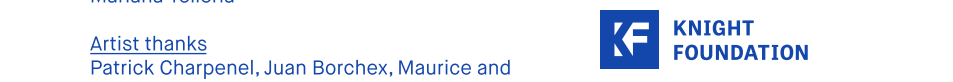
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Competition entry for the design of the Flag Memorial, Rosario, Argentina. Photograph by Mariana Telleria

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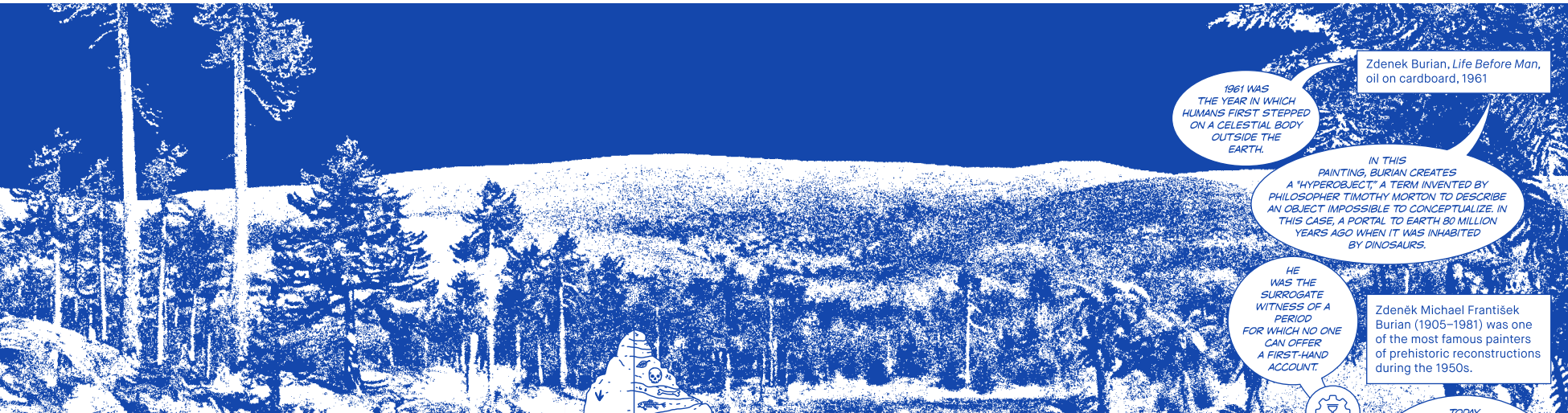
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CULTURE BUILDS FLORIDA



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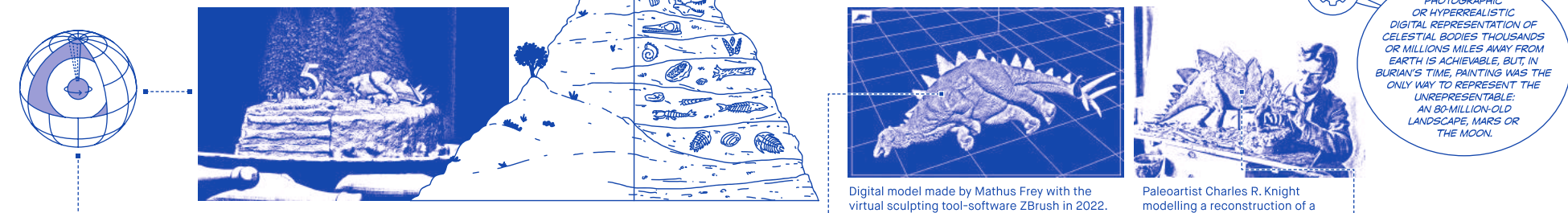
1961 WAS THE YEAR IN WHICH HUMANITY FIRST STEPPED ON A CELESTIAL BODY OUTSIDE THE EARTH.

IN THIS PAINTING, BURIAN CREATES A "HYPEROBJECT," A TERM INVENTED BY PHILOSOPHER THOMAS HORN TO DESCRIBE AN OBJECT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCEPTUALIZE. IN THIS CASE, A PORTAL TO EARTH 80 MILLION YEARS AGO WHEN IT WAS INHABITED BY DINOSAURS.

HE HAS THE SUBVERSIVE WITNESS OF A PERIOD FOR WHICH NO ONE CAN OFFER A FORTHWARD ACCOUNT.

Zdeněk Michael František Burian (1905-1981) was one of the most famous painters of prehistoric reconstructions during the 1950s.

TODAY, PHOTOGRAPHIC OR HYPERREALISTIC DIGITAL REPRESENTATION OF CELESTIAL BODIES THOUSANDS OR MILLIONS MILES AWAY FROM EARTH IS ACHIEVABLE, BUT IN BURIAN'S TIME, PAINTING WAS THE ONLY WAY TO REPRESENT THE UNREPRESENTABLE: AN 80-MILLION-YEAR LANDSCAPE, MARS OR THE MOON.



Digital model made by Mathus Frey with the virtual sculpting tool-software ZBrush in 2022.

Paleoartist Charles R. Knight modelling a reconstruction of a stegosaurus. Unknown date.

The sponge cake was made and decorated by the artist's mother, Silvia Tabachnik, and photographed in his parents' kitchen.

Cake topped with stegosaurus, 1969, made for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA.

Thanks to an ongoing DNA identification process, the Argentine government, with the support of the UK government and The International Committee of the Red Cross, has identified 118 fallen soldiers buried in the Argentine Military Cemetery since 2016.

White fridge with a diorama-like vitrine window covering its open freezer compartment showing a typical Argentinean birthday cake frozen in time.

An artifact of our present time abundant with nutrients from all over the planet. A planet that is around 4.567.000.000 years old. A document of the present for the future.

Point Nemo is the specific spot in the Pacific Ocean that is located the farthest away from any land mass. It is designated by space agencies as their underwater graveyard for falling ruins from space.

Recycled and recontextualized mutant sculptures

1 Los mariposas eternas were fabricated in a temporary workshop in Mexico City, Mexico, 2010.

2 They were then exhibited as part of Panamericano, kurimanzutto, Mexico City, Mexico, 2010.

3 The equestrian sculptures were later shown at Monumentos, anti-monumentos y nueva escultura pública, Museo de Arte Zapopan, Guadalajara, Mexico, 2017.

4 They are now reintroduced at El fin de la imaginación, The Bass, Miami Beach, USA, 2022.

The sun sets in the west, illuminating the columns of the Flag Memorial, its architecture recalling the Temple of Athena on top of the Acropolis. In the interior of the propylaeum the dramatic play of light and shadow can be observed.

Argentina

Rosario

Adrián Villar Rojas, Los mariposas eternas, 2010

The Eternal Flame is situated in the center of the propylaeum.

The base of the statue references the George Henry Thomas Memorial by John Quincy Adams Ward in Washington DC.

Clay

Shaped and molded clay has been the traditional basis for object-making for thousands of years. Clay is earth, teeming with organic and fossilized life, a connector between our bodies and the world.

The robot is inspired by Tachibana, the equestrian bot in Masamune Shirow's Ghost in the Shell.

THE REMAINS OF AN ARGENTINE SOLDIER WHO DIED FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE HOMETLAND.

Afraid that his body would be desecrated by the Federales, his followers fled to Bolivia carrying Lavalle's decomposing remains with them. On the way, they decided to strip the skeleton by boiling it. After burying the flesh in an unmarked grave, they continued their journey with only his bones. Today the remains are buried at the La Recoleta Cemetery in Buenos Aires.

Underneath the Eternal Flame, rest the remains of an unknown soldier killed on February 3, 1813 in the Battle of San Lorenzo, a key stage of Argentina's War of Independence. The flame is an homage to the thousands of unknown soldiers who contributed with their lives to the country's emancipatory process.

THE TEXT USES MASCULINE GENDERED LANGUAGE.

THE TEXT USES FEMINE LEXICAL GENDERED LANGUAGE.

Recycled and recontextualized mutant sculptures

Mariana Telleria, Tumba del soldado desconocido, 2015.

It was exhibited at Rectorado de la Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina, 2015.

A second edition was fabricated in a temporary workshop in Rosario, Argentina, 2022.

It is now exhibited as part of El fin de la imaginación, The Bass, Miami Beach, USA, 2022.

Mariana Telleria, Tumba del soldado desconocido, 2015. Replica of the Eternal Flame located at the National Flag Memorial in Rosario, Argentina.

Photograph taken on Sol 567, Mars Year 36, by Perseverance rover at local mean solar time of 13:30:18, September 2022.

Star of David, United States, NASA

South Carolina (USA), Georgia (USA)

Nunavut, Saudi Arabia, Alaska (U.S.)

Mexico City, Mobil

Communist Party of Burma, India, Russia

Republic of China, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

1890-1895 Flag of the Qing Dynasty Azure Dragon, Fukuoka Prefecture, Yamagata Prefecture

Ibaraki Prefecture, Hiroshima Prefecture-style Flag of Davos City

Islas Malvinas

In 1786 British Captain John Byron designated the archipelago located 300km from the Argentinean coast as the Falkland Islands.

The Argentine Military Cemetery known as Cementerio de Darwin holds the remains of 236 Argentine soldiers and conscripts killed in 1982 during the Falklands War between Argentina and the United Kingdom. The bodies remained on Islas Malvinas after the war ended in Britain's favor. The reasons for the unusual decision to not return the remains to Argentina are disputed; perhaps the relatives or the government believed the bodies did not need to be repatriated as they were already interred on Argentine soil.

Point Nemo is the specific spot in the Pacific Ocean that is located the farthest away from any land mass. It is designated by space agencies as their underwater graveyard for falling ruins from space.

48°52.6'S 123°23.6'W

Cementerio de Darwin

SOLDADO ARGENTINO SOLO CONOCIDO POR DIOS

"ARGENTINE SOLDIER ONLY KNOWN BY GOD"

The text uses masculine gendered language.

Ya muerta y perdida en la historia por favor no me rescaten.

"ALREADY DEAD AND LOST IN HISTORY PLEASE DON'T RESCUE ME."

The text uses feminine lexical gendered language.

SpaceX, Argentina, South Africa

Rhodesia, Boeing, Chase

Satellite, Amazonas, Evian

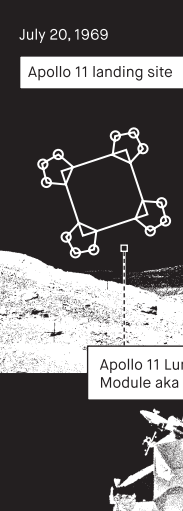
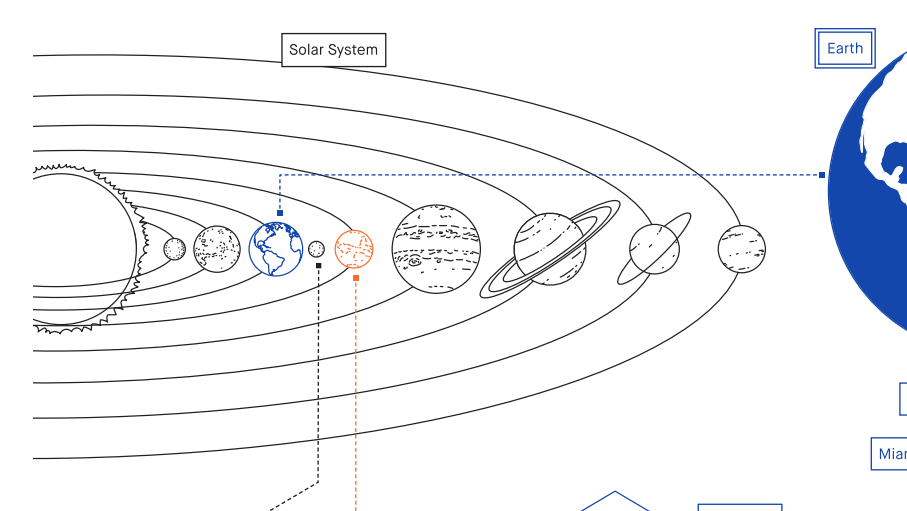
Nenets Autonomous District, Antarctic Treaty, NATO OTAN

China Spatial Intergalactic Program, Seychelles

Papal States, Nonbinary, NASA

Antigua y Barbuda, Turkmenistan, Miami Dolphins

Nestlé, Unilever



The absence of any notable atmosphere means that objects on the Moon do not decay or degrade, making this celestial body the perfect museum preservation device.

Unless struck by meteorites, all human traces left on the Moon's surface will remain there in perpetuity.

Archaeological data

What monuments are created to commemorate the end of the post-colonial deference era on the Moon's Sea of Clouds in the year 34,340 A.D?

Photograph of the Moon's North Ray crater taken from Station 11, April, 1972.

THE COMMANDER OF APOLLO 17, GENE CERNAN, CREATED IN 1972 THE FIRST KNOWN EXTRATERRESTRIAL GRAFFITI WHEN, JUST BEFORE THE MODULE WAS SET TO LEAVE, HE WROTE HIS DAUGHTERS' INITIALS "TIC" ON THE MOON'S SURFACE.

Abandoned fragments of a toppled monument of Christopher Columbus situated behind the Government House in Buenos Aires, 2013.

F1 Grenade, Soviet Union, 1939

AK-47 Rifle, United States, 1947

M16 Rifle, United States, 1959

Adrián Villar Rojas, Two Suns, 2015

The Republican Calendar, a decimal system that only had 10 hours per day, was implemented by Napoleon on November 24, 1793. Its start date was conceived as a new beginning of time, the origin of the French Republic.

Year Season Month Day Hour Minute Second Millisecond

1 Day 10 Hours 1 Hour 100 Minutes 1 Minute 100 Seconds 1 Second 100 Milliseconds

Curiosity

Curiosity's "bootprint" on Mars

1 Curiosity Rover is a car-sized, six-wheeled robot that operates as a metonymic representation of a human being exploring the planet. Mars Science Laboratory spacecraft was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on November 26, 2011, and landed at its destination on August 6, 2012.

2 Lunokhod 2 was launched by the Soviet Union from the Baikonur Cosmodrome on January 11, 1973 and crashed at its destination on January 15, 1973.

3 NASA's latest rover, Perseverance, nicknamed "Percy," has a similar design to its predecessor, Curiosity. It also launched from Cape Canaveral on July 30, 2020, and landed on Mars on February 18, 2021. It carries the mini-helicopter Ingenuity, an experimental aircraft and technology testbed that made the first powered flight on another planet on 19 April, 2021. Perseverance's main scientific objectives are to hunt for signs of ancient microbial life, identify the planet's geology and past climate, and pave the way for human exploration of Mars.

Lucy Satellite

NASA's RS aka "Valkyrie"

Apollo Lunar Surface Drill

Montagnac, drilled on September 7, 2021.

Montdenier, drilled on September 1, 2021.

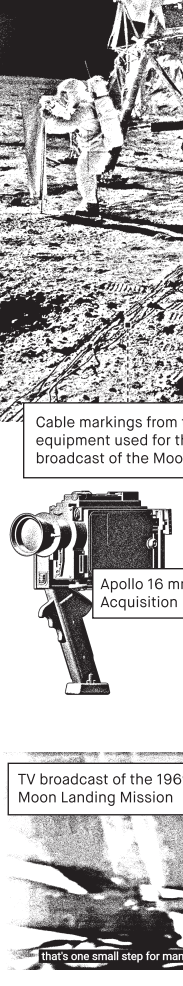
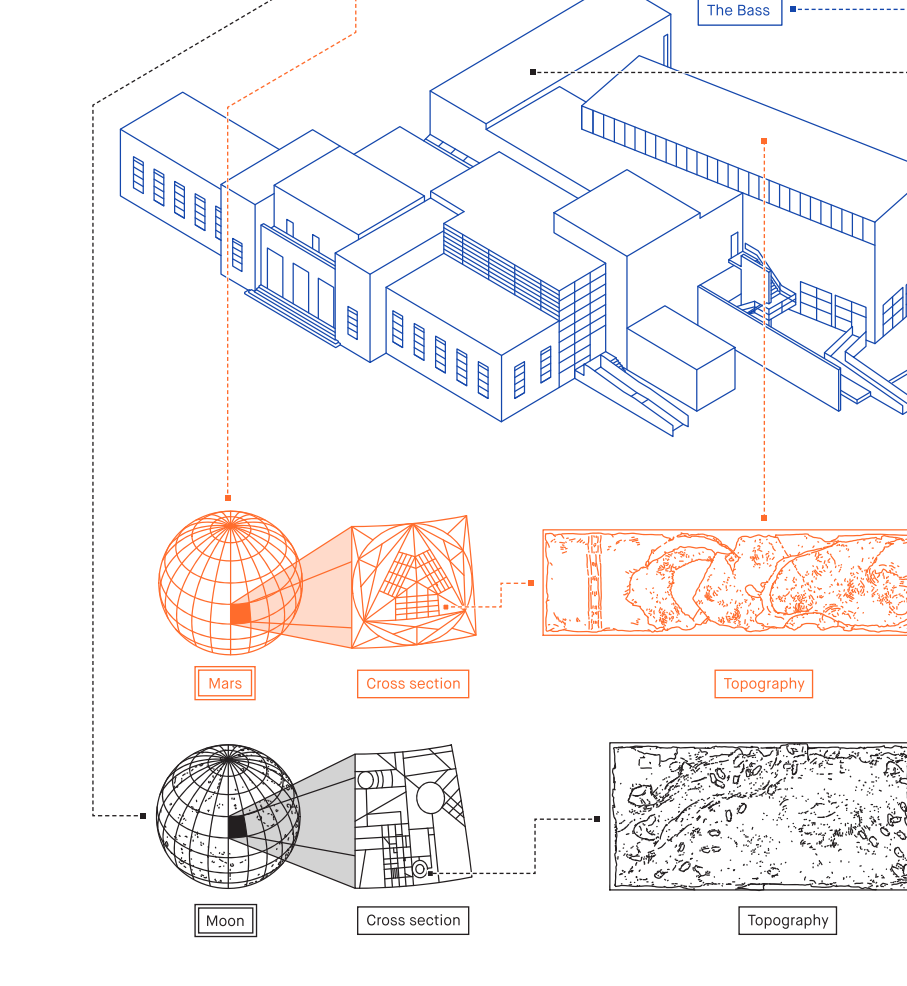
A site on a patch of flat rock called "Confidence Hills" was Curiosity rover's first target. It began drilling on September 24, 2014.

IS THIS THE FIRST PERFECT CIRCLE IN THE HISTORY OF MARS?

A flower-shaped rock 0.4 inches wide named "Blackhorn Sals" was photographed by Curiosity rover on February 24, 2022. It is a "concretion," an extremely strong, erosion-resistant formation made from minerals and ancient water that had previously been mixed with Martian rock. Concretions can come in other shapes including small spheres.

WOULD THE MARKET PRICE OF GOLD, SILVER, COPPER, OR ANY OTHER PRECIOUS METAL, BE DRAMATICALLY INFLUENCED BY MINING CORPORATIONS WERE ABLE TO SNIFF A METEORITE CONTAINING THREE BILLION DOLLARS OF PLATINUM OR IRIUM TO THE EARTH, THIS TRIGGERING AN ALTERNATE REVOLUTION, OR EVEN A CATASTROPHE, IN WORLD ECONOMY?

COULD HUMANS USE MARS AS A BASE FOR ASTEROID MINING?



In 2008 while revisiting samples from Brown University researchers found hydrogen inside tiny beads of volcanic glass. The preserved hydrogen provided clues to the origins of lunar water: suggesting that it emerged from volcanoes that erupted in an ancient past. It must have come from within the Moon. The discovery indicates that water may have been part of the Moon since its early existence. Since then, multiple locations of water ice on the dark side of the Moon have been confirmed.

Excavation markings on Moon's regolith made with Neil Armstrong's extravehicular gloves in 1969.

Hand stenciled graffiti on the walls of La cueva de las manos, Santa Cruz, Argentina, 7,300 BC - 700 AD.

Homo sapiens is a life form with an endless appetite for expansion and appropriation.

What would a sculpture made in a world where humans have six fingers look like?

CCXXXI

"Digi" comes from Latin digitus, "finger."

There were two main reasons behind Napoleon's choice of September 22, 1793 as the first day of human history. Firstly, the autumnal equinox; secondly it was the day after the Revolutionary Assembly had proclaimed the French Republic. This conflation of the planetary movements and the social affairs, even when imposing an anthropocentric system of time, illustrates the tendency to consider human history as natural history.

Organic and inorganic clay comes from sedimentation over deep time. It recalls pre-urban civilization, since it is the primordial stuff of the world, a stand-in for all matter and all transformative processes on the planet. Clay is life before humans.

The Moon, first perceived and described by Buzz Aldrin as a "magnificent desolation," is now littered with broken-down robots, spacecraft parts and crashed Lunar Vehicles. Anonymous persons' intentions remain there too, including a bible, a falcon feather, a family portrait and a memorial to the 14 dead US and Russian astronauts. This chaos is the remnant of humanity's intimate encounters with the Moon.

After the completing the seminal live-stream of the planting of the United States flag on the surface of the Moon, Armstrong and Aldrin did not return to Earth with the equipment and instead left it behind as Moon detritus.

TV broadcast of the 1969 Apollo 11 Moon Landing Mission

Lucy the skeleton was originally named after the 1967 Beatles song Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.

The Inagination, a proposed amalgamation of all three rovers.

Recycled and recontextualized mutant sculptures

Earth's Orbit

Vernal Equinox

Summer Solstice

Winter Solstice

Autumnal Equinox

1 The sculpture of a toppled David, from the series Two Suns, was fabricated in a temporary workshop in Rosario, Argentina, 2014-2015.

2 First presented at Two Suns, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York, USA, 2015.

3 Exhibited as part of Unpacking, Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles, USA, 2017.

4 Reintroduced at El fin do imaginación, The Base, Miami Beach, USA, 2022.

Curiosity

Lunokhod 2

Perseverance

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