



The Whole Earth: NASA's "Blue Marble" Photograph Fifty Years On

On the fiftieth anniversary of NASA's famed "Blue Marble" photograph (1972), the University of Portsmouth will host a series of public talks, film screenings, workshops and artworks that reassess its historical impact and enduring legacy. As a talismanic icon in US (and global) visual culture, the Blue Marble not only offered a spectacular vision of the Earth seen from space, but quickly intervened in a range of political, cultural and scientific debates. It has subsequently served as a launch pad from which discussions emerge over issues as varied as the environment, the ethics of space travel, geopolitics, global interconnectedness, philosophy and, indeed, the scientific understanding of the earth

itself. From Greenpeace to Gaia to Google Maps, from the tranquillity of outer space to social unrest on Earth, it is an image inextricably associated with a transformative period of US and global history, and an icon that continues to elicit analysis and interrogation.

The Whole Earth brings together historians, scientists, artists and designers in a wide-ranging discussion of the photograph as a historical and contemporary icon. Public talks situate the Blue Marble within wider political, cultural, scientific and technological transformations of the 1960s, 1970s and beyond. Artworks reflect on the photograph's visual legacy, ideological import and

the opportunities and challenges associated with constructing a "Blue Marble for 2022." The events are supported by the US Embassy, London, and the British Association for American Studies and are free to attend. Advance booking is required. Please follow the Eventbrite link to reserve your tickets:

Ticket link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-whole-earth-nasablue-marble-photograph-fifty-years-on-tickets-465737231597>

Any questions should be directed to the events organiser Oliver Gruner:
oliver.gruner@port.ac.uk

7TH DECEMBER



- 02:00** Recording of video podcast for the University of Portsmouth's Pop Matters series. "There's No Planet B: The Blue Marble, Fifty Years On."
Rebecca Janicker
Peter Krämer
Jennifer Levasseur
Chris Pattison
Host: Lincoln Geraghty
Eldon Production area, ground floor, Eldon Building.
- 03:00** Break
- 03:30** Welcome and Introduction.
Oliver Gruner
Eldon Building, room, 110
- 03:45** Introductory remarks and introduction to Jennifer Levasseur
Claudia Maraston
Eldon Building, room, 110
- 04:00** Public Talk: "The Visual Legacy of Apollo Astronaut Photography." + Q&A
Jennifer Levasseur
Eldon Building, room, 110
- 05:15** Break - Coffee/Tea
- 05:45** Response to Jennifer Levasseur and introduction to Robert Poole
James Ryan
Eldon Building, room, 110
- 06:00** Public Talk: "The Whole Earth: Blue Marble, 1972-2022." + Q&A.
Robert Poole
Eldon Building, room, 110
- 07:15** Talks/Q&A end

8TH DECEMBER



- 10:00** Workshop enabling participants to see the galaxy in an immersive environment using a VR headset.
Basiru Amuneni
Room TBC
- 12:00** Small Group Tour of Exhibition (Group 1) followed by lunch.
Simone Gumtau
CCXR SmartStage, Eldon Building
- 01:00** Creative Practitioner Talks, Visual Responses to the Blue marble + Q&A
Daniel Alexander
Rachael Brown
Simone Gumtau
Phevos Kallitsis
Ziggy Koker
Dan McCabe
Eldon Building, room 020
- 03:00** Break + small group tour of the exhibition (Group 2)
Simone Gumtau
CCXR SmartStage
- 04:00** Public Talk (online): "Greening the Blue Marble: Space Data, Visual Culture, and the Birth of an Environmental Icon."
Neil Maher
Oliver Gruner
Online via Zoom. In person attendees can join us in Park Building 3.23.
- 05:15** Break
- 06:00** Public Talk: Working Title: "Earth and Space in Blockbuster Movies, 1968-2019." + Q&A
Peter Krämer
Oliver Gruner
Eldon Building, room 111
- 07:15** Day ends

9TH DECEMBER



- 10:00** Blue Marble Readings, from Drama and Performance Students.
Students from the School of Art, Design and Performance
CCXR SmartStage
- 11:15** Break
- 11:45** Blue Marble Exhibition, works by Fashion and Textiles, Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography and Visual Culture students.
Students from the School of Art, Design and Performance
CCXR SmartStage
- 01:00** Lunch
- 02:00** Public talk: "Gaia as Seen from Above and Within."
Tim Lenton
Nick Popin
Online via Zoom and in Eldon Building, room 110 for those joining in person
- 03:15** Break
- 05:45** Film Screening of 2001: A Space Odyssey with Introduction.
Peter Krämer
Eldon Building, room 111

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