



LOOK DRAW THINK RESPOND

Solstice Arts Centre Learning Resource
for Primary School Children

George Bolster *'YOU ARE MADE OF STARDUST'*

February 8th - 21st March 2020



We can see lots of different types of artwork in the gallery,
but are we really looking?

By actively looking and asking questions we will understand and
learn more about the artists and their work.

Here are some things to do while you are walking around our
gallery today. If you need any help just let us know.

Enjoy!

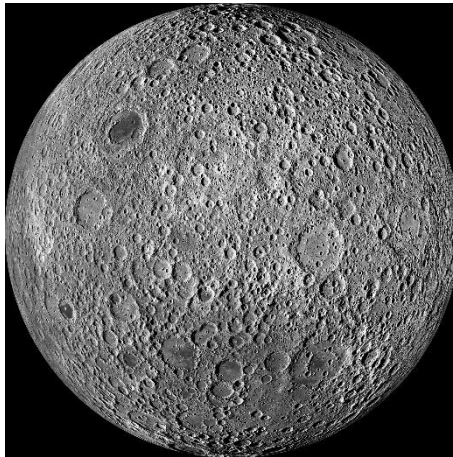
'YOU ARE MADE OF STARDUST'

A solo exhibition by George Bolster
Solstice Gallery

George Bolster is an Irish artist who lives in New York. He has made some new work for this exhibition that he is showing here for the first time. There are also large artworks that he made when he was at SETI (Search for Extra-terrestrial Intelligence Institute) in America and artworks he made after working with the Kepler Mission scientists from NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), Ames in Northern California. Two important artworks in this exhibition are *You Are Made of Stardust* (2019), a hanging mobile showing different images from human evolution and astronomy and *Our Life Mirrored by Two Suns: Kepler 16b* (2018), a tapestry in the form of a three-metre high circle that you walk into to view.

Neil Armstrong, commander of the Apollo 11 moon landing mission said "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" as he stepped onto the moon on the 20th of July 1969. Now in 2020, 50 years since that first moon landing, Bolster asks us what that "giant leap for mankind" really means and how do our beliefs and superstitions affect humankind.

1. LOOK....



The first room you enter in the gallery is a dark space. Why do you think the artist wanted it like this? _____

Watch the large video *'The Moon, McMoons, and The Moon Museum'* for a few minutes.

What do you think the scientists are talking about?

The first art object to be sent to the Moon was on the Apollo Twelve in 1969. If you could send something up onto the moon, what would it be and why?

What else can you see in this room?

What shapes do you see along the wall and on the floor?

What is this artwork on the wall called?

What words can you see written on the floor cushions?

2. DRAW...

Can you find this artwork in the gallery?



What is the name of this artwork?

What materials and tools do you think George Bolster used to make this artwork?

Stand or sit inside this artwork. How does it make you feel?

Do you think you are on Earth or another planet? _____

Find out why the scientists contacted the film maker George Lucas, who made produced the film *Star Wars* (1977)

Fun Fact - Did you know that there have been nearly 4,000 planets found by scientists at NASA, and there are over 100 Billion planets in the Milky Way, and an estimated 40 billion could be earth sized and in the habitable zone that could support life!

The picture all around you in this artwork is what the artist imagines the planet Kepler 16b, which was discovered by SETI scientist Laurence Doyle in September 2011, looks like.

If you discovered a new planet what would it look like?

Draw a picture of it here:

Fun Fact - Seeing that the planet Kepler 16b has two suns (which was thought to be impossible), SETI scientist Laurence Doyle contacted film director George Lucas, to ask if they could name the planet after Luke Skywalker's fictional home planet Tatooine from the film Star Wars (1977) which also had two suns.

What name would you give a newly discovered planet with two suns?

3. THINK...



What type of art is this, a sculpture, painting or mixed media?

What materials is it made from?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Why do you think the artist asks us not to touch this hanging mobile?

Look closely at the hanging panels. What shapes or images do you see?

What is your favourite artwork in this exhibition and why?

Don't forget to take a look at the last artwork in this exhibition on the wall in the café downstairs. What do you see?

To finish your visit to the gallery, find out where the title of this exhibition came from. Discuss with your teacher or family what new title you would give George Bolster's artwork having seen it today.

4. RESPOND.... *Pick an activity to complete on our café, your classroom or at home:*

Activity 1:

Choose one of the following and find out more about it:

- a) NASA
- b) SETI
- c) The Golden Record
- d) The Moon Museum (1969)

Activity 2:

Do you remember the piece you walked into?

This artwork is made up of 9 large hanging tapestries.

- Find out more about tapestry, how it is made and other ways tapestries are used, even in your home!
- Find out what the difference is between weaving and tapestry.
- Try some weaving at home or in school with your teacher. You can find many different ways to start but here is a short video to show you how it can be done: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ByYj5G4-Hc>

Activity 3:

Did you know that there is someone who is a 'Protector of the Planets'?

In one of this exhibitions videos Dr Margaret Race, a biologist at the SETI Institute and an expert in the field of planetary protection, talks about how she protects the planets - not just Earth, but Mars and beyond.

Find out more about why and how she does this.

Activity 4:

Write a story about your visit to Solstice Gallery today.

What kind of art work did you see and who made it?

Who did you meet?

What was your favourite part of the visit?

Thank you for visiting and we hope to see you again soon
For more information on our visual art education programmes contact Deirdre Rogers at
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