

ChildArt





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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

When Dr. Ashfaq Ishaq invited me to be the guest editor of this special edition of *ChildArt* Magazine devoted to Space Art, I was thrilled to accept his invitation. Many of you are probably asking yourselves "What is Space Art?" In this special edition of *ChildArt* you are about to find out and hopefully will be pleasantly surprised. What began with just a handful of artists, myself included, in the late 1970s and early 1980s has taken off and blossomed into an exciting international movement in the world of art. Perhaps your imaginations will come up with some new ideas about combining art, science, and technology. We look forward to your comments, which can be emailed to childart@icaf.org or posted at www.Facebook.com/ICAF.org.

My very best wishes,

Richard Clar
Guest Editor



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A 501(c)(3) charity, the ICAF has been nurturing children's creativity and developing empathy through the arts since 1997. Published since 1998, *ChildArt* is a commercial-free arts learning, self-discovery, and global competency periodical written expressly for 10 to 14 year-olds but useful as a teaching tool for early educators and inspirational for creative individuals of all ages. Subscribe to *ChildArt* online at www.icaf.org.

When a child's creativity is ignored, it could be lost forever. Tax-deductible donations support children's creative and empathic development. You can donate online at www.icaf.org or mail your check to: ICAF, P. O. Box 58133, Washington, DC 20037.

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Foreword and Overview

In this issue, you will discover an outstanding group of women and men from different parts of the world who have broken boundaries in their fields of art, high-level space administration, and education. The stories that they have to tell are both fascinating and inspiring with the potential to allow you to see the world around you, and especially space, in a new and different way. Observing the examples of artwork here, in addition to understanding the philosophy behind them, will provide you with insights into each artist's creative process and imagination.

Speaking of imagination, when I was in Junior High School, (what is now called Middle School), I took a ceramics class in the 8th grade that I was very excited about. Working with clay was appealing. Not long after I started the class, my teacher sent me home with a "failing notice" in hand for my parents to sign. The notice read: "Richard is capable of doing "A" work but will not follow instructions." Instead of being acknowledged for my imagination and creativity and how I expressed myself, I was reprimanded. After high school I enrolled in art school with ceramics as my first major and some of my work was selected for national juried ceramic exhibitions. So don't be afraid to stand up for what you believe in and don't worry about what others might be thinking.

How many of you know about the Italian Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci? He lived between 1452 to 1519 A.D. and is considered to be one of the greatest artists of all time. Not only was he a painter, the Mona Lisa being his most famous painting, he was a mathematician, an astronomer, a musician, an architect, and an inventor. In addition to his great imagination he was also very curious and sought to find out how and why things worked. Some of his inventions were hundreds of years ahead of his time! The design of the modern day helicopter is thought to be based

on the drawings of Leonardo's "Air Screw," a device that would be capable of vertical flight and maneuverability. He also is credited with the first drawings and design for a parachute that was not built and tested until the year 2000 and proven to be correct. These are just a few examples of his ideas which demonstrate that he was a person of great imagination far ahead of his time.

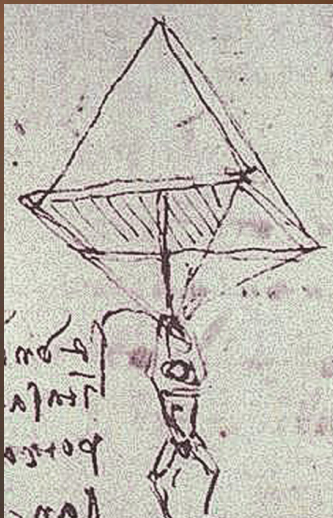
Art may be seen as a universal language that spans both time and culture. Art has the capacity to reach people on a high emotional level without having to rely on words. Oftentimes all that remains after civilizations have crumbled is their art.

Stop and think for a moment. One of you reading this article could be the first person to set foot on Mars—something that you will no doubt see in your lifetime. You are alive at an incredible time in the history of humanity. Never before has there been so much information and opportunity within reach. This is relatively new since the beginning of the World Wide Web in the early 1990s. You have the opportunity through the Internet to access and be inspired creatively by new technologies, materials, data, and imaging techniques. You can create on an inter-disciplinary level combining art with science, technology, music, and dance or wherever you want to make an artistic statement. You can also reach out to almost anyone in the world who has access to the Internet; scientists and engineers can be contacted regarding work they are doing that you find of interest and that may have a novel use in the creation of an artwork. Oftentimes the perspective of an artist can add a new dimension to the work of the scientist or engineer. This can be a very rewarding experience for both.

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

The articles in this issue are outstanding examples of the power of imagination. These artists used their unfettered imaginations to come up with ideas that push the boundaries of art, while at the same time establishing new art paradigms.



Invention designs from da Vinci's sketchbook: left, parachute; above, air screw