



“The Age of Apollo and Beyond”

Luigi Monteferrante, Visual Artist and Author

--- ABSTRACT ---

The style and content of the paintings by Luigi Monteferrante reflect the magic and fascination of space travel from the past, present and future.

The Age of Apollo defined my generation, 1962, and the paintings being exhibited celebrate this new epoch. Its icons both aural and visual, the Race to Space began with a talismanic canto, a quasi-hypnotic chant, a countdown: 10-9-8- ... Visually, our first painting depicts a chamber packed with novel computing machines, and scientists, engineers, researchers, their combined minds, effort and determination applying science to this one mission: putting man into space, all staring upwards to a New Rising; a Rocket blasting off into space, our second picture a celebration of a mighty heretofore unknown energy unleashed, boundless. Lunar Landing – Armstrong's first leap onto the moon's surface, a culminating moment and defining moment in the development and ambition of humankind. Orbit is simply that, the flight of Icarus Unbound; Splash! - recovery at sea, here depicting the astronauts emerging from their landing craft, exhausted, smiling, slightly bewildered, Navy crew pulling the men and their capsule onto the ship. A first for mankind, a cause for celebration for humanity: Cavalcade down the Grand Avenue, streamers and confetti flying from skyscrapers, crowds in the street.

Even as the limitations of Earth were increasingly clear, desperate and despairing, for years, that grandiose project, the brave commanding dream of men and women in space was forgotten, shelved, lost. And yet, the heady vision, the dream, only dormant, re-awakens. Enclaves of driven people survive, have renewed their efforts, and embark on a mission to find new resources, new means, new lands, a second chance on a second earth, one hopes wiser, enlightened, a better world.

Hard science and crushed numbers are the foundations laid down by scientists and researchers in new and concrete terms for what is a dreamer's vision, a refuge, a New Eden, and our next portrait: Earth II; the stepping stone to the Laboratory from which emerges : Homo Sapiens II, or Biomechanica. And Beyond.



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Artist and author, Luigi Monteferrante has produced a significant body of visual art entitled: Figurative Narrations & Modern Mythologies, with several iconic paintings and photography dedicated to space and space travel. As Gang of Tolstoy, manufacturers of ambient music for the savant-garde, he has composed space-related pieces such as The Day We Left Earth, Lullaby for Laptop, Contact Transformer, Orbit, J Project, Mechanic 5. Author of two books, At The Hearth of the Devil's Lair, a novel, and Stiletto Heels & A Pork Pie Hat, a poetry collection, he's had over one hundred poems published in circa 40 magazines, largely American. Originally from Montreal, Canada, Monteferrante lives in Vasto Marina, Italy, where his Bed & Breakfast welcomes earthlings from all walks of life.

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