

Virgin Galactic Artist Residency Proposal

DATE 05.04.15

PROPOSAL

Dear Sir Richard Branson,

I am writing to suggest that Virgin Galactic add an artist residency component to its spaceflight program.

As noted in Virgin Galactic's literature, viewing the earth from the vantage point of space has the potential to create profound cognitive and emotional perspective shifts. In many ways, this is parallel to the pursuit of art itself: to present the familiar, same old world, in new and enlivening ways.

In my own artwork, I've been impacted and inspired by Carl Sagan's Pale Blue Dot photograph and essay. I'm enclosing a pocket sized viewfinder that is my homage to this image, made as an easily accessed reminder of the big picture. Whatever is before you (for example, in the enclosed photo, the New York City skyline) becomes a tiny glimmer of light, transformed into a reminder of the scale of Planet Earth against the vastness of space, like the Pale Blue Dot photograph itself.

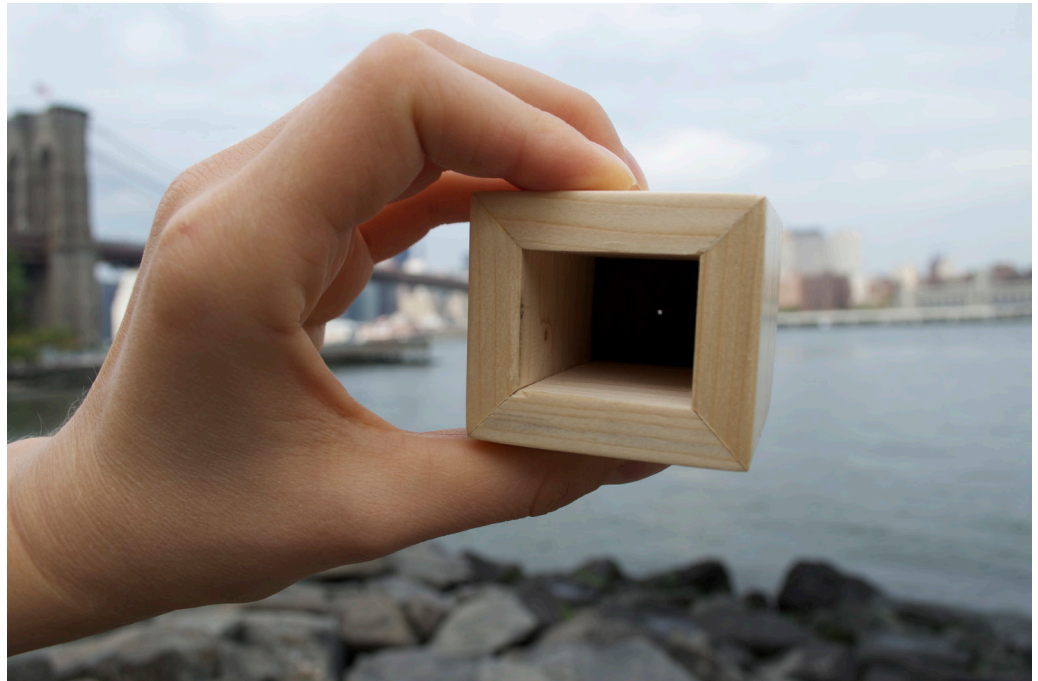
In my research of Cosmic Consciousness phenomena and the Overview Effect, I've come to believe that an artist would be uniquely suited to the important task of processing and translating these life changing experiences, in order to share them with a broad audience. Including an artist on a flight would serve to increase the social impact of commercial space travel.

Of course I am volunteering myself, but would understand if another artist was selected for what I believe to be an important role.

Sincerely,

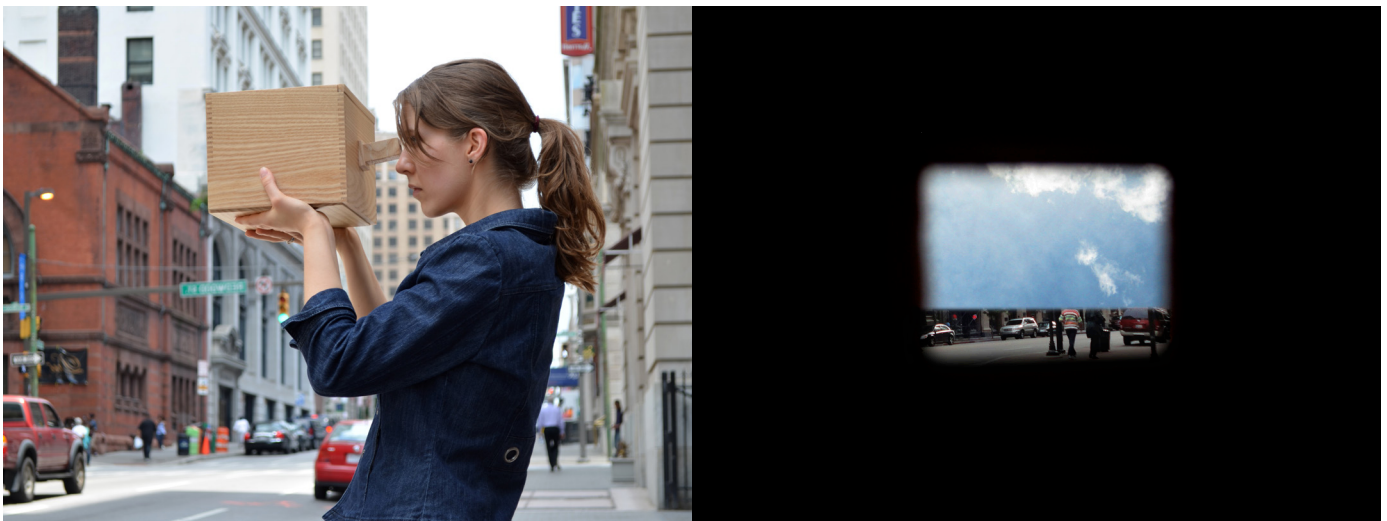
Skye Gilkerson

PORTFOLIO



The Pale Blue Dot Viewfinder

An homage to the Carl Sagan photograph by the same name, made as a pocket sized reminder of the big picture.



Portable Horizon

A travel sized viewing device in which angled mirrors reflect the sky above and expand it downward, erasing everything in between.

PORTFOLIO



Unending

Unending features two videos of the sun filmed at the same moment on opposite sides of the earth: one in Perth, Australia, and the other in the east coast of the US. As the sun rises off the screen in one video, it disappears into the horizon of the other: the same moment is a beginning and an end, depending on perspective.