

Press Release

Space Girls Space Women

Space through the eyes of women

Paris, France, 12 may 2015 – Photojournalism agency Sipa Press and the European Space Agency are proud to present a series of 18 original reportages exploring the way three generations of women view space. *Space Girls Space Women* is the theme of a photo exhibit which will tour the world as well as a multimedia app for smartphones and tablets.

Women journalists meet Space women

Fifty years ago, Valentina Terechkova became the first woman cosmonaut and is still the only woman to have performed a solo journey into space. The European space program has been a reality for more than fifty years and yet, despite the presence of many women in key positions, women are still under-represented in scientific careers, accounting for only 17% of engineers in France. Nowadays, space-related technologies have never been so present in our



daily lives. The spirit of space “conquest” has changed and is now a source of international cooperation. With this in mind, Sipa Press worked with a team of female reporters to meet the girls who have their heads in the stars, female students passionate about space, and women who are today at the heart of the space adventure. From Nairobi to Moscow, from Bangalore to Munich, from the Atacama Desert to the suburbs of Izmir, they have illustrated a woman’s view of space which will culminate in a touring exhibition and a multimedia application.

From dreaming of the stars to exploring space



This photographic investigation depicts three generations of women around the world involved in various ways in space exploration.

Many 10-18 year-old girls around the world dream of becoming astronomers, designing rockets or being the first to land on Mars. Our reporters followed some of them to space camps in the US and Turkey as well as in Biscarosse (France) during a homemade rocket launch day. A new generation of female

students is getting ready for the challenges of the twenty-first century space adventure. In Toronto, Zainab, an 11 year-old schoolgirl already has her ticket to travel in space with Virgin Galactic. Young women such as Anita Vuya in Kenya, Fatoumata Kebe and Camille Dijoux in France have decided to study spatial engineering. Around the globe, women are working on European and international space programs (Herschel and Planck mission, Rosetta, International Space Station, Galileo, Ariane 5...). Whether they are astronauts, engineers, or project managers for satellites, they are on the front line of scientific research on space.

« I am a guardian of the spatial environment »

Nothing predisposed Fatoumata Kebe to become an astronomer. Her passion for space arose from seeing photographs and documentaries. Now aged 29, she is a PhD student at The Paris Observatory and at Pierre and Marie Curie University. *« I work on space debris – the remains of human activity in space. So when we launch rockets, pieces of rocket and old satellites that have finished their missions stay in space. Today the quantity of space debris has in-*



creased so much that we are forced to find ways to eradicate it. I work on modelisation in relation to fragmentation events, i.e. collisions and explosions. I observe how the debris generated evolves. The idea is to stop debris falling to earth and also to prevent it from partially or totally destroying “operational” satellites. I am a guardian of the Space environment.»

« I always wanted to go into space some day »



Currently on a mission on board of the International Space Station, Samantha Cristoforetti, a 37 year-old astronaut with the European Space Agency, is the first European women to have travelled in Space since Claudie Haigneré. She is an aerospace engineer as well a military pilot, having graduated from “L’Ecole de l’Air” at the top of her class in 2005. *«When I was very young, I always wanted to travel into space. I think it’s something really striking in a*

child’s imagination. I don’t remember any particular episode. Maybe it was a culmination of things: my interest in science-fiction, the excellent teachers I’ve had since primary school, my upbringing in the mountains beneath amazing star-studded skies with very clear stars, and then the possibility I had as a child to set out alone whenever I wanted to explore the forest.»

« My aim this year is to replicate Rover Curiosity’s Mars landing »

Passionate about the origin of the universe and the Big Bang, Camille Dijoux, 19, built an experimental rocket with her space society. Last summer she took part in C’Space, an event organized by CNES enabling young scientists to launch their own homemade rockets from military base in Biscarosse (France). *« My aim this year is to replicate Rover Curiosity’s Mars landing, two years ago. To this end, we have an experimental launcher for transporting something.*



That something is a quadcopter, a small drone with four blades, which will be released and then stabilize before it conveys something groundwards. For now it is a two-year project. This year we shall test the experimental rocket launcher Jericho.»

« The first reason I always wanted to get into space was that my name means "star". Anuradha is a star. When I found the meaning of my name, I naturally wanted to see where my star was. »



T.K. Anuradha, 54, leads the Indian GSAT communication satellites program. Together with her colleague N. Valarmathi, who led the launch of the first radar observation satellite developed by India, they embody a generation of scientists committed to making spatial technology available to the wider public. « I think I must have been around 7-8 years old at the time Apollo first landed on the moon. It was something very exciting. And

probably, the first reason I always wanted to get into space was that my name means "star". Anuradha is a star. When I found out it the meaning of my name, I naturally wanted to see where my star was. I would be looking at the sky and the stars, looking at constellations and identifying them. That's how it started blossoming. I think though the most important thing to us was Apollo, when it launched...»

Partners

This project, implemented by production manager Benoit Delplanque (Sipa Press) and astrophysicist Fiorella Coliolo (ExoWorld), has been made possible thanks to the commitment of founding partner ESA. CNES, the NEREUS network, La Cité de l'espace, and the GSA are also participating in this co-production. Universcience co-produced the multimedia application with an ESTIM grant. *Space Girls Space Women* is also supported by the network Women in Aerospace Europe (WIA-E).



Practical Information

Website « Space Girls Space Women »: www.spacewomen.org

Exhibition « Space Girls Space Women », Paris, 18 June – 1 November 2015:

- Musée des arts et métiers, 60 rue Réaumur, Paris 3^e, free entry. Tuesday to Wednesday from 10.00 to 18.00, Thursday from 10.00 to 21.30, Friday to Sunday from 10.00 to 18.00.
- Fence of the Jardin de l'Observatoire, 98 boulevard Arago, Paris 14^e.

The application « Space Girls Space Women » for smartphones and tablets related to the exhibition will be available from the 22nd of June 2015 on iOS and Android. The application includes educational features, quizzes, testimonies and resources.

We are available should you require visuals or an interview with the spokesperson for this project.

Press Contact

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Women behind the lens

Sipa Press has formed a multi-cultural team composed exclusively of female photographers to produce this project : Laurence Geai (France), Magda Rakita (Royaume-Uni), Audra Melton (États-Unis), Eva Parey (Espagne), Holly Pickett (Turquie), Jyothy Karat (Inde), Anya Chibisova (Canada), Martina Cristofani (France), Nichole Sobbecki (Kenya), Mariana Eliano (Argentine), Anne-Laure Cahen (France).

About Sipa Press

Created in 1973 by Göskin Sipahioglu, today Sipa Press is one of the main photojournalism agencies in the world. Sipa Press covers all world events thanks to its global network of over 600 correspondents, and exclusive distribution agreements with foreign agencies including Associated Press (AP), Rex Features, Olycom, and News International. Sipa Press has an exceptional archive collection of over 25 million photos.

About the European Space Agency (ESA)

The European Space Agency (ESA) is Europe's gateway to space. Its mission is to shape the development of Europe's space capabilities and ensure that investment in space continues to deliver benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world. ESA is an international organisation with 20 Member States. By coordinating the financial and intellectual resources of its members, it can undertake programmes and activities far beyond the scope of any single European country.

www.esa.int

About the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)

Since its creation in 1962, the French space agency (CNES - Centre national d'études spatiales) has made knowledge-sharing one of its main missions and has organised many campaigns to raise public awareness amongst the general public, school children and students. In house, CNES is focusing in particular on the role of women in its workforce. Over 30% of its engineers and management team are women compared with the national average of 25%. In 1996, Claude Haigneré's first flight into space put women in the spotlight, promoting and supporting their role in scientific field.

www.cnes.fr

About the Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies (NEREUS)

Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies - is an initiative of 24 regions and 40 associate members with the common objective to spread the use and understanding of space technologies across Europe for the benefit of regions and their citizens. As voice of European Regions, NEREUS serves as an advocate for regions on matters of space uses as well as a direct channel to the regional users of space technologies (such as local authorities, SMEs, universities and research institutes and citizens). Attracting young people and the wider public to space showing the broad range of study as well as career opportunities associated with space which is vital to the network community.

www.nereus-regions.eu

About the Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency (GSA)

The GSA is contributing to one of the most important initiatives ever undertaken by the European Union: the EU satellite navigation programmes. The GSA is dedicated to ensuring that these programmes, Galileo and EGNOS, bring direct benefits to Europe and European citizens. At the core of this mission is our staff. Gender equality is a key value underpinning the work of the Agency, the GSA is a proud partner of the Space Girls, Space Women initiative.

www.gsa.europa.eu

About the Cité de l'espace

Whether you are young or old, simply curious or a true enthusiast, Cité de l'espace will take you to the Gates of Infinity and the Extra-Ordinary! Discover genuine spacecraft, train like an astronaut, travel to the confines of the Cosmos, admire treasures from Space and uncover the secrets of Space... with 2,500m² of constantly renewed exhibitions, 5 hectares (12 acres) of gardens, IMAX 3D cinema with a giant screen, Planetarium with simulators, never has it been easier to discover Space and the wonders of the Universe!

www.cite-espace.com

About Universcience

The aim of Universcience is to make the sciences accessible to all and to provide a boost for the scientific and technical culture through a multiple range of exhibitions, digital tools and innovative services. In the framework of the French State's "Future Investments" project, Universcience's ESTIM-Numérique project sets out to increase and share digital content through a co-production grant. Co-productions concerned include French-language audiovisual and multimedia works assisting in the diffusion of the scientific and technical culture.

www.universcience.fr

About the Musée des arts et métiers and the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (CNAM)

The Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (CNAM) is a major public scientific, technical, cultural and professional institution which is dedicated to lifelong learning since its foundation by Henri Grégoire in 1794. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research its three missions are: adult vocational training, technological research and innovation and the dissemination of scientific and technical culture. The latter is provided by the Musée des arts et métiers, a department of Cnam. The mission of the Musée des arts et métiers is to heighten awareness of National Patrimony through the progress of science and technology as well as contributing to the development of historical research as well as scientific and technical training. To this end it organises temporary exhibitions, educational as well as cultural events and the edition of various publications.

www.cnam.fr

www.arts-et-metiers.net

About the Observatoire de Paris

The Observatoire de Paris is a major research centre for the science of the Universe: it is one of the most active in the world in this discipline. Its research ranges from astronomy and astrophysics to space technology as well as time and frequency metrology. It furnishes various kinds of advanced training, some of which are unique in France. The Observatoire de Paris pursues an active policy of scientific popularization, for all age levels.

www.obspm.fr