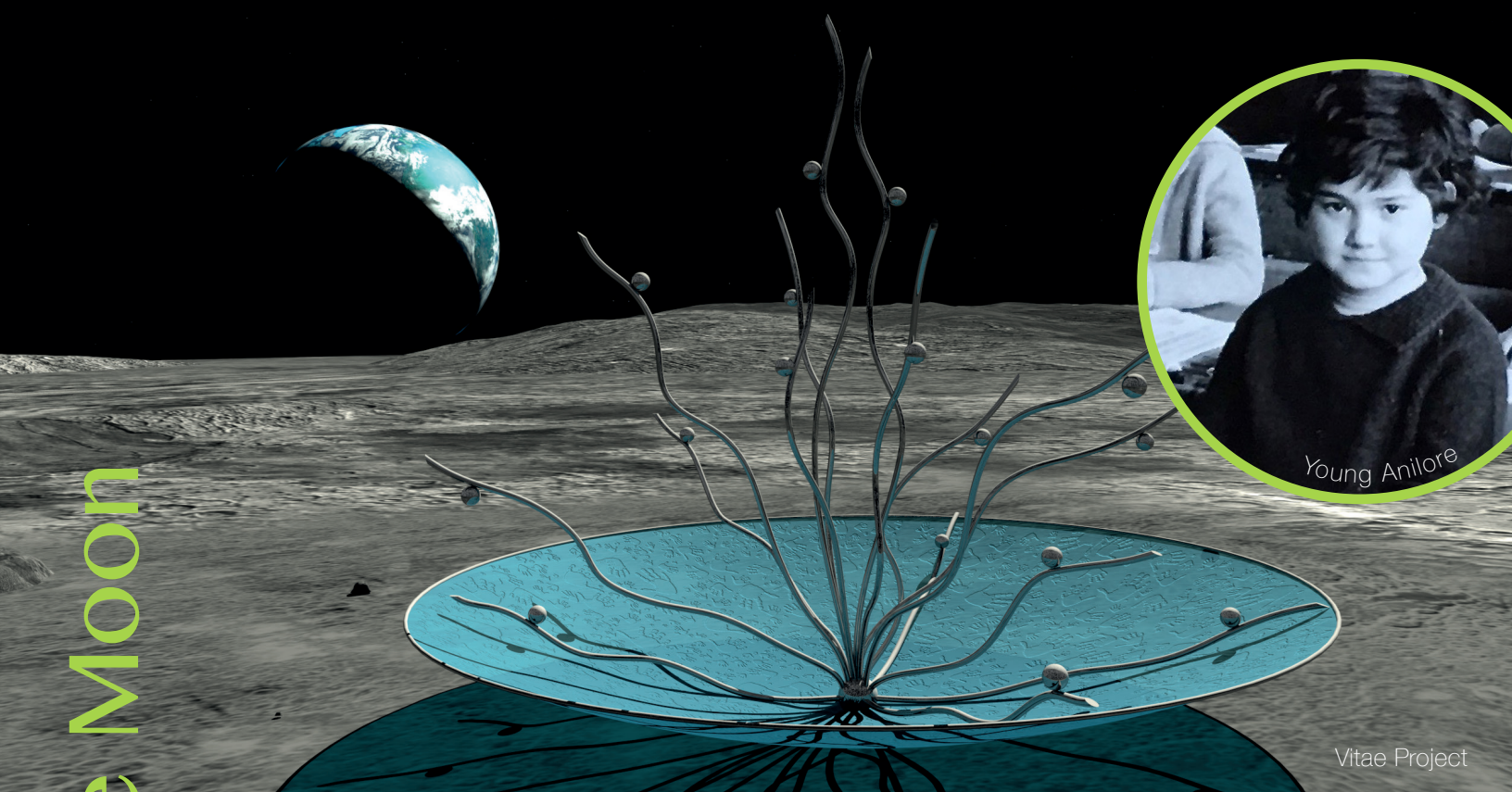


ChildArt



A Sculpture on the Moon

by Anilore Banon



Vitae Project



Some people express their feelings with words, I express mine through sculpting.

My passion is to create sculptures that I install in parks, towns, even on the beach or in the sea. This time I chose the Moon! I believe no one should tell you something is impossible to do. It might be difficult but never impossible. It is only impossible until it's actually done. To the word "Impossible" I prefer the word "Challenge".

A few years ago, I created a sculpture about Courage. I named it "The Braves". It weighs more than 20 tons. I wanted to install it on a beach, with the tides coming in and out and specifically on the historical D-Day landing site: "Omaha Beach" in France. I was told relentlessly it was impossible. And yet, it has been installed on Omaha Beach in France for 10 years, to pay tribute to the heroes of D-Day who fought for our freedom.



The Braves"on Omaha beach. Image credit: Anilore Banon

Today, I am working on an even bigger challenge: Installing a sculpture on the Moon!

The "Vitae Project."

Some people could find this crazy, I know, but even this can be done if the right people get together. To turn my project into a reality, I had to work with scientists and integrate within my creativity the realities of Space and of the Moon. If you can convince the right people, if you can share your enthusiasm, and if you work really hard, you can bring together a chain of people that will make the impossible possible. Forever, Man has dreamt to go on the Moon. In 1969 American astronauts left the first footprints on the moon. We could now install a "living" work of Art that will carry millions of hand prints. Even yours! We could all take this incredible trip together to the Moon. I conceived this sculpture as a flower that would open up at night and close during the day. A "living" sculpture, like us, that moves, like us. A large corolla carrying imprints of all the hands collected on earth. From the center grows out long stems representing people, you, me, all of us. All united in the middle with the two tallest in the center holding a precious stone: the source of life.

During the day, it closes up like a cocoon, protecting everyone inside and during the night it quietly opens up so all the people inside can stretch out. Then we will be able to see it from Earth with a little telescope. To bring a touch of humanity on the Moon, isn't it a beautiful dream? Let's try to make it come true together.

The alliance of Art and Science

Great scientists have been working for the last 3 years to make this project possible. They found a solution for each problem. It is not so simple to send a sculpture to the Moon. Over there, it is very hot during the day: +150°C and very cold at night: -150°C. A day or a night on the Moon lasts as long as 14 of our days on Earth.

A material with a memory

The metals and materials I use every day are no longer appropriate for that type of environment. To make the sculpture, I had to find a material that could sustain such temperatures and be light enough to be transported in a rocket while taking as little space as possible. We finally found it, it is called "shape memory alloy".

You give this material the shape you want, in a special oven and it remembers it. You can then compress it and as soon as it reaches a given temperature it goes back to its original shape. As of today, a maquette of the sculpture went to the stratosphere. We had put on it all the handprints of the team which worked on the project for 3 years. The sculpture was sent with a meteorological balloon about 40 km above the Earth. Thanks to the engineers' calculations and to the GPS which they had installed on the sculpture, we got it back when it returned to Earth.

Put your handprint on the Moon

The next step will take VITAE even higher, to the International Space Station, before it ends its great journey on the moon. You can join us in this adventure! Take a picture of the palm of your hand, make sure to put a white sheet of paper behind it when you take the picture so we can clearly see it, and send it to me at contact@vitaeproject.com with your name.



Mission PATCH 3