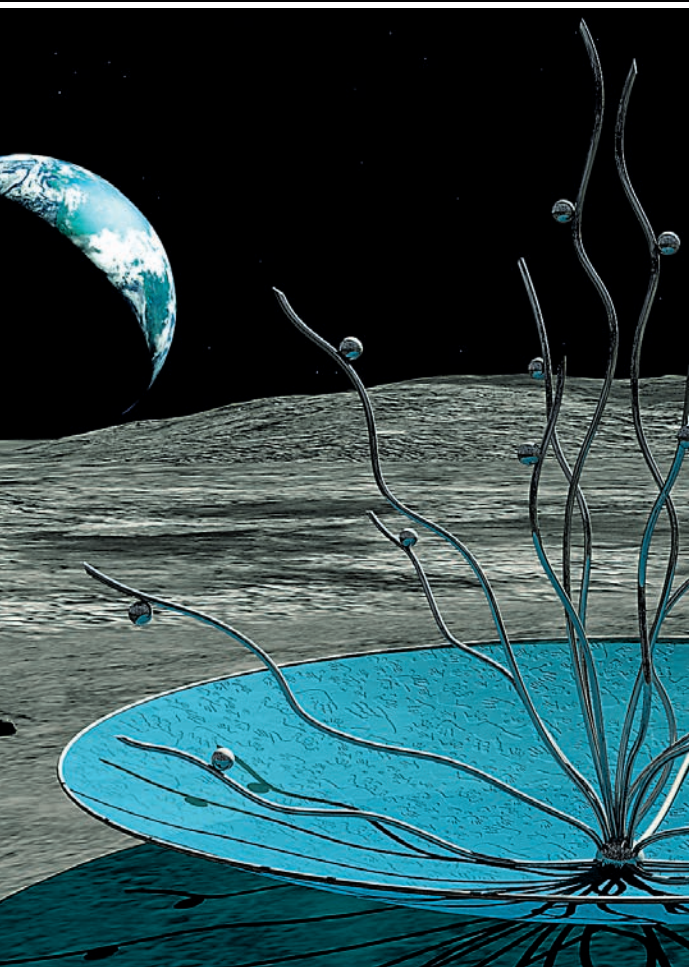
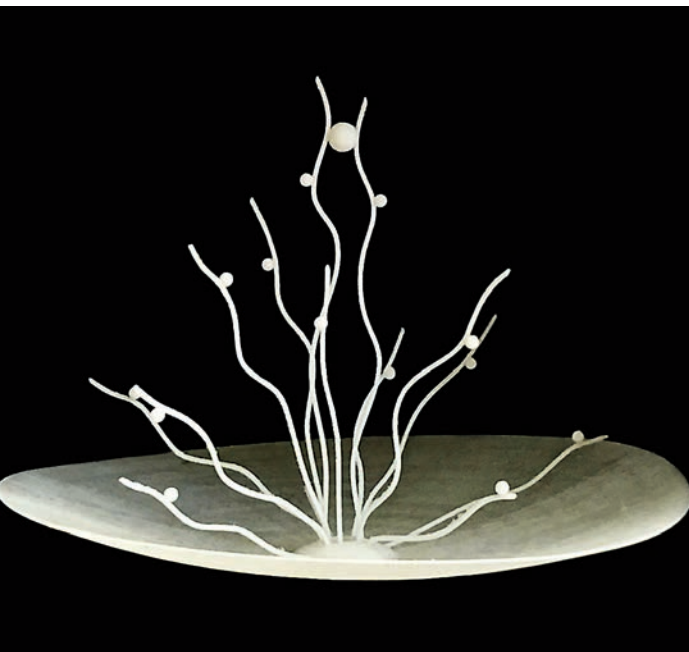


Anilore Banon / Portrait

Nothing is impossible...not even a work of art on the Moon? French artist Anilore Banon teases our dreams by sending a monumental sculpture into space. A cutting-edge project *Vitae* merges science and art, the realisation of an artistic odyssey.



Anilore Banon's artistic approach blends the dreamy sensibility of an artist with the responsibility of the socially conscious. One of her major works, *The Braves*, was the official sculpture of the 60th anniversary in commemoration of the World War II Normandy landings. Her latest project, however, dreams of no national borders. The *Vitae* project is well under its way to being mankind's first artistic voyage to the Moon. After a series of events with the objective of collecting a million human handprints, Banon digitises and reduces them in order to inscribe them on the sculpture. The sculpture is 'alive', moving to the rhythm of the sun's heat, closing during the day and opening at night. With variations in temperature that can range between -170°C and +120°C, the onboard electronics had to survive extreme conditions. *Vitae* will also be equipped with electronics for visibility from Earth at selected moments. Banon is collaborating with astrophysicists at CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) and other specialists such as the technical team at *Dassault Systèmes*. Calling herself 'a nomadic blacksmith dealing with titans of steel,' the artist describes this groundbreaking project.



How did the idea come about?

I had the idea to create a participative artwork uniting a great number of people that would allow young generations to dream and dare without fear of the future. The location for the installation had to be universal, to connect instantly with all generations, cultures and geographical locations. I was talking with people at NASA about their project to 'bring life' on the Moon, a NASA-manned mission, and it came to me that no real life could be called such without art...I had then and there found the perfect location for my project! We are all related to the Moon, from the first people on this earth to the last one, every culture has a mythology with the moon. Our relation to the Moon is emotional. It connects us to our childhood, when everything was possible...

Of all the things to engrave—why handprints?

Handprints are at the origin of the *Vitae* project, because it was the first trace of humanity on the Lascaux caves some 18,000 years ago. Our hands carry our lifeline; they are the natural link between two human beings, in a gesture to give, to share, to help, or to build.

What was the most exciting part of this project?

The numerous exchanges with the scientists and engineers. I enjoy art and science collaborations, inspired by the quote by Albert Einstein: 'Science and art are the only effective messengers for peace. They tear down national barriers.'

What was the greatest challenge?

To take my mind away from the Moon! You can get addicted to the Moon!

What stage of the project most made you dream?

The stage right now and for the year to come, collecting the hand prints around the world; it is a true artistic gesture, connecting one-on-one with people around the world.

What is the inspiration for the branch-like form of the sculpture?

You will find this 'branch-like form' often in my work. They are people to me, people in a vital impulse, a line of force.

What are three words that describe the most important ideas in this project?

Life. Together. No Limit.

For more information, visit
www.anilorebanon.net
www.myhand.vitaeproject.com

For more on art and sculpture, visit luxuryculture.com, the web's first high-gloss window into the world of luxury.