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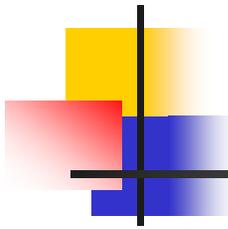
How we talk and write about Space

Vienna, October 2007



Michael Huang, April 2005:

It's late at night, and you receive an urgent phone call from the White House. "The President wants to know why we should continue to put humans in space. He wants a one-page summary on his desk by tomorrow morning." What do you write?



NASA Homepage: Mission

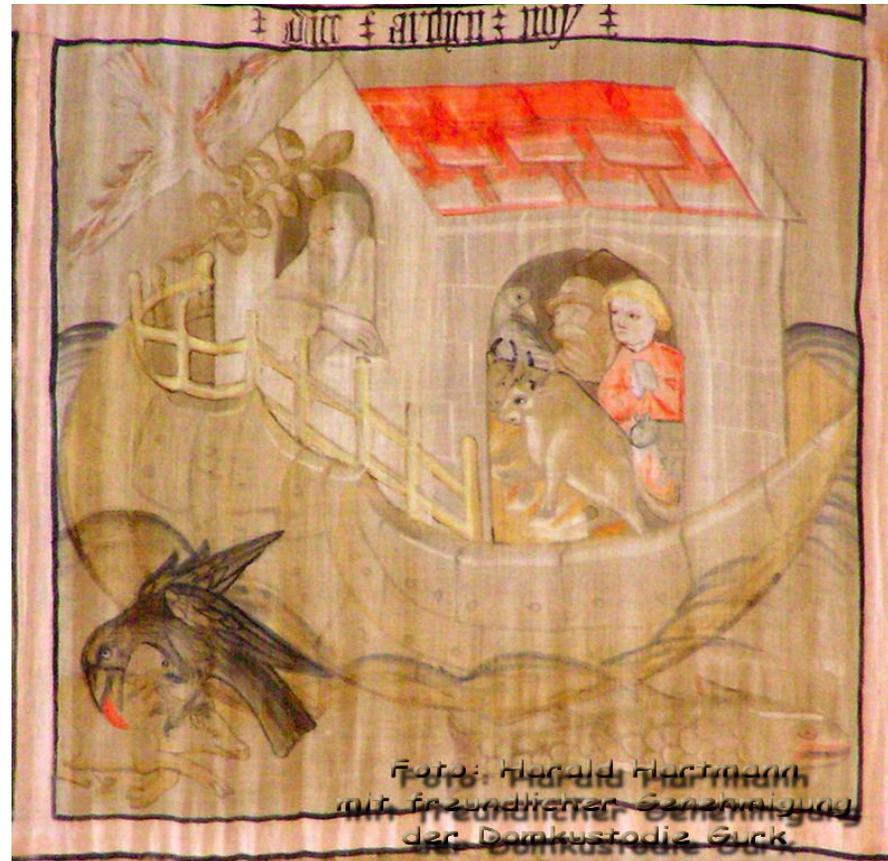
The more we know about the universe, the more we learn about ourselves. From satellites monitoring our planet's resources to orbiting observatories monitoring deep space, every NASA mission embodies the spirit of discovery.



Concepts and their Object

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the more we **learn** about **ourselves**.
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1. Knowledge: Noah's Ark – Redefining humans' Space

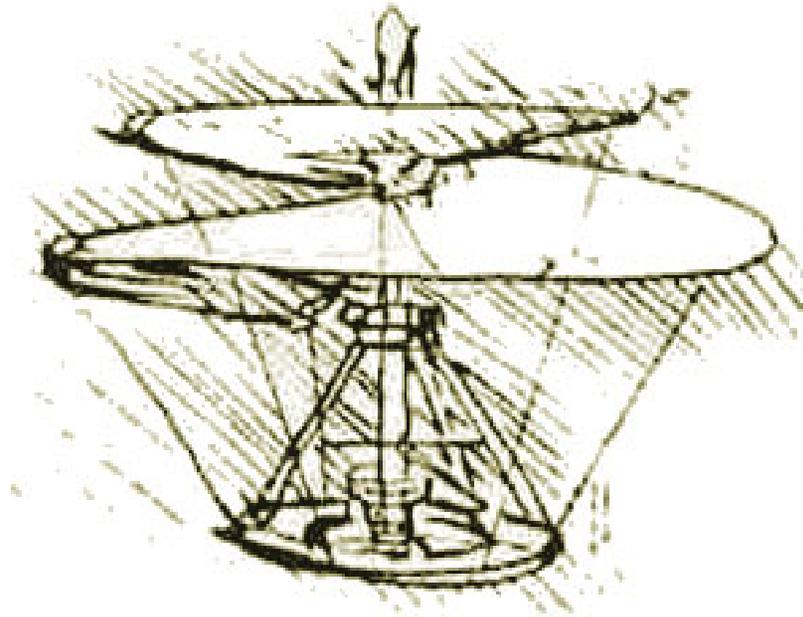


1. Knowledge: The Tower of Babel – Humans to Space



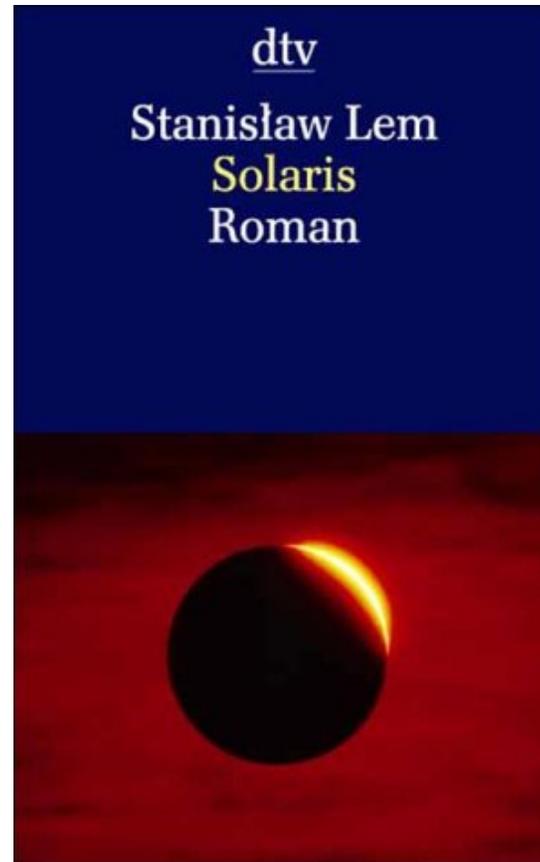
2. Learning:

Da Vinci: Helicopter (1493)



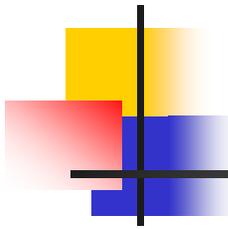
3. Ourselves

Stanislaw Lem: Solaris (1968)



4. Embodiment: The Man in the Moon





5. Spirit: Roy Bradbury, The Illustrated Man (1951)

And as a body dies when the brain ceases functioning, the spirit of the ship was dying. Now all of space was silent. They were all alone. Their voices had died like echoes of the words of God spoken and vibrating in the starred deep, the shards of the kaleidoscope that had formed a thinking pattern for so long, hurled apart.

Conclusion:

The necessity of awareness

- Critically self-reflective use of concepts in talking and writing about space to 'shatter the kaleidoskope' of self-reproducing patterns of thought
- Entering into »the borderline work of culture« (Homo Bhabha 1994) by recognizing alterity