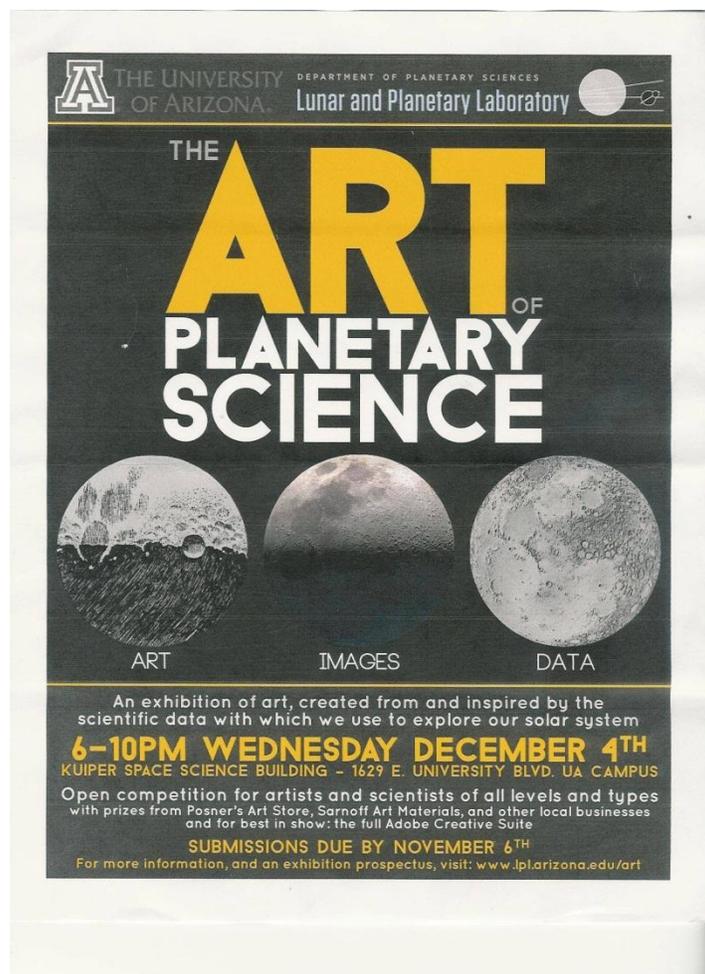


Geology meets art in Tucson

By Bob Kamilli

A few months ago, a few graduate students in the University of Arizona Department of Planetary Sciences decided that it would be cool to have an exhibition of science-related art. So I entered some works that have been hanging in my office and lab for many years.



Then the Tucson Museum of Art found out about the exhibition and decided to select the best works for a special exhibition of their own. In the late 1970's, when my mother was actively painting, I asked her to make an oil painting from a photomicrograph I had taken. Its title is "Photomicrograph of Sillimanite Schist with Zircon Crystal and Crossed Polarizers".



That painting was chosen for inclusion in the museum art exhibit. The two paintings on the right are by my mother.



I am most definitely not an artist, but my mother was. She is the person who taught me to see art and beauty everywhere. The label for my mother's two pieces said, in part, "Marie E. Kamilli (1919-2006), born Philadelphia, PA. Homemaker who encouraged her son to become a scientist. Despite graduating from a large public high school with highest honors, she was unable to attend college because of the Great Depression. In her later years, she was able to pursue her early passion for art."

I also entered the following piece, which was not chosen for exhibit at the Tucson Museum of Art. I call it "Twelve Orders of Magnitude Difference". Description: A comparison of the famous "Earthrise" photograph (taken by William Anders during the Apollo 8 mission in 1968) with a photomicrograph of sodium acetate with crossed polarizers.



The exhibit by the Department of Planetary Sciences was considered so successful that it was decided that it should be an annual event, so go through your photos and other science-related works of art and be ready for next year!