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COMPETITION FOR OUTER SPACE RESOURCES Dr Namrata Goswami

ARTWORK BY WOLFGANG WIDMOSER, AUSTRIAN SURREALIST ARTIST

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View through a plane window as it approaches Bali, Indonesia.

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Competition for Outer Space Resources Dr Namrata Goswami

Dr. Namrata Goswami is an author, strategic analyst, and consultant on counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism, alternate futures, and great power politics. Earlier, she was Senior Fellow at the United States Institute for Peace (USIP) and Research Fellow at the Institute for Défense Studies and Analyses (IDSA). She is the recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship. Currently, she is working on two book projects, one on the topic of 'Ethnic Narratives', to be published by Oxford University Press, and the other on the topic of 'Great Power Ambitions' to be published by Lexington Press, an imprint of Rowman and Littlefield.



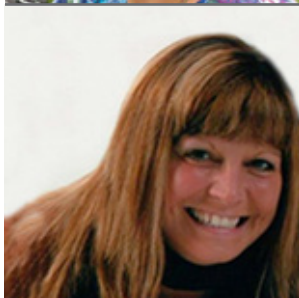
Portraits of Ubud Wolfgang Widmoser

Born in Munich 1954. 1973 studied with Ernst Fuchs and Salvador Dali. 1970 he painted still-lives in Switzerland introducing curved mirrors which reflect objects in most surprising ways and led to a proposal for the –elegant Universe. Moving to Tuscany in 1980 landscape and atmospheric effects crystallized to intense, portraits of nature. Since 1984 living in Bali. In his search for the- abstract. Papua New Guinea – Warriors combine the archaic with the futuristic. Wolfgang's motto – aesthetic = ethic – points to places where humans experience the Good, the True and the Beautiful.



Treasures of our bogs Tina Claffey

Tina Claffey is an award winning nature photographer and author of 'Tapestry of Light-Ireland's bogs & wetlands as never seen before' released in October 2017. For almost 10 years, she lived and worked in pristine wilderness areas in Botswana, and this experience awakened in her an appreciation of the natural world of Ireland. Her observations and unique perspective of the flora and fauna of the unspoiled raised bogs and wet woodlands of the Irish midlands are celebrated in her work.



Imagine Peace Katie Costello

Katie Costello is a Hubbard, Ohio, USA native. Her greatest love and career is working with animals and she has surrounded herself with all aspects of helping them. She is the owner of *The Canine Campus Training and Wellness Center* and has 2 non-profit organizations one co-founded with her father. When her father died of Agent Orange on July 8, 2015, Katie expanded her humanitarianism to helping victims of Agent Orange. Her first trip to Pleiku, Vietnam (where her father served), working with VAVA, occurred in April of 2017.



An Irish Fairy Tale Barry Delaney

Barry Delaney is inspired by the colour, energy and DIY attitude of punk. He fled the grey Dublin of the early 80s, to travel the world and fell in love with film photography. Eked a living doing various manual and technical jobs. Twenty years later, Barry began taking pictures again. It started on the streets of Dublin, his home town, and has since moved on to Galway and other parts of rural Ireland. In 2008, Barry won the TG4 Irish photographer of the 21st Century. Barry has had 4 solo exhibitions in Dublin, whilst also self-publishing three books



Happy Mother's Day Mikyoung Cha

Mikyoung Cha is a graduate in Oriental Painting from Hyosung Women's University, Daegu, South Korea. She has participated in a number of group art exhibitions in South Korea and Japan. In 2016 she took up photography – the camera becoming her paint brush. This globe trotting photographer is a regular contributor to Live Encounters Magazine.



Arap Koftesi Ozlem Warren

International cooking teacher and Turkish culinary expert Ozlem Warren is a native of Turkey, lived there and extensively travelled for 30 years. She has been teaching wholesome, delicious Turkish cookery in the US, Jordan, Istanbul and England. Her recipes have been published in the local media in England, Hurriyet and Sabah national daily newspapers in Turkey. Ozlem also took part at the "Turkish Chefs of the World", "Dunyanin Turk Sefleri" TV program aired at TRT, National Turkish TV channel and in 37 countries.

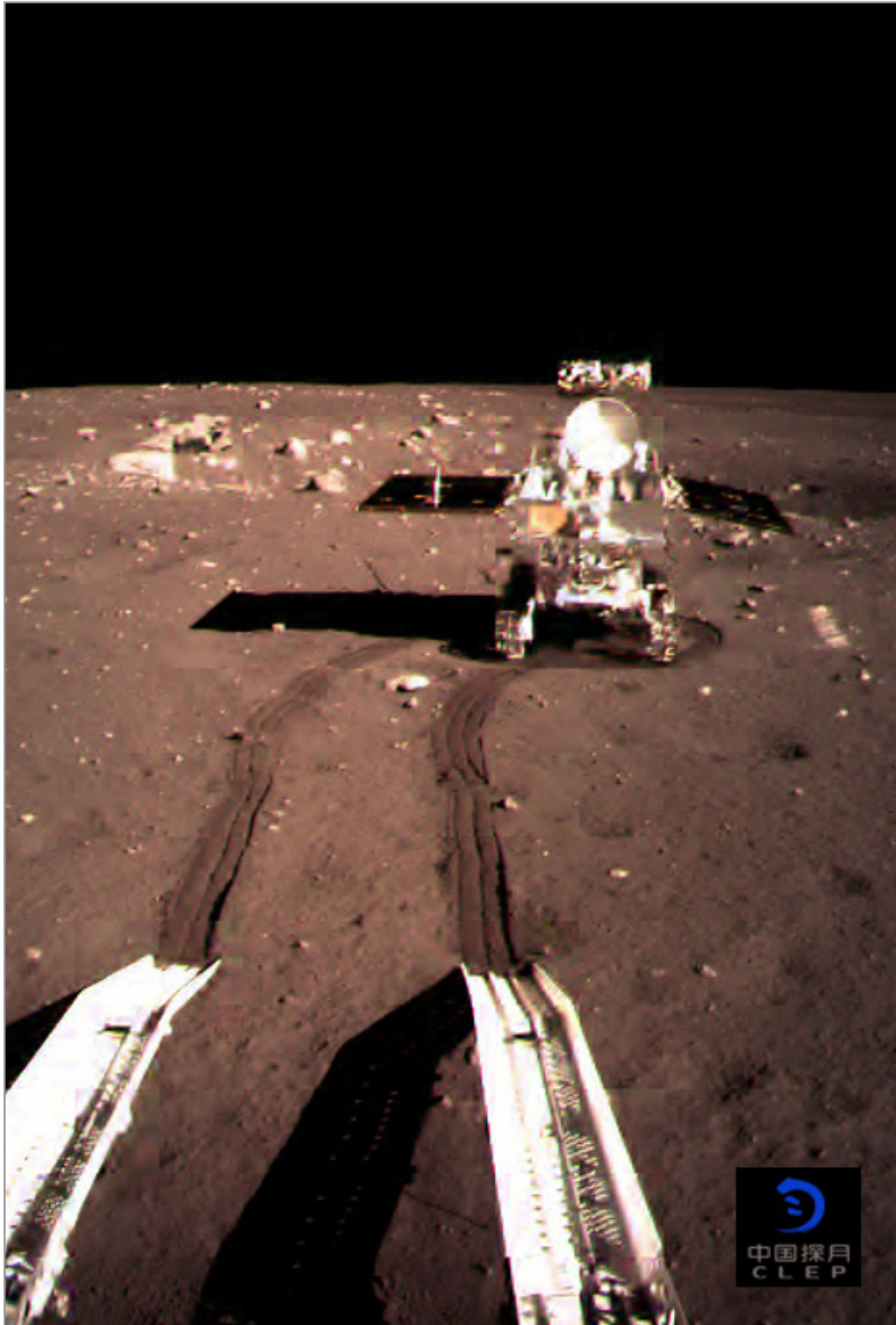


Wat Phra That Doi Suthep Mark Ulyseas

Ulyseas has served time in advertising as copywriter and creative director selling people things they didn't need, a ghost writer for some years, columnist of a newspaper, a freelance journalist and photographer. In 2009 he created *Live Encounters Magazine*, in Bali, Indonesia. March 2016 saw the launch of its sister publication *Live Encounters Poetry & Writing*. He is the author of three books: *RAINY – My friend & Philosopher*, *Seductive Avatars of Maya – Anthology of Dystopian Lives* and *In Gethsemane: Transcripts of a Journey*.



Dr. Namrata Goswami is an author, strategic analyst, and consultant on counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism, alternate futures, and great power politics. Earlier, she was Senior Fellow at the United States Institute for Peace (USIP) and Research Fellow at the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA). She is the recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship. Currently, she is working on two book projects, one on the topic of 'Ethnic Narratives', to be published by Oxford University Press, and the other on the topic of 'Great Power Ambitions' to be published by Lexington Press, an imprint of Rowman and Littlefield.



The China National Space Administration (CNSA) - Chang'e 4 mission landed on the dark side of the moon. Yutu-2 ("Jade Rabbit-2") rover disembarked from the lander to begin exploring the lunar surface. Photograph courtesy CNSA.

DR NAMRATA GOSWAMI THE COMPETITION FOR OUTER SPACE RESOURCES AND THE ROLE OF MIDDLE POWERS

Outer-space is changing given the visible and growing discourse in developed nations about trillions of dollars of space-based resources, waiting to be harvested, to include Platinum, Titanium, Solar Power.

This discourse is a departure from the Cold War 'Space Race' between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R, when getting somewhere first in space was critical for purposes of prestige and reputation.¹ Today, the space discourse aims to develop competence in technology to generate profit by investing in future projects like Space-based Solar Power (SBSP), asteroid mining, and lunar presence. Space is becoming as much a private sector enterprise as it is state driven. U.S. based companies like *SpaceX*, *Blue Origin*, *Planetary Resources*, *Deep Space Industries*, Chinese-based companies like *OneSpace*, *Tencent*, *LandSpace*, and Indian based companies like *ReBeam*, *Bellatrix*, *TeamIndus*, *Astrome*, are pushing for legislation that enables private sector investments in space

Consequently, the U.S. Congress passed the "U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act" in 2015, offering its citizens ownership over space resources on a 'first come, first serve' principle.² In China, there is interest in establishing similar legislation. India released its draft "Space Utilities Bill" in 2017 to regulate and encourage private investments.³ Significantly, China is investing in space resource capabilities like asteroid mining, SBSP, especially aimed at making China the most advanced country in space technology by 2045.⁴ India follows close behind, with its former President Abdul Kalam stating that only after harvesting space resources can India truly develop. In 2018, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed India to a human space program aimed at accomplishing feats leading to permanent space presence.⁵



With Commerce follows Military Innovation

History informs us that commerce led to military innovation for maintaining free access and safe passage. The development of the British Royal Navy and the U.S. Navy, including the reestablishment of the *Marine Corps*, whose main task was to fight the Barbary pirates in Tripoli and Algiers, reflects this.⁶ With growing commercial interests and military assets in space, Chinese President Xi Jinping directed China's Strategic Support Force (SSF), established in 2015, tasked with 'space and cyber', to innovate and develop to support China's growing presence in space.⁷ In response, U.S. President Donald Trump announced the establishment of a 'U.S. Space Force' in June 2018, to respond to the rising challenges of space dominance/industrialization, and military innovations by China and Russia.⁸ The Pentagon released a report soon after, detailing how the 'Space Force' will be established.⁹ The absence of clear regulatory frameworks, anticipating this space-based economy, implies the need for additions to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty (OST) that does not offer clear provisions in this regard. Luxembourg is the only country to establish legislation to regulate asteroid mining and create a sovereign fund that can attract private space companies to set up shop.¹⁰ However, to argue that this growing economic competition would lead to militarization of outer-space is missing the point. Space is already militarized with military space satellites, Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) paths, and Anti-Satellite Weapons (ASAT) technology. Wang Cheng, a Chinese intellectual, noted in an article titled, "The US Military's 'Soft Ribs,' A Strategic Weakness," in 2000 that, "For countries that can never win a war with the U.S. by using the method of tanks and planes, attacking the U.S. space system may be an irresistible and most tempting choice."¹¹ China's 2007 ASAT test (a decade ago), alerted the world to potential Chinese threats to their satellites.

Significantly, the OST ensures that "States shall not place nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies or station them in outer space in any other manner".¹²

While the OST states that "Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means,"¹³ it also affirms in article 1 that "Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and use by all States..."¹⁴ and further requires that "The activities of non-governmental entities in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty..."¹⁵

Wang Cheng, a Chinese intellectual, noted in an article titled, "The US Military's 'Soft Ribs,' A Strategic Weakness," in 2000 that, "For countries that can never win a war with the U.S. by using the method of tanks and planes, attacking the U.S. space system may be an irresistible and most tempting choice."¹¹ China's 2007 ASAT test (a decade ago), alerted the world to potential Chinese threats to their satellites.

In that context, the U.S. claims that asteroid mining constitutes merely 'use' and involves no claim of sovereignty over either space or a celestial body. To comply with the provision of authorization and continuing supervision, the U.S. Congress has written laws stating, "A United States citizen engaged in commercial recovery of an asteroid resource or a space resource under this chapter shall be entitled to any asteroid resource or space resource obtained, including to possess, own, transport, use, and sell the asteroid resource..."¹⁶ Similarly, Luxembourg's law states, "authorisation shall be granted to an operator for a mission of exploration and use of space resources for commercial purposes upon written application to the ministers."¹⁷ The International Institute of Space Law Position Paper states, "Therefore, in view of the absence of a clear prohibition of the taking of resources in the Outer Space Treaty one can conclude that the use of space resources is permitted. Viewed from this perspective, the new United States Act is a possible interpretation of the Outer Space Treaty. Whether and to what extent this interpretation is shared by other States remains to be seen."¹⁸

That said, conflict could break out if two countries (say U.S. and China) arrive at an asteroid rich in resources and claim ownership based on 'first come, first serve'. What then?¹⁹ There is no established regulatory authority that can adjudicate in such a dispute.



Illustration Pixabay.com

Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX has pushed for plans to colonize Mars stating, “It’s important to get a self-sustaining base on Mars because it’s far enough away from earth that [in the event of a war] it’s more likely to survive than a moon base.”²³



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launches the U.S. Air Force's first GPS III satellite. Photograph courtesy SpaceX.

We know that the U.S. military is constitutionally obligated to come to the assistance of U.S. military and commercial assets if it is threatened by an adversary. The U.S. Commercial Act said as much, “It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense plays a vital and unique role in protecting national security assets in space.”²⁰ The lack of legal clarity in these matters requires urgent intervention as the position of the U.S., Luxembourg is disputed by some. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) should begin the process of adding protocols to the OST, perhaps in line with The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group’s draft proposal,²¹ given the large-scale entry of the private sector into space. We must avoid repeating the mistakes of the past when private trading organizations like the Dutch East India Company and the British East India Company undertook excessive commercial exploitation, without any regulatory mechanisms in place, to the devastation of the colonies. Ideas of space colonization is relevant here as policy makers have framed the discourse as such. For instance, Ye Peijian, head of China’s Lunar Mission stated that

[t]he universe is an ocean, the moon is the Diaoyu Islands, Mars is Huangyan Island. If we don’t go there now even though we’re capable of doing so, then we will be blamed by our descendants. If others go there, then they will take over, and you won’t be able to go even if you want to. This is reason enough.²²

Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX has pushed for plans to colonize Mars stating, “It’s important to get a self-sustaining base on Mars because it’s far enough away from earth that [in the event of a war] it’s more likely to survive than a moon base.”²³

In this context, countries like UAE and Luxembourg can influence regime construction that ensures that ‘Middle Powers’²⁴ take advantage of the future space economy. I define Middle Powers as those states in the international system that locate below a super-power or a major power, but with enough power, capacity and influence at their disposal to shape international regimes and events. These powers utilize their constitutive capacities, especially through their foreign policy behavior, to not only create global norms and standards of behavior, but also add legitimacy to international regimes through their support. In my estimation, both UAE and Luxembourg are Middle Powers. The role of Middle Powers is likely to grow in the realm of outer-space. After all, the U.S. commercial act does privilege, “first come, first serve”, with an implicit assumption that those who arrive first will be American citizens. Hence, the key question is how to develop a framework that ensures profit sharing of a global common, given the range of resources in outer-space.

UAE and Luxembourg

While Great Power (U.S, China, India) actions may be primary drivers on space, their actions take place against a tapestry of institutions, norms and receive approval or approbation of a larger international society which may decide the legitimacy or illegitimacy of such actions. As Middle Powers, both UAE and Luxembourg appreciate the possibility of space resources to shift resource availability and control with implications for changes in global power.²⁵ Each is constructing their approach to this under-governed and contested region according to their own unique cultural context and preferences.

UAE

In 2014, UAE announced the establishment of its space agency with the explicit aim to develop UAE as the regional hub for outer space activities in the Middle-East.²⁶ The UAE Space Agency seeks to help resolve global issues of natural disasters and share space expertise to mitigate the problems arising from shrinking resources and climate change.



The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Center (MBRSC), the commercial satellite communication companies, *Thuraya* and *Al Yah Sat*, are taking the lead in this domain. By end of 2019, the UAE Space Agency and Exolaunch will jointly launch the *MeznSat*, a satellite developed by students from the American University of Ras Al Khaimah and Khalifa University. MeznSat will monitor and measure the methane and carbon dioxide levels in the UAE's atmosphere.²⁷ According to Dr Mohammed Al Ahabbi, the Director General of the UAE Space Agency "The MeznSat project falls within the framework of the UAE Space Agency's strategy, which aims to develop Emirati capacities and expertise and support scientific research".²⁸

One of UAE's major space project is its Mars Mission, named "Hope Probe", an indigenously built spacecraft that will orbit MARS and study its climate and atmosphere by 2021.²⁹ 2021 is significant for the UAE as it marks the 50th year of its establishment, and the Hope Probe is planned to utilize space in that celebration. On April 22, 2019, the UAE Space Agency and the MBRSC issued a statement that the Hope Probe was 85 per cent complete. Director-General of the MBRSC, Yousuf Hamad Al Shaibani, asserted that, "Completing 85 per cent of the Hope Probe in this short period was a great challenge that we overcame through the guidance of our wise leadership and the efforts of our youth. The UAE has reached an advanced stage in achieving our wise leadership's vision to reach the Mars orbit by December 2021".³⁰

Interestingly, the UAE space program is advertised as the "first Arab, Islamic probe to reach MARS by encouraging the peaceful application of space research".³¹ Minister of State for Higher Education and Advanced Skills and Chairman of the UAE Space Agency, Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi specifies:

The UAE is on the verge of making history, after turning its dream of becoming the first Arabic and Islamic country to send a spacecraft to Mars into reality. This monumental endeavour is the culmination of the efforts of a skilled and experienced team of young Emiratis who, with the support of the nation and its visionary leadership, will secure the UAE's position at the forefront of space exploration.³²

According to the UAE's Ambassador to the United States, Yousef Al Otaiba, "This is the Arab world's version of President Kennedy's Moon shot – it's a vision for the future that can engage and excite a new generation of Emirati and Arab youth".³³

In October 2015, the UAE space agency became a member of the International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG).³⁴ Dr. Mohammed Al Ahabbi, Director General of the UAE Space Agency, specifies, "certain countries might have problems here on Earth, but you will see them cooperate in space".³⁵ UAE is starting to play a prominent role in the UN's Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and by hosting several international meetings and conferences on space law and policy. Through its membership in ISECG and U.N. space forums, the UAE can bring about substantial influence to construct this future space regime relevant to a resource-based future of space, especially to ensure that future is based on cooperation.

In March 2019, the UAE adopted its National Space Strategy 2030, in a meeting chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The National Space Strategy 2030 is ambitious, and it includes investments on space manufacturing, assembly, space science and research, as well as commercial space. Critically, the UAE also committed to establish a space regulatory framework, which includes four components: National Space Policy, Space Sector Law, Space Regulations, and National Space Strategy.³⁶

Luxembourg

Luxembourg's prominence in encouraging exploitation of space resources is growing. In June 2016, Luxembourg established a \$227 million fund to attract companies focused on asteroid mining.³⁷ It became the first European country to develop a legal framework (like the 2015 US Asteroid Act) to adjudicate the commercial exploitation of space resources. In 2016, its Ministry of Economy announced the establishment of the Space Resources Initiative (SRI), whose role "will be the development of a legal and regulatory framework confirming certainty about the future ownership of minerals extracted in space from Near Earth Objects such as asteroids."³⁸ The SRI website states that Luxembourg aims to establish itself as a European hub (similar to UAE's goal for the Middle-East), in the "exploration and use of space-based resources".³⁹ Luxembourg has a draft law that states that companies can keep the resources they have mined. This positive atmosphere has drawn asteroid mining companies like U.S. based *Deep Space Industries*, *Planetary Resources* and Japanese company, *iSpace*, developing lunar landers, to open shop in Luxembourg. Luxembourg is already cooperating with *Deep Space Industries* (now re-branded as Bradford Space Inc. after it was bought up by Bradford Space) on its *Prospector X* mission that aims to use a nano-spacecraft to test its asteroid technologies.



To add to its institutional capacity, Luxembourg established its Space Agency on September 12, 2018, especially aimed at Space Resources. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the economy, Étienne Schneider, announced that “The agency will be well-equipped to support industry in their daily challenges, and it leads to the most favorable environment for this sector to continue to grow”.⁴⁰ He announced the creation of \$116 million Luxembourg Space Fund. In May 2019, Luxembourg and the U.S. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deepen cooperation on tackling space debris, defense, space commerce and regulation. Significantly, Luxembourg has signed space cooperation agreements with China, Japan, UAE, Brazil, Poland, Belgium, the Czech Republic.⁴¹

Luxembourg’s penchant for understanding the lucrative nature of outer space was vindicated by its early intervention in communication satellites. In the 1980s, when the space commercial satellite industry was still in its early days, Luxembourg passed legislations and invested heavily in its home-grown space company, Société Européenne des Satellites (SES), which enabled it to thrive and enjoy revenues to the tune of 2 billion Euros in 2015.⁴² Consequently, Luxembourg is taking deliberate constitutive actions, contextually situated within the futuristic space-resources discourse, taking advantage of its state capacity rooted in high GDP Per Capita growth rates (\$104, 103.00).⁴³

The question that bears some significance is: In this scenario of growing interest in space industrialization, mining, and space presence, how can countries like Luxembourg and UAE ensure shared benefits from the future space economy?

Here are a few recommendations: -

1. Lead the world in passing progressive national space law to establish compatible norms for space resources.
2. Organize global capital through large investment funds and bank loans for space development.
3. Organize global talent through innovation prizes (as is happening through the UAE’s UAV and space challenges).

4. Offer to host global organizations for space governance (the Space Equivalent of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to ensure safety of navigation,
 - a. Space governance issues such as active debris removal, insurance reform, space traffic management, and frequency and slot allocation for Solar Power Satellites are likely to be ill-perceived if initiated by any of the major spacefaring powers, but if initiated and moderated by Middle Powers, competition between the Major Powers can be managed.
5. Level up Luxembourg and UAE’s brand in renewable energy by investing in ideas like Space Based Solar Power.

Interestingly, very similar to China employing its space program as a critical part of its China dream, and ambitions of utilizing space for the 100th year anniversary of the establishment of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) - 2049, UAE is broadcasting its Mars program as a celebration of the 50th year of its establishment (2021). Curiously enough, 2021 is also the year that China will utilize space to celebrate the 100th year establishment of the Communist Party of China (CPC).⁴⁴ What I find fascinating in these narratives that space achievements especially those that seek space industrialization and space commerce are broadcasted as celebratory projects by this major and middle space powers.

The game has changed: from the days of *Apollo* and *Sputnik*, when getting somewhere first in space and then returning to earth, was viewed as offering great prestige. We are in the age of *Chang’e 4*: when achieving space presence and industrialization are seen as offering great economic benefits and the resultant prestige that comes with that.

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UBUDIAN REALISM

ARTWORK BY
WOLFGANG WIDMOSER

The following portraits of folks from Ubud reflect a time when art, music and alcohol were best buddies, travelling kindred souls on an esoteric plain. Evenings spent at Naughty Nuri's with an eclectic group of *imaginaries* created an electric atmosphere that not necessarily had to do with exchange of ideas but a fusion of spirits.

These portraits are a tribute to the wonderful people I had met in Ubud, and some who I continue to engage.

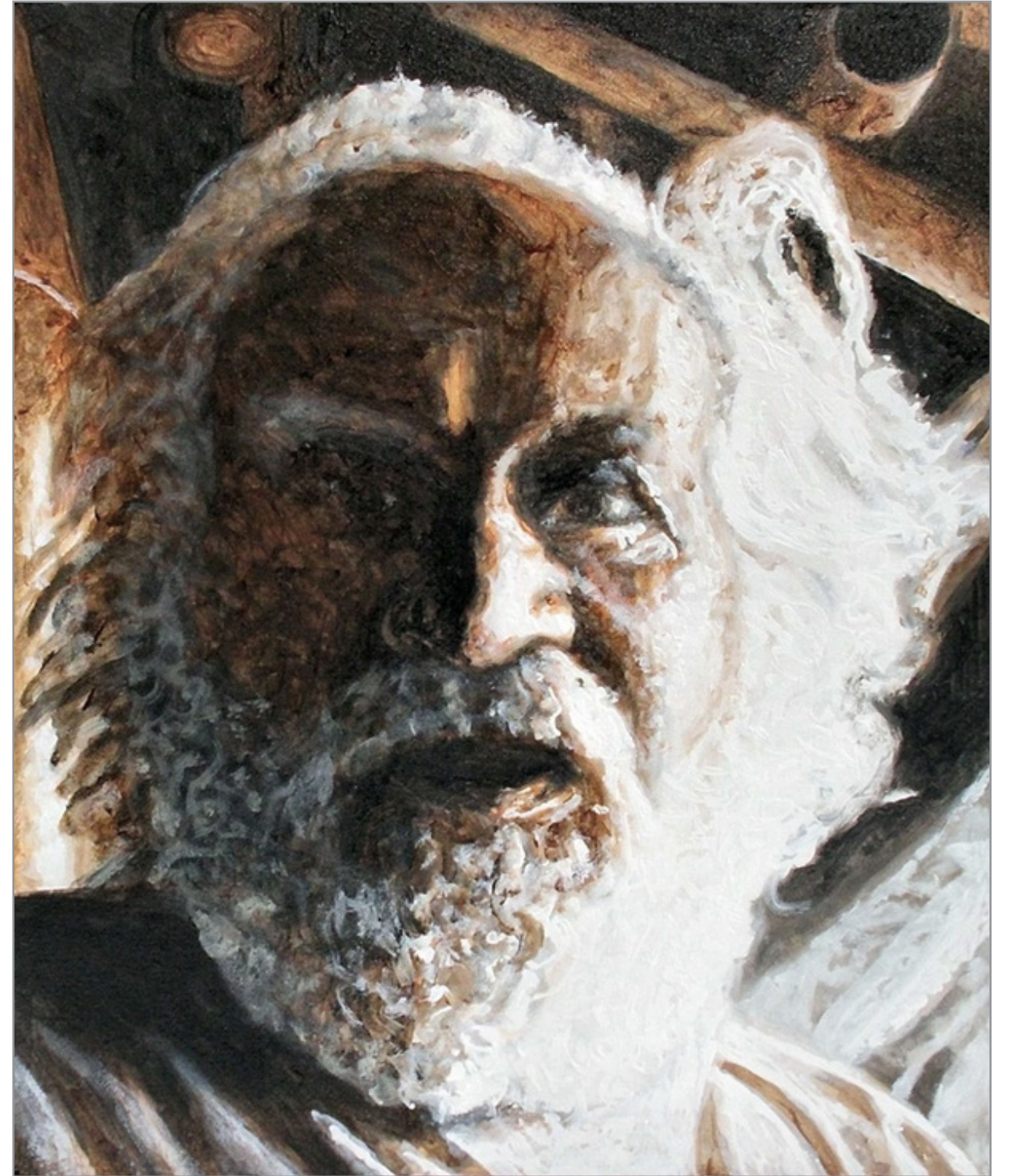


Brian and Nuri.



Maggie

Jason Monet



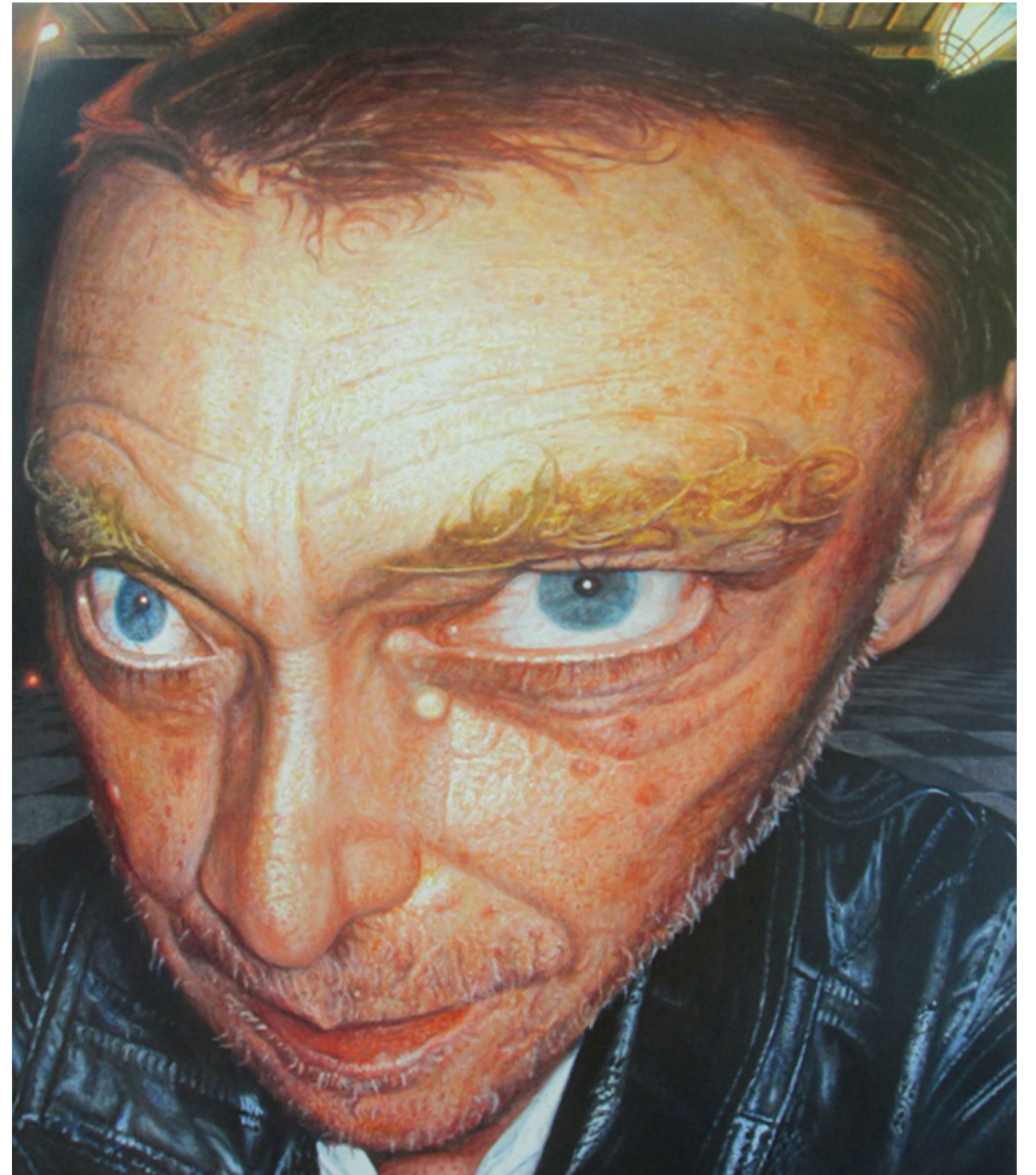


Putu and Tara



Victor Mason

Self portrait



Tina Claffey is an award winning nature photographer and author of 'Tapestry of Light-Ireland's bogs & wetlands as never seen before' released in October 2017. For almost 10 years, she lived and worked in pristine wilderness areas in Botswana, and this experience awakened in her an appreciation of the natural world of Ireland. Her observations and unique perspective of the flora and fauna of the unspoilt raised bogs and wet woodlands of the Irish midlands are celebrated in her work. <http://www.tinacclaffey.com/>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Tina-Claffey-Photography-132938303476913/>
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tinacclaffeyphotography/> Twitter: @TinaClaffey



TREASURES OF OUR BOGS

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHS BY
TINA CLAFFEY

Bogs are magical places that defy any distinction between land and water. They are the last true wildernesses in Western Europe and are home to extraordinary plant and animal species that have adapted in this unique environment to survive.

I have been exploring these wondrous bogs through the seasons with my macro lens, which captures this enchanted wilderness in its minuteness, seeing beyond what the human eye is capable of. It amazes me how the residents of this wilderness, from the largest to the smallest living bug, plant & mammal had adapted its behaviour and sometimes physical characteristics to survive.

This is especially apparent in Ireland's hidden gem...her bogs and wetlands... a whole world of wonder to be explored.

Carnivorous plants with their sticky tentacles, sphagnum mosses frozen in time in the deep bog pools, ancient water creatures exploring their depths, kaleidoscopes of colour through dewdrops on the backs of wondrous insects.

Treasures of our bogs.

A wilderness on our doorstep.



Sun Goddess - Round leaved Sundew.

© Tina Claffey



© Tina Claffey

Frozen Sphagnum.



© Tina Claffey

Birch Shieldbug.



© Tina Claffey

Frenzy of Newts.



Raft Spider.



Marsh Marigold.



© Tina Claffey

Bog Cotton Sundown.



© Tina Claffey

Sphagnum Tapestry.



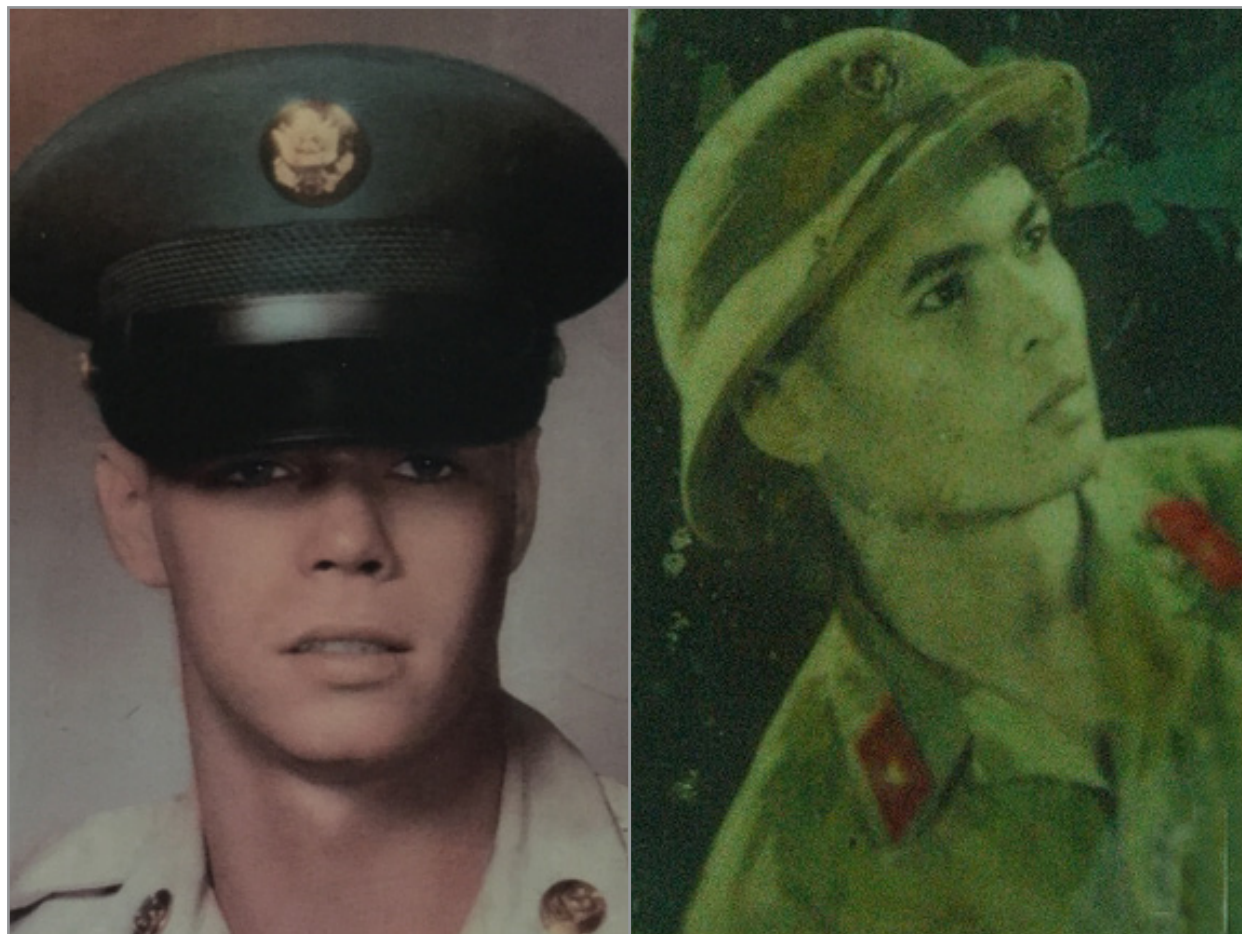
© Tina Claffey

Four Spot Chaser Dragonfly.

Katie Costello is a Hubbard, Ohio, USA native. Her greatest love and career is working with animals and she has surrounded herself with all aspects of helping them. She is the owner of *The Canine Campus Training and Wellness Center* and has two non-profit organizations, one co-founded with her father. When he father died of Agent Orange on July 8, 2015, Katie expanded her humanitarianism to helping victims of Agent Orange. Her first trip to Pleiku, Vietnam (where her father served), working with VAVA, occurred in April of 2017. <http://thecaninecampustraining.com/about/>
<https://www.facebook.com/caninecampustraining>



KATIE COSTELLO — IMAGINE PEACE : THE VIETNAM WAR : A PERSPECTIVE



Left - Anthony 'Tony' Matola, father of Katie Costello. Right - Nguyễn, father of Nguyen Thuy Hoa.

*Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace*

*You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one.*

- John Lennon, *Imagine*

The effects of war are far reaching, both internally and externally. Both sides lose in so many ways—generations affected, lives forever changed. Political decisions deciding the fate of so many. Everyone who has ever lost anyone to war would inevitably wish things could somehow be different. No matter the country there is unbelievable pain from the loss of a loved one. There is a commonality. We spend a lot of time noticing the differences and the lines that have been drawn in the sand when we would be better served to embrace the differences and grow from them to a unified front that overcomes amazing problems. The color of our blood, the beating of our heart, the love we feel so deeply—we are all the same.

Life magazine headline, America 1963 "'17 hours that destroyed Diem"

Army Newspaper, North Vietnam 1972 "Victory in Quang Tri province"

Life magazine, America. 1967 "North Vietnam under siege: Chest-deep in sidewalk shelters, Hanoi residents wait for all-clear siren during air-raid alert"

Army Newspaper, North Vietnam 1972: "3,451 B52's shot from Tay Ninh to Kon Tum, Pleiku. Victory!"

October 1970 a daughter was born in Hanoi, Vietnam. Her Father, a North Vietnamese soldier during the Anti-American war called her Nguyen Thuy Hao which means “Blue Flower”.

June 1971 a daughter is born to a Vietnam veteran in Hubbard, Ohio, America. Her father an American Army soldier. I am this daughter.



Katie Costello and Nguyen Thuy Hoa.

October 1970 a daughter was born in Hanoi, Vietnam. Her Father, a North Vietnamese soldier during the Anti-American war called her Nguyen Thuy Hao which means “Blue Flower”.

June 1971 a daughter is born to a Vietnam veteran in Hubbard, Ohio, America. Her father an American Army soldier. I am this daughter.

Fast forward to July 8, 2015 my world changed. A great light had gone out-and a heavy blanket placed over me that will never leave. The way in which I would see the world would be tilted just slightly differently and all that I had known would be forever changed. I stood with family in a small white room around a bed where my father lay. Machines hooked up and a respirator breathing for him. He had been diagnosed with stage 4 squamous non-small cell. We are here today after a 12-month battle with a disease that he was given 100% disability for.

1969-1970 Pleiku, Vietnam — depending on which side you were on it was thought of as The Vietnam War or The Anti-American War. Agent Orange was sprayed throughout the countryside and sitting in barrels everywhere on the bases. Monsanto deemed it “safe”. It was anything but. Huge Scars on the American veterans, the Vietnamese veterans and the beautiful land of Vietnam where many died due to this “safe” chemical. This “safe” chemical was used in Operation Ranch Hand to spray 20 million

Forty five years after my father was exposed to the chemical, he was diagnosed and spent his last year of life struggling to breath, control anxiety and deal with the inevitable end of his life. A war that had taken so much from the soldiers on both sides was still killing them decades later. And we only need to look at the Vietnamese people who are still being affected four generations later in some cases that this chemical was anything but safe. Half way around the world in Vietnam, Nguyen Thuy Hoa had become fatherless 11 months prior and felt that same loss and pain.

gallons of agent orange over a 10-year period. A chemical that is difficult to break down. For more information: <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/dioxin-contamination-in-da-nang-more-serious-than-expected-conference-3835609.html> and <https://www.propublica.org/article/the-children-of-agent-orange> and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5944896/>

Forty five years after my father was exposed to the chemical, he was diagnosed and spent his last year of life struggling to breath, control anxiety and deal with the inevitable end of his life. A war that had taken so much from the soldiers on both sides was still killing them decades later. And we only need to look at the Vietnamese people who are still being affected four generations later in some cases that this chemical was anything but safe. Half way around the world in Vietnam, Nguyen Thuy Hoa had become fatherless 11 months prior and felt that same loss and pain. During my drive home from the hospital after my Dad had died, I was struggling to control the anxiety and emotions I was experiencing. I arrived in my small town to find a Huey Helicopter from the Vietnam era landed in front of my town’s school. The timing of this was interesting, I noted. This was the first and last time this had ever happened. At that red light I said out loud, “I have to go to Vietnam.” I needed to bring back the piece of my Dad that was left behind in that country. I had a purpose there, I simply had to find it.

During his multiple stays in the hospital after his diagnosis my dad would ask for a member of the catholic clergy to come and visit him. He explained on a number of occasions he needed to understand how you reconcile the fact that you weren’t going to Vietnam war without killing someone. How is it okay when “thou shalt not Kill”. Of course, this bothered my Dad for all of those years. During those conversations I would put my head down with tears in my eyes that this is a real conversation that I am certain every soldier holds within and carries with them all the days of their lives. This bothered him greatly. I was certain that the strong feeling that I needed to go to Vietnam was part of this healing. I would go to Pleiku, where my Dad was stationed and help people still being affected by Agent Orange. Through the help of The Red Cross and Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA) I found out that a facility existed in Pleiku, so now it would be for us to figure out how to help the current facility. While I started fundraising, I was met with some resistance. Never meaning to offend anyone, I wasn’t ignoring the American veterans, but instead going to the source. Agent orange that had killed my father wasn’t in America. It was in Vietnam. While American Vietnam veterans needed a lot of help, I believe that there are programs in place in America that if someone needs help, they can receive that help. I set my goals on the country that we had sprayed.

Hoa and I spoke for many hours. She taught me the ways of Vietnam, answered all of my questions that I had. Helped me to understand the culture, the history. I could never begin to thank her for all that she has done. One evening we were talking late into the night in America and not long before our visit to Vietnam. We had been talking about our dads and things we remembered and stories they told. I had asked her to send me a picture of her dad, and I remember realizing all at once that her dad and my dad would have been fighting against each other.

I went to Vietnam to bring home a piece of my father that had been lost there, however, in reality what I did was added a renewed spirit for the goodness of people within my heart. I found a friend and learned a lesson that I wish more would learn. Reach out, ask for the other sides' opinion, listen. Stop the hatred and the divisions. Help a fellow being. And most of all, IMAGINE PEACE. Life is short. Embrace every moment in love and truth.

And all of those Americans effected came home and left behind the land that effects the Vietnamese people even today. A few local newspapers had written the story of what I was doing. I hadn't even begun to try to figure out the details of the logistics going to Vietnam. I received a FB message from someone in Vietnam in March 2016. *"Dear Katie Costello, I am Hoa, (then) Vice Editor in Chief for Online Newspaper of Radio The Voice of Vietnam. Yesterday a Vietnamese overseas living in the US sent me the link of this article about your project. I think your project is very thoughtful. So, I posted this article on our website in English and Vietnamese versions, just to let you know. And I wish your project will soon finish successfully. Best Regards, Hoa."* Over the next few months Hoa helped me from start to finish in planning in my trip.

She made many phone calls for me and answered endless questions. She found us an interpreter and she continues to interpret our letters to continue to work with VAVA. We became friends. We started to explain our positions, and share information about our fathers. To find someone so open to helping a complete stranger was such a refreshing idea to me. I truly find it so important to understand all sides of a picture. Otherwise, it is only partially understood. A solution will never be found in that way, and most importantly we will always be doomed to repeat history. We can learn from others who struggled and survived. 2 examples are Dr. Dang Thuy Tram's Diary that was found after her death, "Last Night I Dreamed of Peace", <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/vietnam/articles/last-night-i-dreamed-of-peace-the-story-of-dr-dang-thuy-tram/> or from Captain Earl A. Pike <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/issues/238/a-vietnam-diary>

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different. But we still knew what it was to lose a father. We still knew what it was like to feel the effects of agent orange, and to be passionate to the fact that people died on both sides of the war.

While in Vietnam I was so impressed with the Vietnamese acceptance of Americans. I never once felt like they were blaming us for anything, like we were there for any reason other than what we were there for. They were polite and congenial and kind. Hoa was merely one in many that endeared me to the culture. In one of our conversations Hoa explained that no one in Vietnam blames anyone for the war. Every soldier was simply doing his job. And what a beautiful way to overcome and accept what had happened. Holding hatred and greed in your heart was never going to be the answer for certain.

Hoa helped us so much that we decided to go to Hanoi during our trip. How could we possibly go all the way to Vietnam and not meet her after all that she had done for us? She showed us all around Hanoi. The John McCain memorial at Truc Bach Lake, the Long Bien Bridge, we saw the opera house and the museum of art. She presented factual historical pieces of her culture.

I went to Vietnam to bring home a piece of my father that had been lost there, however, in reality what I did was added a renewed spirit for the goodness of people within my heart. I found a friend and learned a lesson that I wish more would learn. Reach out, ask for the other sides' opinion, listen. Stop the hatred and the divisions. Help a fellow being. And most of all, IMAGINE PEACE. Life is short. Embrace every moment in love and truth.

We sat down in a bar with a glass of wine and we toasted to our fathers. An unlikely duo, yet a forever friendship was born.

— Thank you, Nguyen Thuy Hoa, for your kindness and friendship you have strengthened my passion and desire to help the Vietnamese people suffering from the effects of Agent Orange. I plan to continue this project and have begun more fundraising as we determine the best way to help.

Anyone interested in donating to the project can go to the Gofundme page at: https://www.gofundme.com/agent-orange-relief-in-pleiku-vietnam&rcid=r01-155889906932-a994f5e1ba734e96&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w

Barry Delaney is inspired by the colour, energy and DIY attitude of punk. He fled the grey Dublin of the early 80s, to travel the world and fell in love with film photography. Eked a living doing various manual and technical jobs. Twenty years later, Barry began taking pictures again. It started on the streets of Dublin, his home town, and has since moved on to Galway and other parts of rural Ireland. In 2008, Barry won the TG4 Irish photographer of the 21st Century. Barry has had 4 solo exhibitions in Dublin, whilst also self-publishing three books.
<https://onedgestreet.com/barry-delaney/>



AN IRISH FAIRY TALE

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHS BY
BARRY DELANEY

Over the years, I have been documenting the Ballinasloe horse fair in rural Co. Galway - hometown of my deceased Grandfather. It is one of Europe's oldest and largest annual Horse Fairs, dating back to the 18th century, attracting up to 80,000 visitors, mainly from Ireland, but many coming across from England.

But, it is much more than just a horse fair, it is a homecoming and celebration for the Irish Travelling community and their proud families. More than horses are sold, it is where many of the young socialise, flirt and many taste love for that very first time. It is a place too, where scores get settled, matches are made and drink consumed. A place where families lavishly show off their wares and celebrate their distinctive culture.

In a rapidly changing world, for one October week in rural County Galway, time stand's still and life is transformed into how it once was, with a dash of colour, mixed with a hint of macho posturing and a little romance, not forgetting some old fashioned Irish bartering and bargain hunting, regarding the sale and trade of an unwanted or maybe over valued filly.



© BARRY DELANEY



© BARRY DELANEY



© BARRY DELANEY



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© BARRY DELANEY



© BARRY DELANEY



© BARRY DELANEY

Mikyoung Cha is a graduate in Oriental Painting from Hyosung Women's University, Daegu, South Korea. She has participated in a number of group art exhibitions in South Korea and Japan. In 2016 she took up photography – the camera becoming her paint brush. This globe trotting photographer is a regular contributor to *Live Encounters Magazine*.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHS BY
MIKYOUNG CHA

This is a tribute to mothers on this very special day.

"Everything I have learned about love, I learned from my mother. For it is mothers who bend, twist, flex, and break most dramatically before our uninitiated eyes. Fathers bear, conceal, inflict, sometimes vanish, so the mythology of domestic union tells us. But mothers absorb, accept, give in, all to tutor daughters in the syntax, the grammar of yearning and love."

— Marita Golden, *Wild Women Don't Wear No Blues*













<https://ozlemsturkishtable.com/>



ARAP KOFTESI SPICED BULGUR BALLS OVER GARLIC YOGHURT WITH SPINACH

This is a wonderful, regional vegetarian recipe from southern Turkey, perfect for buffets and entertaining and you can also make the bulgur balls ahead of time and keep in the freezer.

Afiyet Olsun,

Ozlem

Signed copies of
Ozlem's Turkish Table; Recipes from My Homeland
by Ozlem Warren is available at
www.gbpublishing.co.uk/product-page/ozlem-s-turkish-table



Spiced Bulgur balls over garlicky yoghurt and spinach, Arap Koftesi.
© Ozlem Warren

Serves: 8

Ingredients:

- For the bulgur balls:
- 340gr/2cups fine bulgur
- 12fl oz/ 1 ½ cup hot water
- 2 eggs
- 45ml/3 tbsp plain flour
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- ½ tablespoon red pepper flakes
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- For the yoghurt and greens sauce:
- 500gr lambs lettuce or spinach leaves, washed and roughly chopped
- 500gr/1 ¼ lb strained whole milk yoghurt
- 2 small garlic cloves, finely chopped
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- For the red pepper flakes and dried mint sauce:
- 30 gr butter
- 1 tablespoon red pepper flakes (please use ½ tablespoon if you like it less spicy, adjust to your taste)
- 1 tablespoon dried mint

Instructions

Rinse the bulgur and place in a large mixing bowl. Pour in the hot water, cover and let the bulgur absorb the water; uncover, mix and let it cool.

Then stir in the eggs, flour, tomato paste, salt, pepper, cumin and red pepper flakes. Have a bowl of cold water near you and knead the mixture well until all combined and smooth.

Sprinkle a little flour on a tray where we will put our bulgur balls (this will help the bulgur balls not to stick together).

Roll the bulgur balls as big as a cherry and place on the tray with flour.

Have boiling water in a large pot, stir in a pinch of salt. Gently drop the bulgur balls in to the pan and let it cook, uncovered, on a medium heat, for 8 minutes or so; once cooked, you will see the bulgur balls rise to the top of the pan. Take out the cooked bulgur balls with a slotted spoon and place on a large plate.

For the yoghurt and greens sauce; mix the garlic with the yoghurt. In a large bowl, combine the garlicky yoghurt with the chopped greens. Season with salt and pepper.

For the red pepper flakes and dried mint sauce; melt the butter in a sauce pan and stir in the red pepper flakes and dried mint (please adjust the spice level to your taste). Gently stir in the bulgur balls and combine well with this sauce.

Serve the sautéed bulgur balls over the garlicky yoghurt with greens, immediately.

Ulyseas has served time in advertising as copywriter and creative director selling people things they didn't need, a ghost writer for some years, columnist of a newspaper, a freelance journalist and photographer. In 2009 he created *Live Encounters Magazine*, in Bali, Indonesia. It is a not for profit (adfree) free online magazine featuring leading academics, writers, poets, activists of all hues etc. from around the world. March 2016 saw the launch of its sister publication *Live Encounters Poetry*, which was relaunched as *Live Encounters Poetry & Writing* in March 2017. He has edited, designed and produced all of Live Encounters' 157 publications till date (June 2019). Mark's philosophy is that knowledge must be free and shared freely to empower all towards enlightenment. He is the author of three books: *RAINY – My friend & Philosopher*, *Seductive Avatars of Maya* – *Anthology of Dystopian Lives* and *In Gethsemane: Transcripts of a Journey*. www.amazon.com/markulyseas



WAT PHRA THAT DOI SUTHEP

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHS BY
MARK ULYSEAS

I have visited this enchanting temple on many occasions and every time I have discovered yet another stunning aspect that always left me humbled.

Wat Doi Suthep is situated on a mountain, a little over 1,000 mtrs above sea level, and is 15 kms from the city of Chang Mai in north Thailand. In the late 14th century the first stupa was built. Since then many more shrines have been added. The road to the temple was constructed in 1935.

Wat Phra That Doi Suthep means — a temple that houses a sacred relic of Lord Buddha on a mountain called Doi Suthep. The relic is a part of Lord Buddha's shoulder bone.

It is considered to be one of the most sacred Buddhist temples.



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Live encounters

FREE ONLINE MAGAZINE FROM VILLAGE EARTH
JUNE 2019



ARTWORK BY WOLFGANG WIDMOSER, AUSTRIAN SURREALIST ARTIST