

## MICHAEL BENSON

Born in 1962

1989-91 NYU Graduate Film School

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 Otherworlds, Musee National d'Histoire Naturelle Luxembourg, Luxembourg  
Otherworlds, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Wien, Austria  
Otherworlds, Jerwood Gallery, Natural History Museum, London
- 2103 Carina Nebula, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA  
Planetfall, AAAS Art Gallery, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington DC, USA  
Planetfall, Hasted-Kraeutler Gallery, NYC, USA
- 2011 Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, Stauth Memorial Museum, Montezuma, Kansas, USA  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, College of Central Florida, The Webber Center Gallery, Ocala, Florida, USA  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, The Petaluma Museum, Petaluma, California, USA  
Jenseit des Blauen Planeten (Beyond the Blue Planet), Astronomie Wien - Planetarium, Kuffner- und Urania Sternwarte, Vienna, Austria  
Beyond, Hasted-Kraeutler Gallery, NYC, USA
- 2010 Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, Dulles Airport Gateway Gallery, Washington DC, USA  
Beyond: Visions of Our Solar System. Art Gallery, The Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC  
Da draussen - Planetenaufnahmen aus dem All (Beyond – Planet Recordings from Space), Natur-Museum Luzern (Natural History Museum of Luzern), Switzerland  
Images from Beyond: Visions of Our Solar System. Long View Gallery, Washington DC, USA  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes. California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA, USA  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes. Daura Gallery, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA, USA  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes. Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, USA
- 2009 Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, CA, USA  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, Palazzo della Borza, Genoa, Italy  
Planeter i sikte (Planets in Sight), NRM Naturhistorisk Riksmuseet (Swedish Museum of Natural History), Stockholm, Sweden
- 2009 Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, Fondazione Cini, Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, Italy  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, Duluth Art Institute, Duluth, MN  
Beyond: Visions of the Interplanetary Probes, Minorite Monastery of St. Francis, Piran, Slovenia  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, Museum of Arts and Science, Macon, Georgia, USA
- 2008 Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, The ETSU Natural History Museum, Gray, Tennessee, USA  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio, USA  
Visions of the Interplanetary Probes, Gliptoteka Museum, Zagreb, Croatia  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona, USA  
Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes, Monmouth Museum, Lincroft, New Jersey, USA
- 2007 Beyond: Voyages to Venus, Mars, Europa & Io, American Museum of Natural History, NYC, USA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 Faszination Weltraum, Bundestkunsthalle Deutschland (State Art Exhibitions Hall of Germany), Bonn, Germany  
Tracking the Cosmos, Simons Center Art Gallery, SUNY Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY, USA
- 2013 PATHS: Charting, Navigating, & Bridging, Simons Center Art Gallery, SUNY Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY, USA
- 2012 Starstruck: The Fine Art of Astrophotography, Bates College Museum of Art, Olin Arts Center, Lewiston, Maine, USA
- 2011 Skydreamers, The Autry Museum, Los Angeles, CA, USA

## COLLECTIONS

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, USA  
Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA  
PharmaSwiss SA, Zug, Switzerland

## MEMBERSHIPS

Michael Benson is a Fellow of the New York Institute of the Humanities  
Michael Benson is a Member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

***Cosmigraphics, Picturing Space Through Time***, Michael Benson (Abrams Books, New York, 2014)

***Planetfall: New Solar System Visions***, Michael Benson (Abrams Books, New York, 2012)

***Far Out: A Space-Time Chronicle***, Michael Benson (Abrams Books, New York, 2009) Also published in Japanese.

***Beyond: Visions of the Interplanetary Probes***, Michael Benson (Harry N. Abrams, New York, 2003; paperback 2008). Also published in French, German, Spanish, and Japanese. Foreword by Arthur C. Clarke, Afterword by Lawrence Weschler.

***Beyond: A Solar System Journey***, Michael Benson (Abrams Books for Young Readers, New York, 2009). Also published in Korean.

## AWARD

***Cosmigraphics, Picturing Space Through Time*** received front page coverage in the *NY Times* and was a Finalist for a 2015 *LA Times* Book Award in the Science and Technology category.

***Beyond: Visions of the Interplanetary Probes*** received First Prize for Design, Special Trade General Books Category at the 2004 *New York Book Fair*

## SELECTED ARTICLES/ESSAYS

Feature stories and editorials for *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Smithsonian*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Nation*, *The Village Voice*, *Interview*, *Artforum*, *Sight and Sound* (UK), *Leonardo* (an MIT Press on-line journal), *Colors*, *Astrobiology Magazine* (an on-line journal), *The Ganzfeld*, *Omnivore*, and a broad spectrum of other publications, including European and world media outlets (German, French, Belgian, Dutch, South Korean, Slovenian, Croatian, Serbian, etc), from daily papers to magazines to book-format compilations. Subjects include robotic space exploration, the break-up of Yugoslavia, Russian rock music and underground culture, art and ideology, Slovenian and ex-Yugoslav culture, etc. (1980's to present).

## SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Smithsonian*, *Rolling Stone*, *Interview*, *The Washington Post*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The Village Voice*, *Believer*, *McSweeney's*, *Filmmaker*, *Sky & Telescope*, *New Scientist* (UK), *The Times Magazine* (UK), *Geo* (Germany), and many other publications. Cover or front page photographs in *Smithsonian*, *The Village Voice*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *Andere Sinema* (Belgium), etc. (1980's to present).

## FILMS

### ***More Places Forever*** "A GLOBAL DOCUMENTARY ROAD MOVIE" (2008)

Co-production between ZDF-Arte (German and French television) and Kinetikon Pictures (Michael Benson's production company). Broadcast on ZDF/Arte (German and French satellite and cable television) in November 2008

### ***Fragrant Harbor/UK→PRC/Pass the Glass***

"A COLONY IN TRANSITION" (1997)

Co-production between TV Slovenia and Kinetikon Pictures focusing on hand-over of Hong Kong from the UK to China.

### ***Predictions of Fire*** "A FILM ABOUT ART, POLITICS AND WAR" (1995)

Co-production between TV Slovenia and Kinetikon Pictures

## RECOGNITION

**1996 Best Documentary Feature Award**, National Film Board of Canada, *Vancouver International Film Festival*. "*Predictions of Fire* is intellectual dynamite. Out of the shattered history of Slovenia, this film constructs a new way of looking at art, politics and religion."

**Golden Minotaur (First Prize), Documentary Category** "*Message to Man*" *St. Petersburg International Film Festival* (Russia)

**Theatrical run**, *Film Forum*, NYC

**Official Selection**, *Sundance*, *Berlin* and *Sydney* international film festivals

**Top Ten List, Sydney International Film Festival** (based on audience poll)

**Finalist, Independent Feature Project *Open Palm Award*, NYC, USA**

***Predictions of Fire*** received a grant from the NY State Council on the Arts and was distributed theatrically across the US. It screened theatrically in France, Germany, India, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Hong Kong, the Czech Republic, Austria, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Hungary, and Finland. It received national TV broadcasts in eight countries and was widely and positively reviewed in major American media, including the ***NY Times*, *LA Times*, *Variety***, etc.

### **SELECTED LECTURES/ PRESENTATIONS**

- 2015 "Cosmigraphics," lecture sponsored jointly by the New York Map Society and the New York Public Library, South Court Auditorium, NYPL  
"Cosmigraphics," lecture at private event to mark the opening of landscape artist Charles Jencks' "Crawick Multiverse," hosted by the Duke of Buccleuch at Drumlanrig Castle, Dumfries, Scotland, UK  
"Cosmigraphics," lecture at the New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Branch, USA
- 2014 "Cosmigraphics," lecture at Kahn Liberal Artist Institute, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA  
"On This Site," lecture and conversation with Richard McGuire and Matt Knutzen sponsored by the New York Public Library's Cullman Center, at the Morgan Library, NY, USA
- 2013 Lecture, Arts Letters and Numbers Workshop, Averill Park, NY, USA  
"Images of Our Solar System: Science Meets Art," presentation at American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington DC, USA
- 2012 "The Periphery of Perception," EMPAC, RPI, Rensselaer, NY, round-table discussion on the work of the Oakes twins  
"Tarkovsky Interruptus," a New York Institute for the Humanities-sponsored screening and discussion of Andrei Tarkovsky's 1979 film *Stalker*; discussion with Geoff Dyer, Walter Murch, Philip Lopate, Francine Prose, and Dana Stevens, The New School's Tishman Auditorium, 66 West 12th Street, NYC. 3/10/12  
"Talk: Color Effects," Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI: individual presentations and round table discussion with artist Spencer Finch, marine biologist Dr. Christopher Deacutis, and RISD professor Christopher Rose, on the subject of the use of color
- 2011 "Science and Beauty, Dialogues Between Scientists and Artists," Sala d'Arme, Palazzo Vecchio, Florence Italy: discussion between Michael Benson and Carl Schoonover, part of the NYU Villa La Pietra summer season  
Lecture, The Petaluma Museum, Petaluma, California, USA  
TEDx talk, Hotel Beacon, 2130 Broadway, NYC, USA  
"An Outer Versus Inner Space Slapdown," NYU's Cantor Film Center, NYC, between Michael Benson and Carl Schoonover, part of the All Day Springtime Wonder Cabinet,  
"On Space and Time," lecture, California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA, USA  
Keynote talk on solar system photography, art and science, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI: at the STEM-to-STEAM workshop,
- 2009 "Far Out: A Space-Time Chronicle." Lecture sponsored by the New York Hall of Science, National Arts Club, Gramercy Park, NYC: 11/11/2009  
"Far Out: A Space-Time Chronicle," NYU's Cantor Film Center, East 8th Street, NYC, a presentation at The New York Institute for the Humanities "Halloween Wonder Cabinet,"

- 2007 Joint appearance and discussion with Ann Druyan, Loyola University, Rubloff Auditorium, Chicago Humanities Festival
- 2004 The Amelia and Robert H. Haley Memorial Lecture, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts: "The Wonder of the Cosmos" panel discussion moderated by Tom Curwin, The Ninth Annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books
- 2003 "Far Out: The Sublime Photographic Legacy of the Interplanetary Space Probes," a symposium inspired by *Beyond: Visions of the Interplanetary Probes* co-sponsored by The Hayden Planetarium and The New York Institute for the Humanities at NYU, Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History, West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC

**WEBSITE**

[www.michael-benson.net](http://www.michael-benson.net)