



PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Stefanie Santo, ssanto@fi.edu | 215.448.1152

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE UNVEILS MUSEUM OF THE MOON

AWE-INSPIRING 23-FOOT SPHERICAL SCULPTURE OF THE MOON
SUSPENDED IN THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NATIONAL MEMORIAL
NOVEMBER 30 – JANUARY 5, 2020

Philadelphia, PA November 20, 2019—*Museum of the Moon*, an awe-inspiring large-scale sculpture of the moon, will be unveiled at The Franklin Institute on Saturday, November 30. Designed by UK artist Luke Jerram and measuring 23-feet in diameter, the spherical sculpture is a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight, and surround sound composition.

Suspended from the center of the oculus within the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, the installation features ultra-high-resolution NASA imagery of the lunar surface. Visitors can experience the scale and spectacle of the touring artwork through January 5, 2020, access to the [Benjamin Franklin National Memorial](#) is free at all times during museum hours.*

At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimeter of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents just over three miles of the moon's surface. Through this artwork, observers will have the rare opportunity to explore the mysterious dark side of the moon, not visible from Earth.

"I wanted to make the artwork seem as authentic and realistic as possible to give the public the opportunity to fly to the moon," **said Moon artist Luke Jerram**. "For most people, this will be their most intimate, personal, and closest encounter they will ever have with the Moon." The sculpture is accompanied by surround-sound composition by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award-winning composer Dan Jones.

"The Franklin Institute prides itself in presenting some of the most engaging and inspiring experiences for visitors of all ages," **said Larry Dubinski, president and CEO of The Franklin Institute**. "With Museum of the Moon, we hope observers recognize the powerful intersection of science and art and experience a personal connection to this truly remarkable representation."

Over its lifetime, the *Museum of the Moon* will be presented in several different ways both indoors and outdoors, so altering the experience and interpretation of the artwork. As it travels from place to place,

it will gather new musical compositions and an ongoing collection of personal responses, stories, and mythologies, as well as highlighting the latest moon science.

*Admission to the *Museum of the Moon* is free during museum hours; general museum/special exhibit tickets are required to access to the rest of the museum.

Note to Editors: Advance photos are available at <https://www.fi.edu/press-room/presskits>
Follow the moon at **#museumofthemoon**

The Franklin Institute

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania's most visited museum it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit fi.edu and follow The Franklin Institute on Twitter @TheFranklin and Instagram @FranklinInstitute, hashtag #franklininstitute.