

**MoonLanding**: A Trip and Exhibition

**MoonLanding** is a collective formed by Arran Stamper, Ann Macleod, Elle McKee, Rachel Donaldson, Emma Rhodes and myself. We initially came together with the idea to perform an artistically faked ‘Trip to the Moon’.

The idea quickly evolved in to that of a field trip followed by an exhibition of work both produced- on, and inspired-by the trip. And so together we organised, produced and curated **Moonlanding**.

The trip took place on the 1st of March and the exhibition was held on the 18th of April and. Both were a massive success. It was a lot of fun and I learnt a wide array of skills across the duration of the project. We later learnt that it was the first solely illustration exhibition held in the Sculpture Court of Edinburgh College of Art in a long, long time.



Photographer Unknown

I myself organised most of the trip. After extensive research in to barren and desolate areas surrounding Edinburgh (including, but not limited to: abandoned quarries, areas of the Pentlands and small islands in the Firth of the Forth), I eventually decided on the most easterly point of North Berwick beach. Not only is this location easily

accessible by train, it is also relatively void of people (especially in March) and has the aura of a moonscape: Rocky and grey.



Photograph: Francis Davies

Costume: India Pearce  
Model: India Pearce  
Photograph: Francis Davies

Prior to the **MoonLanding** trip Ann Macleod hosted a couple of costume making evenings. We hoped that these communitive evenings would help generate interest in our project, as it was open to anyone and everyone that was interested.

We had fun making the astronaut costumes: Helmets, Gadget Belts and Jetpacks.



Costume: Ann Macleod  
Model: Ann Madleod  
Photograph: Francis Davies



After the trip, the main priorities became the production of work and the organisation of the **MoonLanding** exhibition. Elle McKee looked in to venues and collectively we decided upon the Sculpture Court of ECA, which I then booked. Ann Macleod was in charge of funding and Rachel Donaldson headed up publicity, although all the processes were still somewhat a collaborative process.

We had many meetings to update each other on the progress of each facet of organisation.

We also decided in this time to take part in an illustration department event called Bookmarks. Bookmarks is an annual Book/Illustration/Craft event with talks and fair. I booked a stall in the event under the name

**MoonLanding** and we all agreed to produce work for the fair based off of the trip we had just taken.

I produced a set of screen printed posters of astronauts floating in space. As part of Twigg Collective with Ann Macleod I also produced a lino printed zine.



Prints and Photograph: India Pearce



A screenshot of a Facebook event page for 'MoonLanding'. The cover photo is a vibrant, abstract illustration of a landscape with purple, green, and pink hues. The event title 'MoonLanding' is overlaid on the image. Below the title, it says 'April 18th - 23rd ECA Illustration Sculpture Court'. A large white circle placeholder is where a profile picture would normally be. The event details show it's hosted by India Pearce on April 18 at 18:00–21:00, about 1 week ago. The location is ECA, Edinburgh, United Kingdom. There are tabs for 'About' (selected), 'Discussion', 'Write Post', 'Add Photo/Video', and 'Create Poll'. The 'About' tab shows 147 interested, 89 went, and 266 invited. Below the main content, there's a section for 'RELATED EVENTS' featuring 'Late Night Life Drawing - Life ...'.

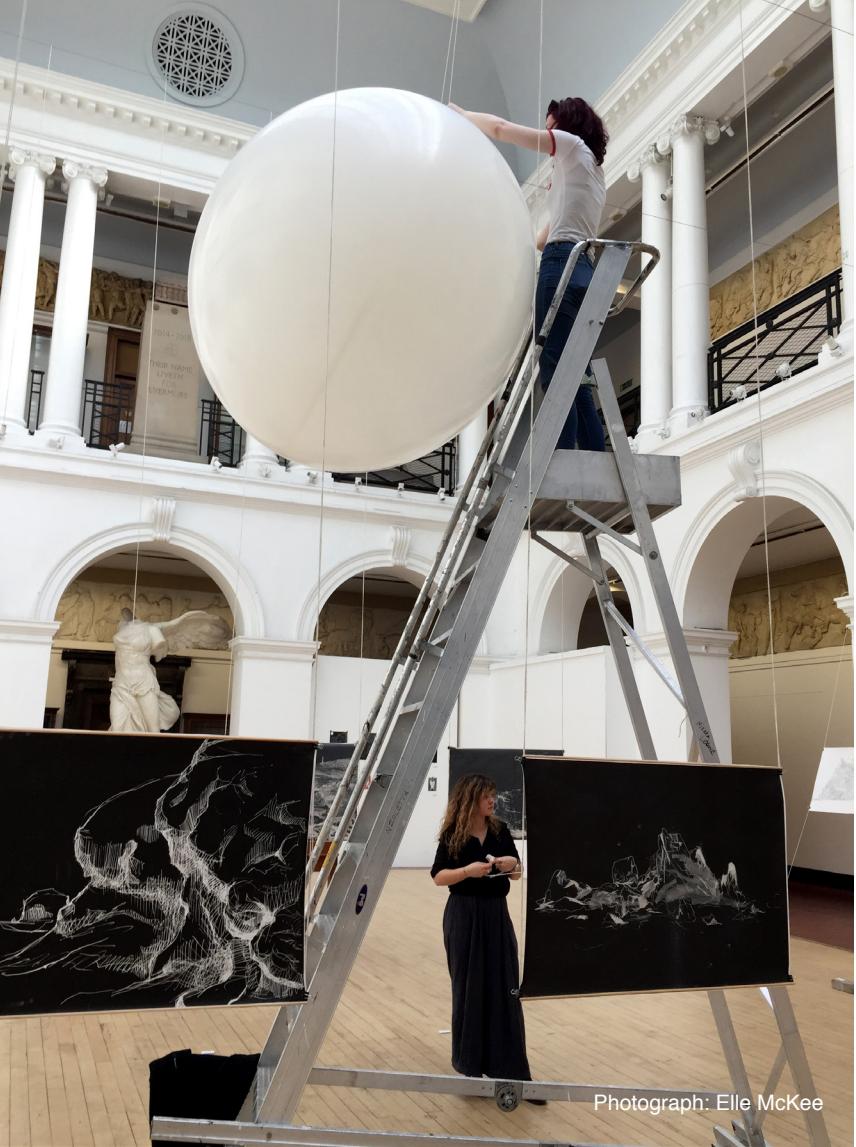
After Bookmarks all that was left to organise was the exhibition, which was no small task. Again we delegated specific tasks across the group, coming together frequently to update each other.

I over saw the social media aspect of the exhibition, which included setting up and maintaining a facebook event page. I created the page on the 1st of April, 18 days before the exhibition. To keep interest peaked I organised everyone to update the page with 'sneak peaks' of the work they were creating for the **MoonLanding** exhibition.

I liaised with Rachel Donaldson to produce publicity of the right aspect ratio for facebook, in two different colour versions so I could update it closer to the exhibition opening. Rachel also

sent me jpeg files of the posters and flyers that went up on to the event page. The event was also picked up on and shared by 'Edinburgh Events'.

In preparation for the exhibition we collectively gocco printed posters, which we then taped up around Marchmont (Arran and Elle) and the City Centre (Ann and myself). During this poster printing session we began curating the exhibition on a floor plan of the Sculpture Court we had acquired from the health and safety officer.



The curation and hanging of **MoonLanding** was a communal affair. We all helped with everything going on, making group decisions along the way. But roughly: everyone in the collective was in charge of hanging their own work. Arran Stamper co-ordinated everyone, Elle McKee curated the cabinets and Ann Macleod got expertly acquainted with a hammer and a box of nails. I made many labels, and Arran and I installed all of the poles and strings. Rachel Donaldson kept everyone on track, and after a long weekend and an even longer Monday morning - the exhibition was finally up.



Photograph: Arran Stamper

With thanks to the **MoonLanding** crew  
and everyone else involved.