

designboom®

Inside the Launch of Tom Sachs Space Program: Rare Earths at Deichtorhallen Hamburg

by Sofia Lekka Angelopoulou
September 24, 2021

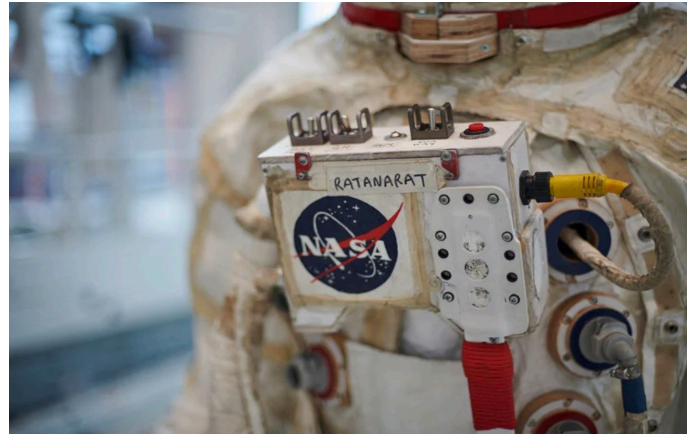


'space program: rare earths' welcome center, past the entrance of the deichtorhallen

'SPACE PROGRAM: RARE EARTHS' AT DEICHTORHALLEN HAMBURG

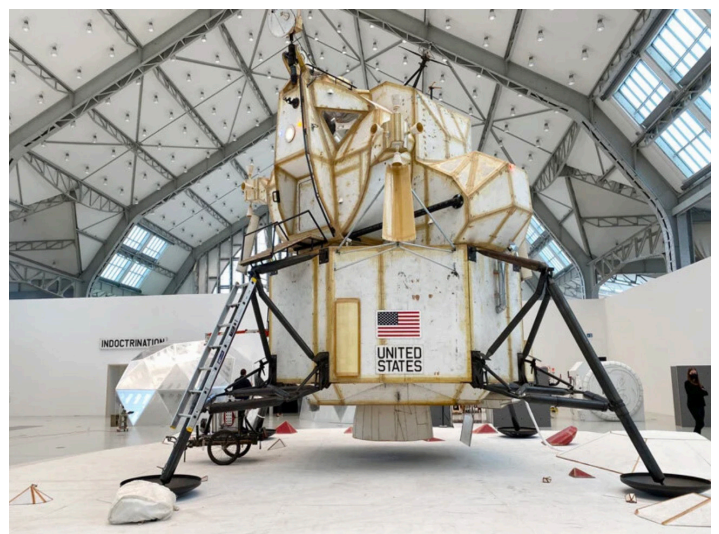
'it's been many thousands of years that we've learned not only to control fire, but to achieve global telepathy (through our hand held devices), but at some cost,' says tom sachs during our tour at the deichtorhallen hamburg. 'today we go to other worlds to get more earth elements and gold to feed our addiction.' on display from september 19, 2021 to april 10, 2022, 'space program: rare earths' immerses visitors in an expansive sculptural landscape of more than 3,000 sqm consisting of bricolage works bearing sachs's distinct aesthetic.

like in the previous space explorations, the hamburg exhibition offers areas where visitors can interact, including 'indoctrination', where they are given the opportunity to join the space program. willing participants prove their worth through a series of tasks and questions to earn the exclusive right to visit areas open only to those who complete the program successfully. the exhibition brings together familiar equipment from past missions, such as the mobile quarantine facility, the space suits and the landing excursion module (LEM), and new installations such as 'transubstantiation'. there, visitors become part of a studio-made ritual that includes submitting your mobile device in an alchemist's lab adorned with the striking spires of the chartres cathedral.



space suit detail | image © designboom

designboom had the chance to attend the live demonstration of 'space program: rare earths' on saturday, september 18, 2021. the audience sat on folding chairs, each of which individually screen printed with the NASA logo and hand labeled with a hero's name from personalities who are inspirational to the artist. throughout the entire day, sachs and his crew brought to life the program's flight plan, starting from the astronauts' preparations, to launch, lift off, and landing to 4-VESTA; followed by a series of stopovers before returning to earth. see more images of the exhibition and live demonstration in the gallery below.



the landing excursion model (LEM) takes two astronauts to another world, and returns them safely to earth | image © designboom