

Dreams from Cosmodrome

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The city of Baikonur in Kazakhstan is located beside the renowned cosmodrome, a place synonymous with space exploration. For many, Baikonur represents the gateway to the stars, a beacon of hope where ordinary people can dream of space despite their humble origins. The residents of Baikonur share a unique connection with space, living in a place where the layers of labels peel away to reveal the essence of identity

When we look up at the sky, the stars seem unattainably high, reachable only in our dreams. Yet, the vast universe is composed of countless stars, much like the diverse individuals who make up Baikonur.

This city is a crucial site for space exploration and technological advancement, but it is also home to a community leading an isolated life with limited resources, education, and development. Despite these challenges, the people of Baikonur hold onto hope and dreams of the unexplored world

In Baikonur, two worlds coexist: the cutting-edge realm of space exploration and the everyday reality of its residents. This unique intersection shapes the identity of both the city and its people.

What can be seen from the forgotten dreams, covered with dust, reveals the extraordinary bond they share with the universe.

Research Part 1 Grounded Dreams: The Hope of Baikonur's Next Generation

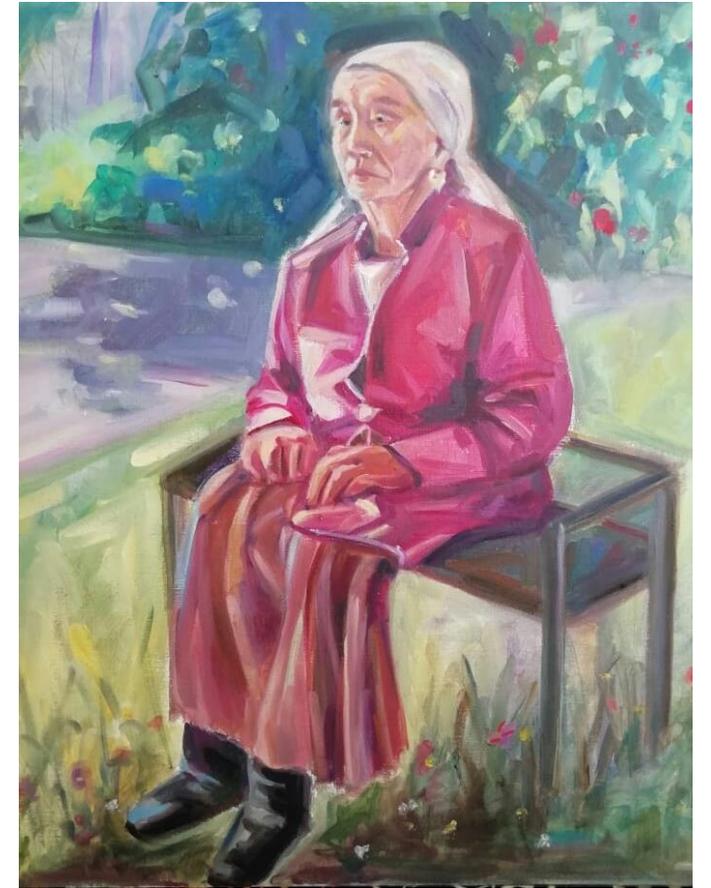
This section features portraits of different age residents from Baikonur, based on interviews that explore their connections to the cosmos and Baikonur, along with drawing their portraits, offered me insights into their real life and connection to their homeland, and provided information about their cultural symbols and personal situations.



Ksenia, whose name means “strange, guest, hospitable”, told me that she often looks at the moon, believing that wherever she goes, the moon will follow. She once dreamed of bringing the moon home with the astronauts, fascinated by their sleek, otherworldly spacesuits. Living near the spaceport, having moved to Kazakhstan, Ksenia spends her days as a housewife, taking care of her family. “I’m just a housewife,” she says with a laugh. “I clean and cook. Sometimes my husband and relatives talk about news from the spaceport, but I am not someone special connected to the universe.” There is a subtle, almost ethereal connection to the sky in her modesty and dreams. But Ksenia likes to dress up when there is a cosmonautics holiday like in this portrait.



Baurzhan, A Dream of Seclusion. Baurzhan has lived all his life in Baikonur, where he still lives. Many of his neighbors have already left, leaving their houses empty. Baurzhan also wanted to become a cab driver in Russia, but his father does not agree to leave Baikonur. His dreams are very down-to-earth, he said, and he finally bought a new car. Without money it is difficult, every day is stressful, only meeting my children and kissing their foreheads brings me happiness and a cup of tea.



Saira grew up in a family close to the mountains. At 17, she married a shepherd in Baikonur and raised her four daughters by herself. After moving to a larger city, she now works as a cleaning lady to earn money and take care of her newborn grandchildren. When asked about her dreams, Saira said, “My hope has always been my children. I don’t want them to suffer like I did. My only dream is that they can go higher.”



Most of the young people have been leaving, and Baikonur is becoming increasingly empty and isolated. Despite being so close to the cosmodrome, the reality for many residents is one of financial struggle and limited opportunities. The isolation and economic difficulties have created a community where dreams are often deferred, and the day-to-day existence is challenging.

In this context, the only true hope lies in their children. As the Kazakh saying goes, they wish for their children to "go higher" and achieve a bright future. The children represent not just hope, but a symbol of happiness and the promise of a better life. Every person I spoke with expressed a common desire: they don't want their children to endure the same hardships they have faced.

Living in the shadow of the cosmodrome, an entrance to space and the broader universe, the contrast is stark. While the cosmodrome represents the pinnacle of human aspiration and exploration, the residents of Baikonur often feel stuck on the ground. They project their dreams and fantasies of space onto their offspring, hoping that their children can reach heights they themselves can only dream of.



Sketches

Photos of young people in the Baikonur city

Research Part 2

Baikonur: Cultural Resilience in Isolation

Baikonur, with its unique environment and the distinct identity of its Kazakh people, is a place shaped by both history and isolation. The city has been experiencing population loss, creating an urgent need for its residents to cling to familiar cultural elements. Deeply affected by the Soviet era, Baikonur still showcases many decorations and artworks from that time, notably mosaics and Tiffany glass.

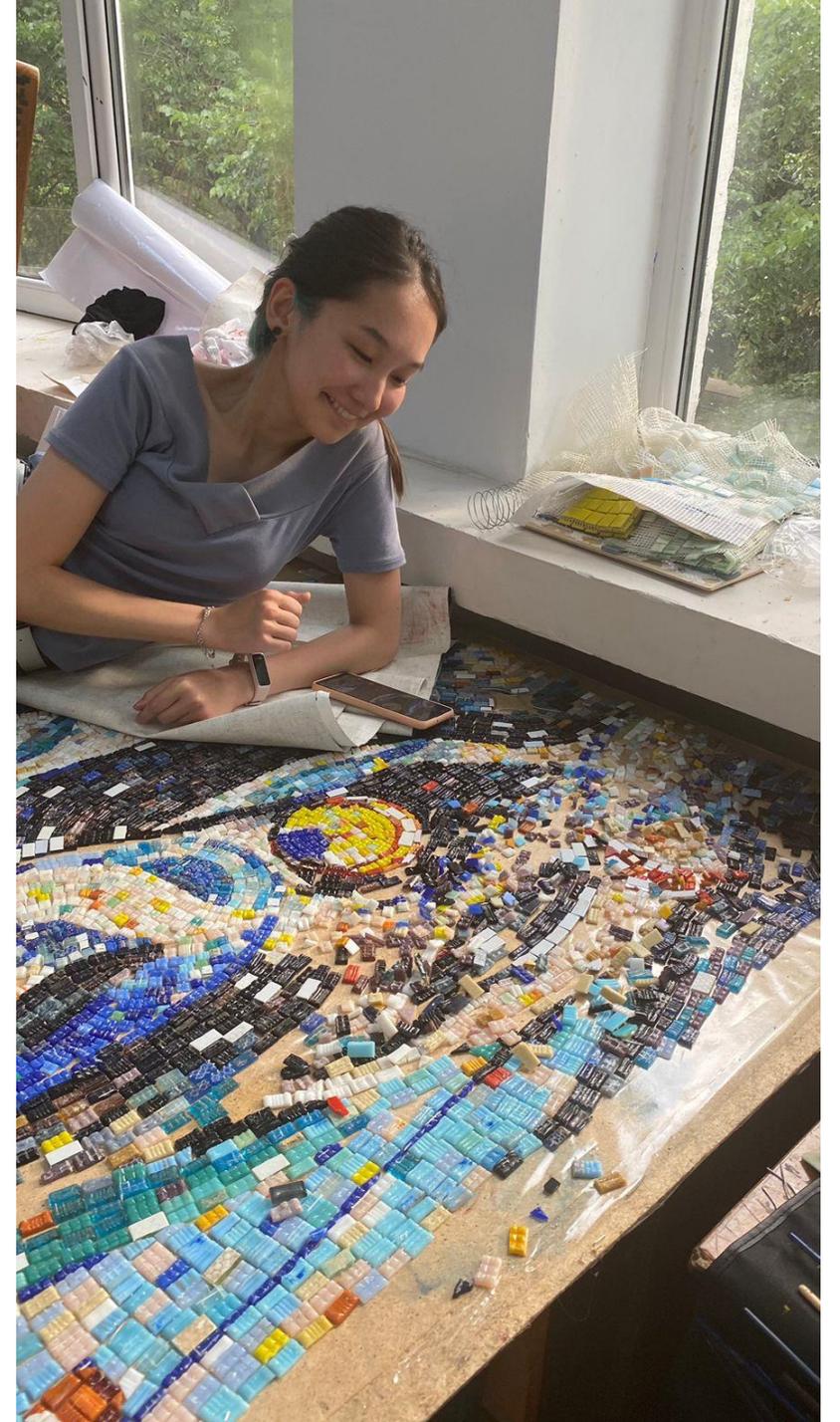
As a city divided under Russian control, Baikonur remains a place most Kazakh people from other regions will never visit. This isolation has intensified the residents' feelings towards traditions and lifestyles, which they deeply cherish and yearn for in their daily lives.

This dynamic has fostered a unique and independent community, where the past and present intertwine amidst the backdrop of space exploration.



Process

- I used mosaic to depict the fragile yet colorful essence of space, the families and residents of Baikonur. Their dreams of reaching the heavens may be overshadowed by the harsh realities of life and limited resources, but despite adversity, they continue to create a unique beauty that deserves to be recognized.





Two materials symbolize the dual aspects of Baikonur: technology and its ordinary people. Bright, warm colors represent their hopes, dreams for the future, and their love for tradition. In contrast, darker, colder colors symbolize the cosmodrome, the universe, and the technological challenges they face in reality. The desire to preserve their traditions while embracing their role as residents of Baikonur creates a unique and enduring contrast within the community

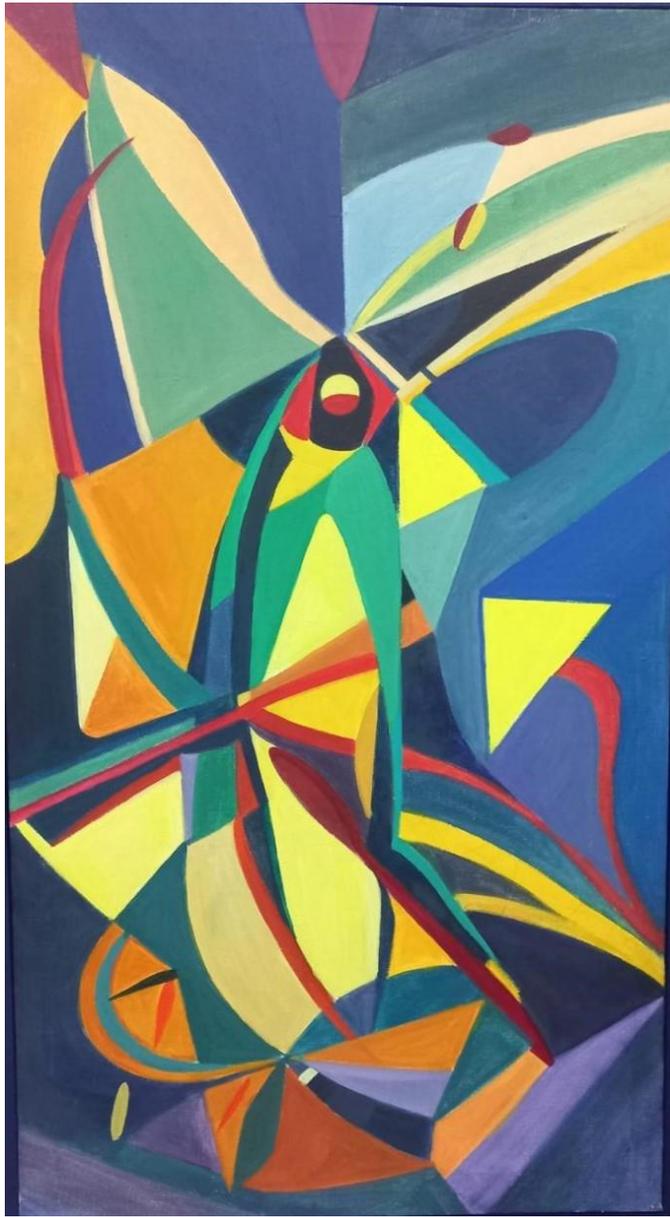


Final works



«Space» 120x100





Chaos in harmony

Final exhibition of the triptych “Cosmos” With mosaic fragments



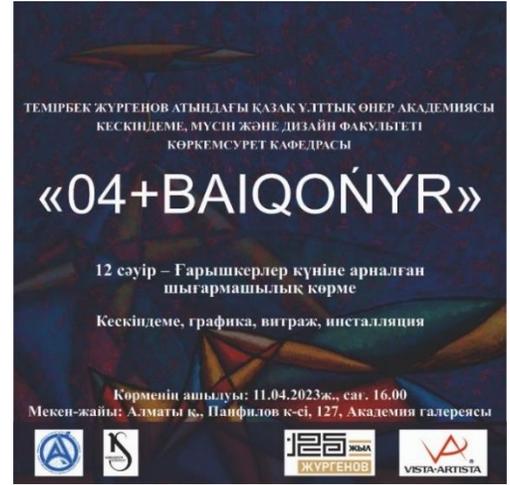
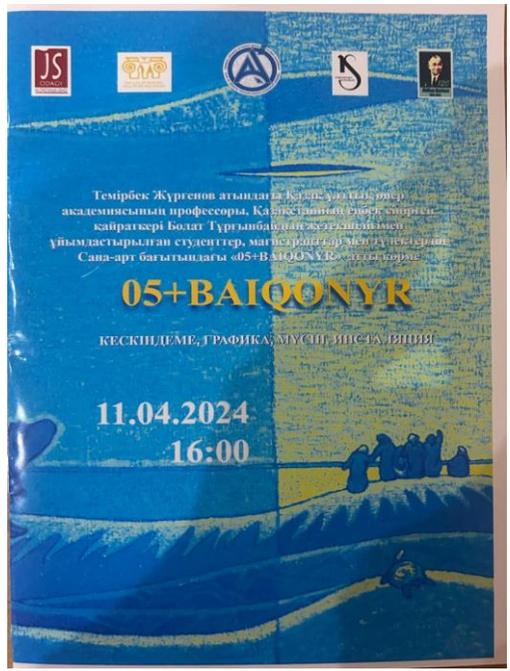
In the era of rapid development of science and technical means, a special place is occupied by creative research, thanks to which it is possible to achieve cultural and spiritual achievements to a certain extent and show the national art in a new light.

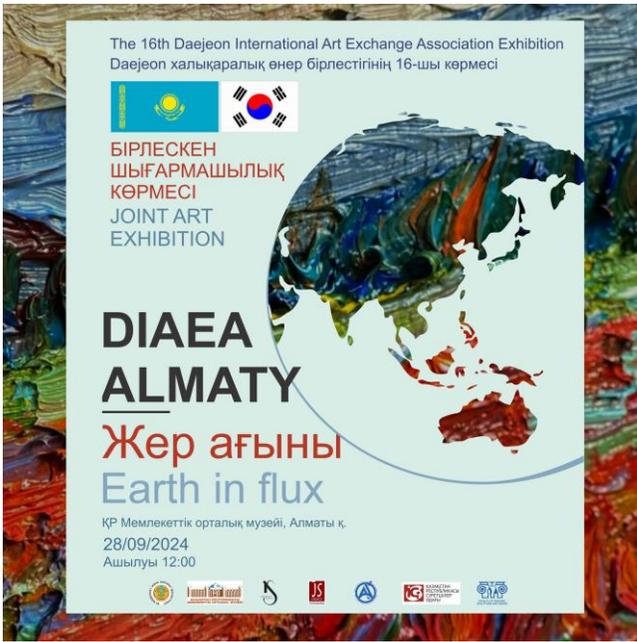
The name of the exhibition “05+BAIQOŃYR” also has its own meaning. This exhibition is held for the fifth time. Fantasy of artists, aspiration to know the world, form of presentation to the viewer, deviations from the established format will not leave indifferent visitors of the exhibition.

Fine art has always followed the progress, and sometimes even outpaced it. New digital technologies, in particular artificial intelligence, together with technical specialties influence creative processes, and a phenomenon called “digital art” emerges. It is impossible to imagine the modern movie and music industry without digital processing and computer effects.

No matter how the technical process develops, the world created by the mind and hands of man will never lose its value. Humanity's desire for space, infinity, inspiration from the unconscious spiritual world is a natural phenomenon. Our task is to educate the young generation, to open the way to the boundless space of the world of art, guiding them.

Booklets from the fifth anniversary of the Baikonur exhibition

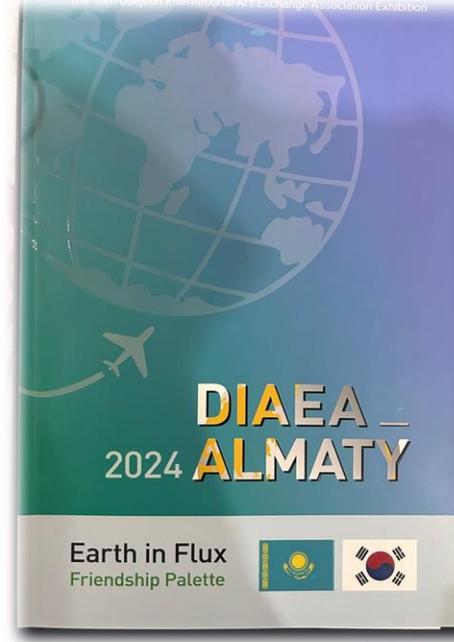




Joint international exhibition with Korea At the Kazakh Central Museum.

The main goal of the exhibition is to support and strengthen mutual cultural ties and cooperation between peoples.

To promote peace and stability, the beauty of nature and the environment, and to draw attention to the world's natural disasters and environmental disasters caused by direct human activities.



Before starting my master's program, I set myself an additional goal in my creative journey: to successfully pass the official selection and become an active member of the Union of Young Artists of Kazakhstan. This achievement highlights my professionalism and recognition in the contemporary art world in Kazakhstan. Now my goal is achieve PhD program.

