

Universal Gallery (Spacious Living) - Transcript

Spacious Living can be found on the ground floor at MOD. in the Universal Gallery. This exhibition is very interactive: if you require assistance, please ask a MODerator for assistance. It features many touch screens.

The Universal Gallery is an approximately 6m x 6m gallery space with dark walls and high ceilings. It is consistently set up in the same way: the four walls feature interactive touch screens. For this exhibition, there are also long screens above the touch screens which play videos. In the centre of the room is a circular area which has a guard rail around a 2m globe which hangs from the ceiling. There are small touch screens next to the guard rail. We enter the room through a doorway to the right side of one wall; directly in front are a set of wide, low, cushioned white, circular seats.

On the black floor at the entrance, white text reads: *Could home be 225 million km away?*

Just before you enter, wall text in the hallway reads:

Hello, and welcome to the universe. When things seem like life and death down here on Earth, out further there's a lot going on that makes us pretty forgettable.

Plans to live on Mars are not new, it's something people have been thinking about for a while. As us tiny humans start venturing out to space, how should we go about it?

Covering the lower half of the walls are many portrait-oriented touchscreens. Each is around 1.5m high and .5m wide, and they sit flush with each other. Each group of three touch screens features one continuous interactive image of outer space. There are interactive areas on the screens which can be pressed to zoom in and out of planets and stars.

Along the top of the walls is a long, continuous projection of a video work by artist Sarah Jane Pell and David Barnes, with contributions from the Mars Desert Research Station crew 188 and the Monash Immersive Visualisation Platform. Across the four walls is a sparse landscape which looks like another planet, but which is actually in Utah, USA. The rocky ground is pale grey-brown, the sky dull blue with white clouds. Across the landscape, the artist, dressed in a red spacesuit, performs tasks like blowing bubbles and walking as though in anti-gravity. Although it looks like a continuous landscape, the video is edited with mirror effects, creating simultaneous copies of the artist in the red spacesuit.

The globe in the centre of the room features collected data about the Earth and planets; the data display can be modified by the interactive touch screen next to the globe. A MODerator can help you with operating this.

This concludes the audio description of Spacious Living in the Universal Gallery, by Access2Arts for MOD. You will find the next exhibition by exiting the same doorway we came in; follow the hallway down until the end of the handrail on your left, then take the ramp down to the Street Gallery.