

Cave Art Continuum: 2009 – present

With several decades of exceptional access into NASA's Kennedy Space Center, I explored miles of highly restricted launch pad infrastructure— massive, weather-worn steel structures that rise along the Space Center's coastal landscape like Richard Serra sculptures. But it was the discovery of crude geometric symbols in a trench beneath a soon-to-be launched space shuttle headed for the Hubble Space Telescope that deepened my connection to found art.

Cave Art Continuum is an analogue photography project that explores a metaphysical arc between pre-historic human expression on the walls of fire-lit caves and modern space age surfaces transfigured by rocket-powered fire.

I worked essentially in isolation within these vast multi-storied chasms of charred, tactile, metamorphosed surfaces created from the fire and water of more than a half century of rocket launches.

By abstracting these surfaces devoid of scale on film, I discovered other-worldly landscapes. But after years of editing and juxtaposing these images, I found meaning in the markings. These surfaces reveal the unintended signatures from the machines that had first begun transporting humans and their tools off these earthly cement and steel gateways into the time and distance of our solar system.

They also revealed cave art-like symbolism.

Within one of these flame trenches were imperfectly shaped $\square \circ + ^\circ ^\circ *$... markings, spray painted typically in ocher, black and white. They were nearly identical to the color schemes and geometric markings by early humans more than 40,000 years ago at Paleolithic sites like Lascaux, Chauvet, and El Castillo in Europe.

I continue photographically exploring these ideas within the hidden, altered surfaces beneath other historic launch infrastructures. Among them is another former Apollo era site that has been repurposed into a 21st century gateway for the Artemis lunar missions. A departure point scorched with the signatures from the fire of modern-era machines that are lofting humans and their tools off Earth to explore the moon's surfaces of craters, hills, and caves.

However, the Apollo era flame trench I had been working in for several years has been demolished. As a result, some of my works are its only representation. A "Lascaux" of the space age had been unintentionally created, accidentally discovered, and then just vanished ...