



## Skyscapes

The **National Air and Space Museum** embraces astronomy and art in three new exhibits drawn from its collection of aerospace-themed works. For chief curator Peter Jakab, “Creativity allows our heads to wrap around something as unfathomable as space travel.”

X-rays turn art in *Suited for Space*, an inside-out look at the complexities of spacesuits and their evolving designs. Angela Palmer’s solo exhibition features *Searching for Goldilocks*, a sculpture of 18 illuminated glass sheets (each representing 250 light-years) etched with opaque “planets.”

*High Art: A Decade of Collecting* captures the beauty of flight, spacecraft and even astronaut gear like “Apollo Intravehicular Glove” photographed by Albert Watson. The exhibit also reveals the fantasies and fears of its artists. Fran Forman’s six dreamscapes show her childhood fascination with flying. Printmaker Lisa Lemeland once feared planes, and now, as an aerobatic pilot, finds inspiration in shifting horizon lines and spirals, the motion seen from her cockpit.

Even more space art on the second floor: Leonardo da Vinci’s sketches analyzing feathered flight as the model for man’s.—*Kelsey Snell*

### Visitor Centers

**D.C. VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER**—Tour advice, brochures, city guides and maps. Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. [www.dccchamber.org](http://www.dccchamber.org). 506 9th St. NW at E St., 202.347.7201 Metro: Gallery Place **Map 1 E7**

**SMITHSONIAN INFORMATION CENTER**—In the Castle, information about the 17 museums, National Zoo and two N.Y. museums. Orientation video, cafe, Wi-Fi and interactive video programs. Daily 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu). 1000 Jefferson Dr. SW, 202.633.1000 Metro: Smithsonian **Map 1 G7**

**U.S. CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER**—A \$621-million entryway to the U.S. Capitol features exhibits, artifacts, replicas of Capitol Hill, an 11-foot-tall model of the Capitol dome and interactive kiosks. No passes required to enter the center. Mon.-Sat. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Guided one-hour Capitol tours (Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) begin with a 13-minute film. Admission to the House or Senate Galleries issued by a constituent’s representative or senator. Limited number of same-day passes at the CVC information desks. [www.visitthecapitol.gov](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov). Below the East Plaza of the Capitol between Constitution & Independence aves., 202.224.4048 Metro: Capitol South **Map 1 G10**

**WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER**—Closed during long-term renovation but a temporary facility offers information on sights and capital history at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion near the corner of 15th & E sts. NW. Daily 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. [www.whha.org](http://www.whha.org). 1450 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Metro: Farragut West **Map 1 E6**

### Smithsonian Institution

**AFRICAN ART MUSEUM**—Sub-Saharan African art: masks, textiles, regalia, furniture, ceramics. *Earth Matters: Land as Material and Metaphor in the Arts of Africa*, the relationship between artists and their home soil **through Jan. 5, 2014**. *Lines, Marks, and Drawings: Through the Lens of Roger Ballen*, photographer’s line drawings and sketches, some on glass **through Feb. 9, 2014**. Daily 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Gift shop. [www.nmfa.si.edu](http://www.nmfa.si.edu). 950 Independence Ave. SW, 202.633.1000 Metro: Smithsonian **Map 1 G7**

**AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM**—World’s largest collection of air and spacecraft, including Lindbergh’s *Spirit of St. Louis*, the 1903 Wright Flyer and Apollo 11 command module. Interactive kiosks explore human spaceflight. “Codex on the Flight of Birds,” da Vinci’s personal notebook detailing aerodynamic principles **through Oct. 22**. *High Art: A Decade of*

*Collecting, Searching for Goldilocks and Suited for Space*, three flight-themed art exhibits including sculpture and spacesuit x-ray images **through Jan. 14, 2014**. *Time and Navigation*, chronicles of timekeeping through three centuries, ongoing. At Lockheed Martin IMAX Theater, aviation and space-related films daily. At Albert Einstein Planetarium, *Dynamic Earth, Journey to the Stars, Undiscovered Worlds*, daily from 10:30 a.m.

Daily 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tours 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. IMAX and planetarium shows: \$9, seniors \$8, children \$7.50. Gift shop. Food court. [www.nasm.si.edu](http://www.nasm.si.edu). 6th St. & Independence Ave. SW, 202.633.4629 Metro: L’Enfant Plaza **Map 1 G8**

**AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM UDVAR-HAZY CENTER**—National Air and Space Museum’s massive hangar-like facility near Dulles airport displays 160-plus aircraft. The *Enola Gay* and an F-4 Phantom. Ongoing exhibitions like *Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye!* and the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. Daily 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Free (parking \$15). IMAX theater, flight simulations. IMAX tickets: \$9, seniors \$8, children (2-12) \$7.50. Theater info: 866.868.7774. Frequent shuttle between Dulles Airport and museum. [www.nasm.si.edu](http://www.nasm.si.edu). 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly, Va., 202.633.1000 **Map 3 C1**

 **NURSERY WATCH** On live high-definition “panda cams” at [nationalzoo.si.edu](http://nationalzoo.si.edu), panda-obsessed audiences watch Mei Xiang cuddle and feed her female cub born August 23.