

HYPERALLERGIC

HYPERALLERGIC NEWSLETTER — MARCH 21, 2013

Letter from the Editor



Last night, I visited fellow art blogger [Greg Allen](#)'s new show at Apexart in Manhattan's Tribeca neighborhood. Titled *Exhibition Space (pics)*, the show was a fascinating investigation into the optics of early American space travel. This was an America that was scared the Soviets, with their fancy Sputnik satellite, were ahead.

Allen had a replica of one of the many mylar balloons that the Americans planned to shoot into space as some sort of governmental PR gimmick recreated — it sits in the corner of

the gallery like some glorious space marble. During the early 1960s, when it was created, people all around the world saw a version of this intergalactic disco ball streak across the sky, conveying a powerful impression that the US wanted to broadcast to the world in the midst of the Cold War. You can't help but see how Minimalism, Pop, Conceptual, and other art movements of the era must've been influenced by the space race and these gorgeous modern objects that were being created at the time.

The show is a breath of fresh air, full of ideas, scientific and press photographs, and a high modernist object — you're never quite sure if it is "art" and in many ways you don't care.

The show highlighted why I respect nonprofit spaces like Apexart, namely because they act like the R&D laboratories of the art world, where artists and curators can try out new risky ideas without any concern for the market. It also reminded me how I adore art that probes the forgotten corners of history, while making connections that others have long ignored.

Needless to say, I highly recommend [this show](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hragitk'".