

Name of Project: Smoke In Orbit, Cold Feet and Heavy Breathing

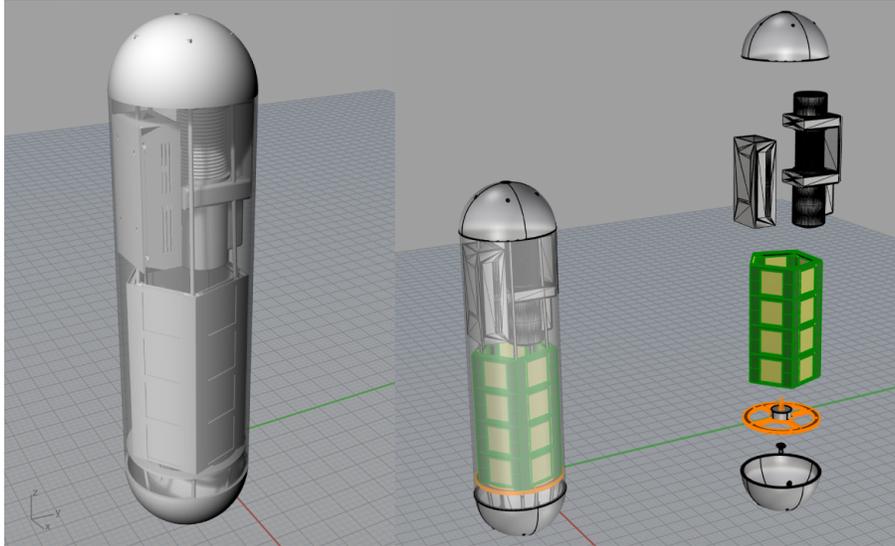
In massive moments of divine intention, a lustful flame turns ice to foggy breath that asks: *“why not send a probe to Europa?”*

Deep below the frozen crust of Europa, lies the possibility of life, a discovery that has the potential to shatter all notions of intelligent occupation. The project I am proposing will consist of multiple robotic sculptures, each an actor in a performative, interplanetary mission to discover life on the distant, frozen moon. Each appropriated scientific apparatus, articulated as an art object, will go beyond the scope of fiction by being built to the same working standard as instruments of space agencies. I envision the sculptures communicating between rooms or across a single room via radio signals. Their conversations will be displayed on built in screens. Each sculpture will be decorated with custom images, drawings or carvings that reference the projects conception or the research surrounding the works. My process of language and robotic choreography develops naturally throughout the making process.

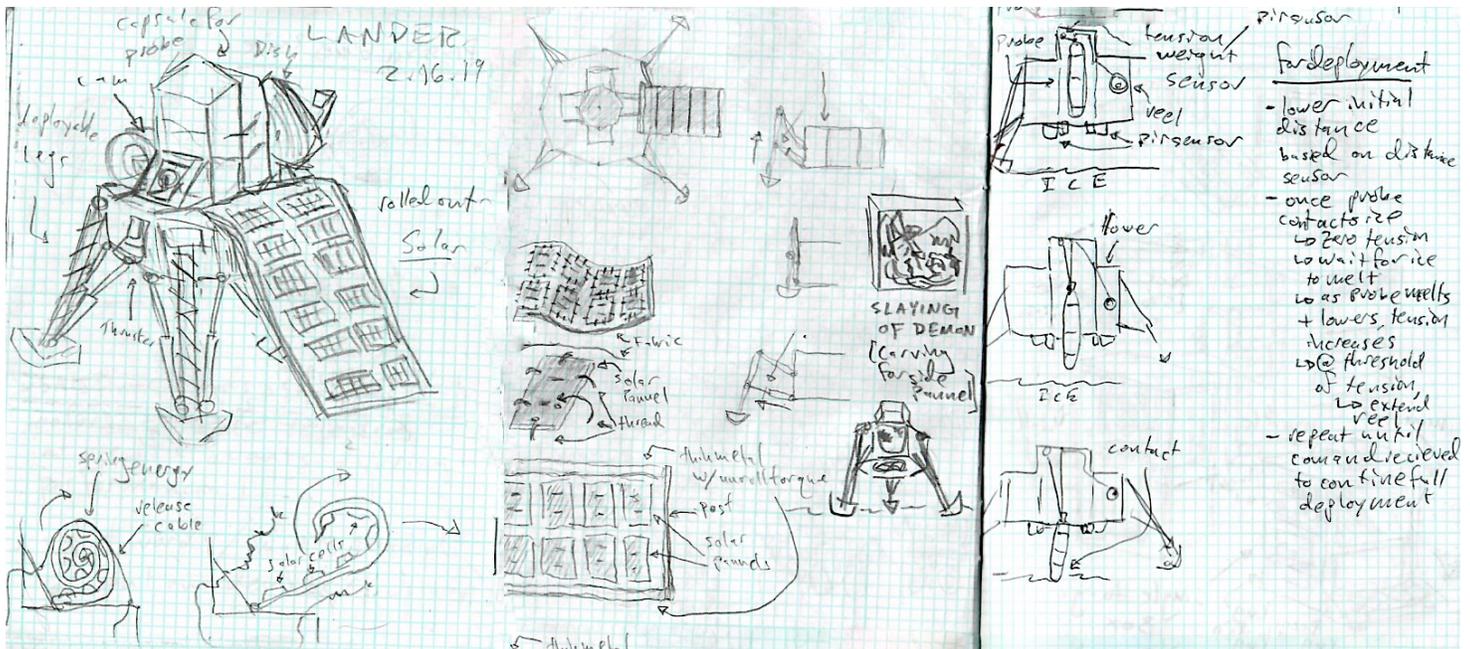
This series will consist of:

- A subterranean, tunneling robot probe equipped with sensors. A custom generator will create energy from the temperature difference between the frozen landscape and an internal heat source. For obvious reasons, the chunk of plutonium which would normally act as the heat source, will be replaced by a handmade candle that will romantically add the sensation of scent to a first contact (scent still under

constructions). For the context of an exhibition, this probe will be displayed within a temperature controlled box that will simulate extreme field conditions.

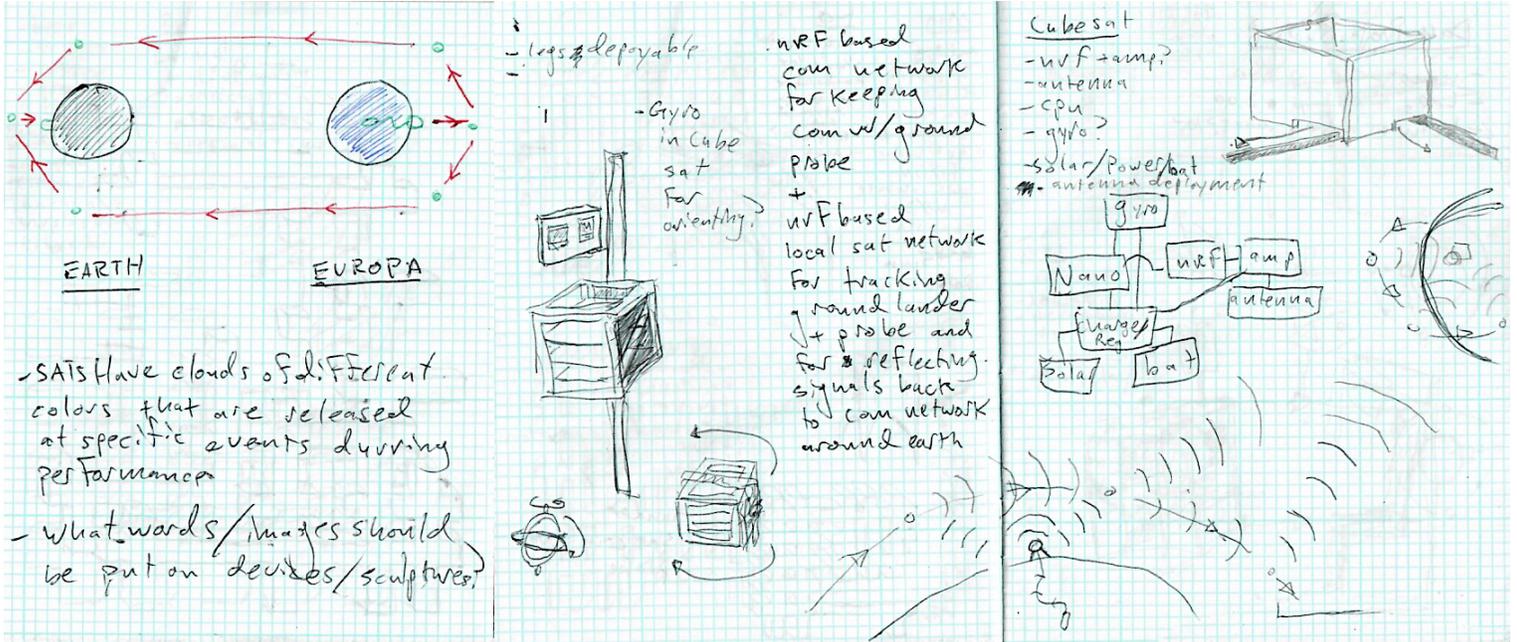


-A lander module that will manage the mission from the icy crust. This sculpture will be a robotic mesh of sensors, automated gestures, artificial intelligence, an experimental solar blanket, communications, and, should all fail, a small white flag to be raised in surrender to the alien landscape. As a vessel, the lander exists as a falling crescendo in the mission; with a large initial impact but a quieter idling position throughout the rest of the mission.



- A small array of 6 cube satellites (3 around Earth and 3 around Europa) that are to be designed to lock in geosynchronous orbits in order to aid with the translation of data. These sculptures will be outfitted with a plethora of sensors as well as the capabilities to perform small poetic gestures. Small dust chambers will be stored onboard for certain moments in the mission when they will be evacuated,

creating multi colored plumes in a zero gravity environment. These clouds will be engineered to symbolize and achieve the mission visually (a puff of dehydrated rose dust when the lander is bid farewell, a burst of Prussian blue pigment when the probe finally reaches water, etc.). The display of these sculptures is still a work in progress.



-An earth ground station that will have everything needed to communicate and monitor the other sculptures. This device will be equipped with antennas, a tracking system for the Earth satellite constellation and a visual interface for viewer engagement. The ground station will map the probe as it slowly tunnels through the icy crust or check in with how the satellites are fairing up above.

