

Sublunary

An Installation by Zoe Friedman

The gravitational equilibrium between Earth and its orbiting moon alludes to many precarious equilibriums of the natural order. A precise ratio between mass and velocity keeps the moon perpetually bound, forbidding the slightest variation. But what if the moon approached the earth? To leave its delicate and precise path would seriously impact the sublunary world.

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1. All things beneath the heavens; things of this world
2. Theological sphere of human imperfection
3. Zone of flesh, misery and vitality

The moon hangs framed in the night sky as a distant object of idolization and beauty. It can remain a pure and distant part of our subconscious, but as with many proximal ideas, its approach brings destruction. As it manifests into consciousness, the moon disrupts the terrestrial balance, and all earthly things react. It simultaneously entices and threatens.

My work presents a mythical account of the creation of an *interesting* world. It is an account of arrested feelings and the inhibitors of prosperity, of self-defense and suffocating comfort, of how fixed cycles become an unknown future. The generative thrust of creation, which is life, disrupts the order of life. In our quest for pleasure, we have sown ecological disarray. Cities choke on their own industry. The unthinking pressure of our genes obliterates whole tribes. Lovers suffer discord in the act of loving. We disrupt ourselves always. Often life seems to fall off balance, but is this imbalance something we merely perceive, or do we create it?

Cycles can make us feel helpless, yet also comforted. The force of change is also the impetus for evolution and growth. We are an accumulation of every crisis that befell our ancestors. All sublunary creatures exist precariously between the bright constellations of the past and the looming mass of the future. We are part of the changing world.