

Surfing the Cosmos: Energy and Environment

By Steve Miller

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“Steve Miller is an artist who, like a scientist, looks beyond the visible into the invisible. Artists use paint, and scientists, equations. And, like a scientist, he also aims to make the invisible visible.” –Arthur I. Miller, Preface to ***Surfing the Cosmos***

STEVE MILLER TURNS SCIENCE INTO ART IN HIS NEW BOOK SURFING THE COSMOS: ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Miller’s Art Grapples With Our Complex Relationship With The Environment And Our Unquenchable Thirst For Energy

Artist Steve Miller is fascinated by science – particularly the science of energy, whether it’s the electricity that lights our homes, the energy that flows within all of us, or the energy of the cosmos. For more than three decades his art has been based on his very personal connection to science as well as to the larger issues of environmental damage and human culpability.

In ***Surfing the Cosmos*** (G Editions, September 2022), Miller presents a new body of work – photographs and paintings that juxtapose pictures of the chaotic electrical wire grids of the Rocinha favela in Rio de Janeiro with those of the gigantic instruments used by scientists at CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research based in Switzerland) along with reproductions of the scientists’ scribbled equations. Miller’s unique way of combining these seemingly disparate images reveals our shared humanity and our shared responsibility for the world around us. “I want to show the way energy unites people and planet in the same destiny, across borders and across continents, and the places where the circumstances of everyday survival meet our planet’s destruction,” he explains.

Surfing the Cosmos is the final book in a trilogy about Miller’s work that began with ***Radiographic: X-Ray Photo Inventions*** (2017) and ***Surf/Skate: Art And Board Life*** (2019). Featuring commentary by two renowned scientists – Neil deGrasse Tyson and

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Arthur I. Miller – ***Surfing the Cosmos*** includes nearly 150 of Miller’s most striking images – photographs of day-to-day life in both the favela and at a CERN, along with reproductions of his beautiful, highly-intricate works on canvas.

When asked about the origins of his work, Miller says, “I never trusted verbal language as a child. For me, painting became a visual engagement in the non-verbal world of images. The entry portal into this world is sight. The longer your eyes linger on the images I create, the more your mind can wander and understand the ideas that I’m trying to make concrete through photography, painting, and other forms of art.” He leaves it up to the viewer to find meaning in the quantum equations he layers over gigantic scientific machinery or the images of graffiti superimposed on sprawling, pirated electrical wires in the favela. “In today’s world of double speak, political corruption and outright lies, we see what’s going on. We know the truth through our eyes,” he says.

Surfing the Cosmos is itself a unique work of art with its lush reproductions framing Miller’s thoughtful investigation into the ways that science and technology influence the environment and human culture and vice-versa.

As Neil deGrasse Tyson writes in the book’s Introduction, “It’s time to elevate electricity to art. And it’s time to remind ourselves, that science at its highest levels may be indistinguishable from art . . . ***Surfing the Cosmos: Energy and Environment*** accomplishes both simultaneously. After feasting on its imagery, I’m provided a glorious connection between the complex but simple wires that power villages and the simple but complex wires that decode the foundations of particle physics. I will never look at electrical wires the same way again.”

About Steve Miller:

New York-based artist Steve Miller has explored scientific concepts and experimented with new technologies in his photography, paintings, and sculpture since the 1970s. His imagery has also been reproduced on skate and surfboards, along with clothing and accessories. Miller’s art has been exhibited in dozens of one-person and group shows in galleries and museums in the United States, Europe, South America, and China. In 2013 and 2017, the National Academy of Science in Washington, D.C. mounted exhibitions of his work that explored the deforestation of the Amazon and its dire impact on the fauna living there.

Surfing the Cosmos is the final book in a trilogy that began with Miller’s ***Radiographic: X-Ray Photo Inventions*** and ***Surf/Skate: Art And Board Life***. Follow Steve Miller on Instagram @stevemillerdotcom and visit www.stevemiller.com.