

# EYE MOON COCOON

Virginia L. Montgomery (VLM)

OCTOBER 7 – NOVEMBER 30, 2023

1. *Luna Cocoon Meets the Moon Rocks at NASA with Mom and Me, 2023*

Text, 20 x 30"

\$350 framed, \$250 unframed

Luna Cocoon Meets the Moon Rocks with Mom and Me  
Virginia L. Montgomery

On New Year's, I ask Mom if she'll drive me to NASA's Space Center Houston so I can introduce my luna moth cocoons to the moon herself. Mom says yes. So, from our west Houston home, we travel together to NASA as I conceal a half-dozen live cocoons in the pocket of my camera bag. Mom also agrees to document me in the NASA's moon rock room as I unite the luna cocoons with their namesake.

Mom asks why I explain, "Because luna moths love the moon! They evolved around the moon, literally. Moonlight makes them fly, breed, and often leads them to die—have you ever watched a moth manically encircle a lamp? Luna moths love the moon so much they'll die for it. And so, I figured that in all the history of the Earth, no one has ever bothered to help a luna moth get to NASA so she may encounter what she loves most: her moon."

As we ride, I tell Mom about the giant impact theory behind the moon's creation. How 4.5 billion years ago a celestial body named Theia collided into the Earth. And how from that chaos our moon was born. Like in myth, Theia was named after the Titan goddess of light and vision, who also was the mother of the moon goddess Selene.

I also tell Mom about the evolutionary phenomenon behind biomimicry, the mechanism behind why some moths and butterflies have false-eyespots on their wings. "Did you know there're there are fossil records going back 54 million years showing insects with these graphic eyespots? That's before human eyes even evolved! For context, ancient humans evolved less than 7 million years ago. Eyespots on wings existed before we even had eyes."

And, on the subject of seeing, I also tell Mom about the French philosopher Lacan's psychoanalytic theories of the mirror stage, the gaze, and their relationship to metaphorization. Enthusiastically, I explain how Lacan's theories open within us the unnamable experience of what it means to be seen. "Mom, Lacan says that the effects of the gaze induce within a viewer the self-awareness of also being an object in material reality. So, the psychological importance of the gaze is in the meeting of two sets of eyes, because only there do beings exist for one another—in a mutual acknowledgment of being alive."

"Luna moths," I say, "it's like they spend their whole lives anticipating the presence of another. They evolved knowing there was something else out there, like a predator, that they could out-wit through biomimicry. So, luna moths evolved with a second set of eyes on their wings—so that in a life-or-death moment they could meet the eyes of a predator and say, 'hey, you! Look out, I see you!' And, isn't that amazing? I think it's amazing to consider that false-eyespots illustrate cross-species communication. It makes me think, maybe there is a great powerful consciousness that operates from species to species? Maybe it communicates through a shared language of symbols? Isn't it amazing that the circle shape is so omnipresent?"

Mom and I also talk about the moon. "Have you ever wondered why the moon is round, and not a pointy shape like a triangle?" As we pull up to the NASA parking lot, I tell Mom that the moon is round because it's geometrically efficient and that atoms want to swirl and settle in spheroidal ways. Once we arrive at NASA, we prepare fast for our moon-moth mission. As we enter the building, I'm lucky that NASA's x-ray machines don't pick-up my secret cocoons. But now inside, Mom and me locky head towards the moon stuff.

The moon rocks see us before we see them. Their room is dark, but their display case emits a soft glow that guides us to them. Around us, there is a palpable stillness in the air. It's serene and hums in harmony with the chilly AC. Side by side, Mom and I gaze at the moon rocks and admire their holy nature. They're so beautiful! Standing together, we press our palms against the glass display case to be as close to the moon rocks as possible.

Now, we work. I place my camera in Mom's hands. We're so lucky to have the space! It's just us: the luna cocoon, moon rocks, Mom, and me. Together, we begin our introductions. Slowly one at a time, I hold up a luna cocoon to the window so the moon rocks can see her. As Mom facilitates, I whisper: "Good morning, moon rocks. How are you? May I introduce a little luna cocoon to you?" With a cocoon in hand, I slowly draw a circle in the air. We urll together. Luna, "We've come a long way to be here." And tracing a ring around us I whisper, "we see you. And want you to know that she sees you too and that, just like me, she loves you so, so much."

2. *Sticks with Bells*, 2023  
Sticks, bells, string, dimensions  
variable  
\$250 each



3. *Stone Cocoon with Hole*, 2023  
Hand-carved marble, 26 x 12 x  
24"  
\$15,000



4. *Cocoon Hole*, 2023  
Digital C-print, 20 x 30"  
\$900 framed, \$500 unframed



5. *Luna Cocoon Meets the Moon  
Rocks at NASA, 2023*  
4K Digital video, 01:10  
\$1,200



6. *Luna Cocoon Meets the Moon  
Rocks at NASA, 2023*  
Digital C-print, 20 x 30"  
\$900 framed, \$500 unframed



7. *Moon Moth Bed Sequence I*,  
2023 Digital C-print, 26 x 40"  
\$1,200 framed, \$700 unframed



8. *Pointe Luna*, 2023  
Digital C-print, 20 x 30"  
\$900 framed, \$500 unframed





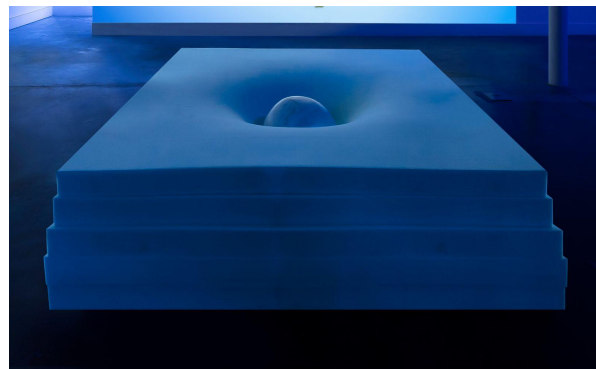
11. *Moon Moth Bed*, 2023  
4K Digital video, 06:30  
\$6,000



12. *Luna Belle*, 2023  
4K Digital video, 05:30  
\$5,000



13. *Egg Stone II*, 2023  
Memory foam and hand-carved  
marble, 84 x 72 x 32"  
Price upon request



14. *Bed with Sleeping Stone*, 2023  
Maple, stone, memory foam, 72  
x 60 x 72"  
Price upon request



15. *Eye*, 2023  
4K Digital video, 02:00  
\$3,500

