Retired NASA Astronaut Nicole Stott and Ian Cion, the program director of the Arts in Medicine Program at The University of Texas MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Center will launch on August 31st on a historic 12 day global Art Expedition to visit the four headquartered cities of the International Space Agencies that built the International Space Station. Along with astronauts from the respective International Partner Space Agencies, they will visit various cancer hospitals in those areas and paint artistic pieces on canvas with pediatric cancer patients. The children’s art will travel back to NASA’s Johnson Space Center and ILC Dover will assemble the pieces of art in to a third space suit replica called “UNITY”. The making of this suit is an international collaboration between international space agencies, hospitals, and space companies that will bring global awareness to the issues surrounding the fight against childhood cancers.

The “UNITY” space suit will travel to events, museums, conferences and other relevant places as an awareness tool for childhood cancer and to educate the public on the importance of art and its connection to healing.

Follow the Art Expedition 1 world tour at:

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Children battling cancer paint art pieces on canvas at the University of Texas MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital.

NASA spacesuit engineers transform the children’s art into life-size space suit replicas.

All working together to raise awareness to the issues of childhood cancer and reveal the healing power of art!
Suit 1: Hope

The first of the spacesuit replicas is called “HOPE”. The spacesuit is made of over 600 pieces of hand painted art from more than 60 art studio sessions with 531 volunteers of patients, families, and staff at the University of Texas MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital. The art pieces were then fabricated and sewn together by NASA spacesuit engineers and technicians from ILC Dover in Houston.

Suit 2: Courage

The second spacesuit, a replica of a NASA flight-suit, is called “COURAGE”. The children at The University of Texas MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital along with help from NASA Astronaut Kate Rubins, retired Astronaut Nicole Stott, and Ian Cion, the program director of the Arts in Medicine Program at the hospital, painted this suit to help raise awareness for the National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. This hand-painted flight-suit replica was launched to the International Space Station where Astronaut Kate Rubins is now living and working. She will do a live space-to-ground conference with NASA’s Mission Control Center and several of the children from the hospital who helped her paint the flight suit before she left on her Expedition mission.

Suit 3: Unity

The third spacesuit replica will be called “UNITY”. It is an international collaboration that will bring global awareness to childhood cancer. Retired Astronaut Nicole Stott and Ian Cion, will visit the four headquartered cities of the International Space Agencies that built the International Space Station. Along with Astronauts from the respective International Partner Space Agencies, they will visit various cancer hospitals in those areas and paint artistic pieces on canvas with pediatric cancer patients. The children’s art will travel back to NASA’s Johnson Space Center and ILC Dover will assemble the pieces of art into the third spacesuit replica “UNITY”.

All of the spacesuit replicas will travel to events, museums, conferences and other relevant places as an awareness tool for childhood cancer and to educate the public on the importance of art and its connection to healing.

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