

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

WASHINGTON, D.C. December 4, 1969. On Sunday (December 7) more than 70 paintings, drawings, and sculptures related to the Apollo missions to the moon will go on display at the National Gallery of Art, J. Carter Brown, Director, announced today. With few exceptions, the works of art are selected from the art program of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

For the past seven years, artists have been invited to visit Cape Kennedy and other NASA sites and record in whatever way they see fit America's early steps into space.

According to H. Lester Cooke, Curator of Painting at the National Gallery, who has been the advisor to NASA, "The purpose of the program is not to duplicate, or compete with, the facts recorded on film or tape, but to add a new dimension to our understanding and appreciation of this epoch-making event. There can be no doubt that space exploration marks a hinge in the history of the world, and officials of NASA have long recognized a solemn obligation not only to keep the contemporary public informed, but to hand down to future generations records as complete as possible in every meaningful form and at all levels of communication, interpretation, and insight."

The artists were chosen from a wide spectrum of the art community to include styles as divergent as those of Norman Rockwell and Robert Rauschenberg. Some are from the younger generation, like James Wyeth; others are senior citizens, like Lamar Dodd. The basis of selection has never been the artists' style, age, sex, affiliation, or fame but rather their skill as artists, the quality of their imagination, and the fact that the applicant responds to the challenge of the new frontier.

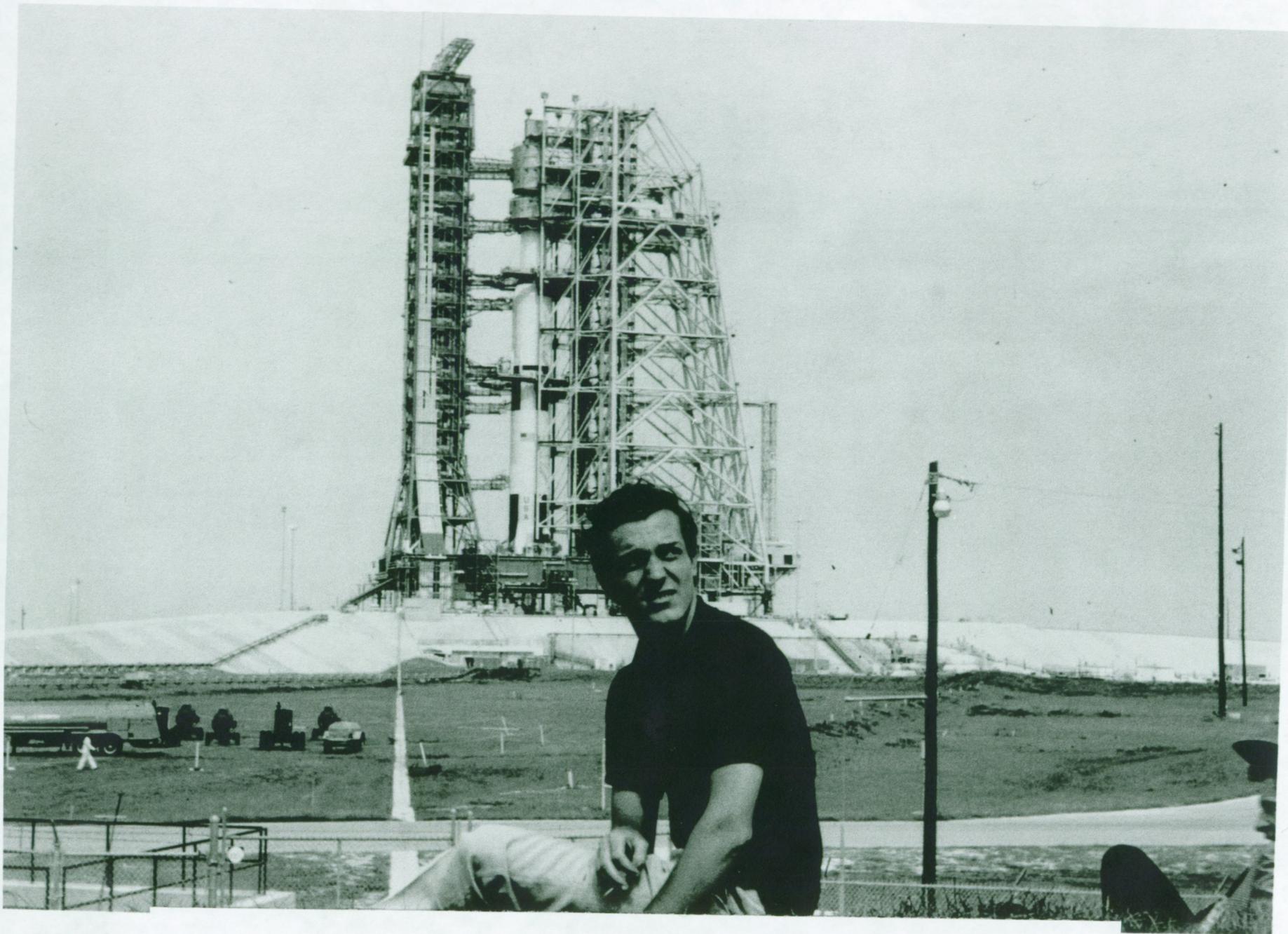
"An artist fulfills his mission in the program in so far as he adds to knowledge and understanding of space exploration," Dr. Cooke said.

The NASA art program represents the first time in history that a civilian agency of the Federal Government has called upon artists to document its activities according to their own interpretations.

The artist, because he can select the facts of vital impact, can edit out trivia, can add what he remembers, knows, and feels, perceives history on a different scale. With his imagination he can translate into visual terms scenes which no one has ever witnessed. He sees with different eyes and can find beauty in what was intended only to operate efficiently and significance in what might seem inconsequential.

"It is hoped that this program will help to prove that America not only provided engineers and scientists capable of shaping the destiny of our age, but also artists worthy to keep them company," Dr. Cooke said.

Some of the works of art on exhibit have been sent from American and European sources, evidence of the worldwide interest the space theme has inspired.

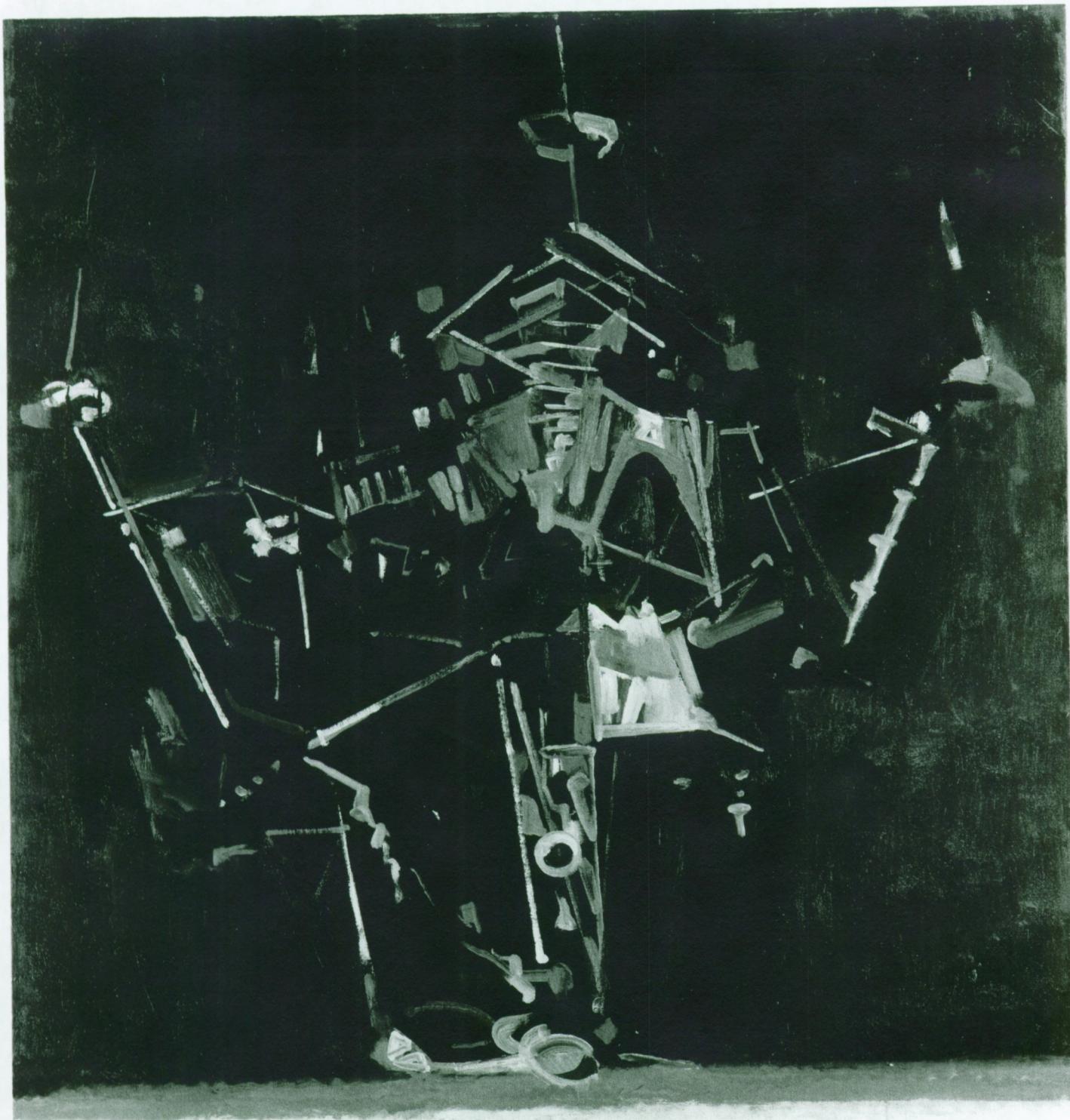


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James Wyeth, one of the artists who took part in the National Gallery-NASA "Eyewitness to Space" project, at the Cape Kennedy launch site of Apollo 11. Several of Wyeth's paintings are included in the Artist and Space exhibition at the National Gallery through January 4.

- photo by NASA -



*Lamar Dodd '93*

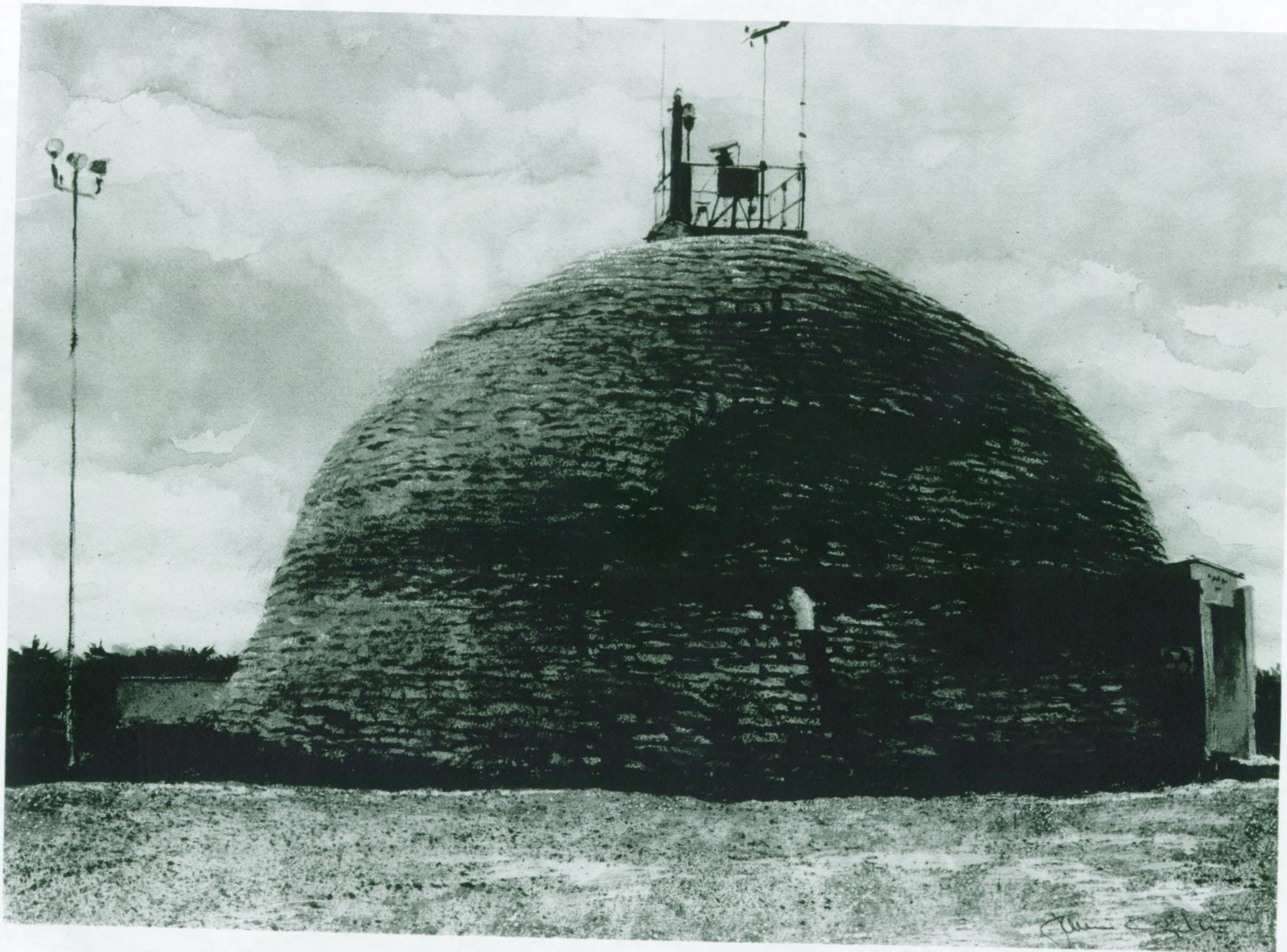
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"The Eagle" . Lamar Dodd

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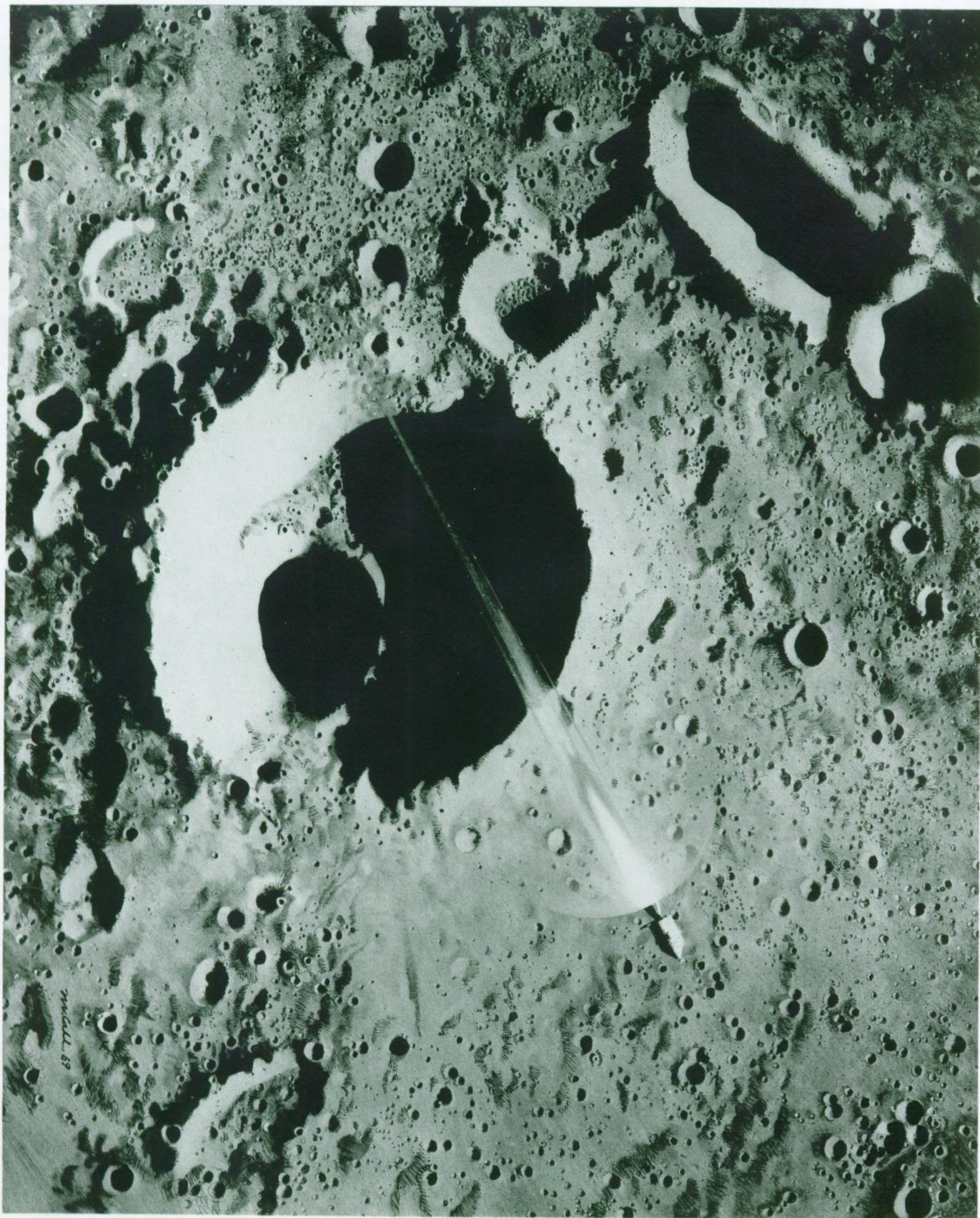


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Blackhouse " - James Loyeth

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"Apollo 8 Coming Home"

Robert McCall

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Courtesy of National Society of Genealogists

free

"FIRST LOOK"

Mitchell Janurson

Return to  
Lonnie Speer

CHRISTIAN ACTION  
NOV 1970  
#2  
LASK

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