



## Art/Out of this world (well, almost...)

By CHARLOTTE CRIPPS

**T**his artwork has got to be more interesting than tracking a parcel. A fragment of the moon will be taken by air freight courier around the Earth in a box (*above right*) for one year, as part of Katie Paterson's new artwork *Second Moon*. "I bought the rock from a lunar meteorite dealer in Arizona – it came with a certificate of authenticity," says Paterson (*below*). It will be collected tomorrow by couriers from the Great North Museum in Newcastle upon Tyne and transported anti-clockwise across the globe to London, Shanghai, Sydney and San Francisco, orbiting the Earth 30 times. A free iPhone App will allow the public to track its journey in relation to the user's location, the Moon's location and the orbits of the other planets in the solar system. "We are using the express courier service so the little piece of the moon stays airborne as much as possible," she adds. "It will mirror the orbit of the real moon for a whole year."

Since graduating from the Slade School of Fine Art in 2007, the Scottish artist, who is based in Berlin, has done a number of works that focus on the Moon and the cosmos. A custom-made *Light bulb to Simulate Moonlight*, 2009 (*above left*), that has a lifetime of 66 years, was exhibited in the group Light Show at the Hayward Gallery, London earlier this year. *All the Dead Stars* – a laser etched map that showed all 27,000 stars that have died in the universe – was exhibited in the Altermodern group show at Tate Britain in 2009. She has even gone as far as to transmit Beethoven's

Moonlight Sonata to the moon and back in *Earth-Moon-Earth*, 2008. Every time a star dies, she writes a letter of condolence as part of her series *The Dying Star Letter*. She also set off a confetti cannon at the Venice Biennale in 2012, with her work *100 Billion Suns*, which contained all the colours of the Gamma-ray burst. Meanwhile, in *Ancient Darkness TV*, 2009, she broadcast an image of the furthest away darkness in the universe at midnight for one minute, as part of a US performance festival. "Viewers would switch on only to see a black screen. But it was actually a time in the universe where light was just beginning to exist," she explains.

Why is she obsessed with the cosmos, space and time? "I have always been instinctively drawn to this subject," she says. "I am interested in our relationship to the Earth and to the wider solar system and our place within it."

She has always used a lot of ordinary technologies in her artworks, including record players, radios and mobile phones. "Likewise *Second Moon* is going on a very ordinary journey around the Earth. It will take people's imaginations to make that leap into visualising the *Second Moon* in relation to the wider universe," says Paterson.

After its epic journey, what does she hope to achieve by sending a human-made moon on a big trip? "Hopefully the box will be stamped with all the different locations it's been to. I will be pleased it made its journey without getting lost along the way."

*The App can be downloaded from tomorrow: [www.secondmoon.org.uk](http://www.secondmoon.org.uk)*

