

ORBIT

Astro Space Stamp Society



The First all Female
Spacewalk



Halley's Comet
Catalogue



SpaceX Falcon-9 Rideshare
SmallSat Missions





Editorial

Greetings and welcome to your May issue of Orbit.

Member Edmund Poscher from Austria has put together a catalogue on Halley's Comet. We would like to thank Edmund for making this catalogue available to our members. You will find the link to the rest of our catalogues on the right. I am sure you will find this catalogue a great help in collecting your Halley's Comet stamps.

The Halley's Comet Catalogue is in German, but we hope to have an English version of the Halley's Comet Catalogue ready for you for the July issue of Orbit.

In this issue Don Hillger and Garry Toth take a look at SpaceX Falcon 9 Rideshare SmallSat Missions and Nik Steggall takes a look at the female astronaut space walkers.

Umberto Cavallaro looks at the space art of Paul Calle and the Calle family, while Chris Calle tells us about the Italian astronauts on the C76 - "First Man on the Moon postage stamp".

We also have stories about Wally Funk, the Blue Ghost on the Moon, Athena descends on the Moon, the Lunar Trailblazer to search for water on the Moon and not forgetting Peter Hoffman's new issue guide and Johnathan McDowell updates us with his space report.

Cheers
Derek

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Copy Deadline for the July 2025 issue is June 10th by which time all material intended for publication should be with the Editor. Please send your articles to

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Astro Space Stamp Society Newsletter



For the Catalogues of
Astronomy and Space
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Astronauts - Star Trek and
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BLOG

Calle: A Family of Space Artists

By Umberto
Cavallaro

Selected in 1962 as one of the original eight artists in the newly established *NASA Arts Program* set up to record American space exploration, **Paul Calle** was the only artist present with the Apollo 11 crew of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins the morning of 16 July 1969 as they prepared for their historic launch to the Moon. His sketches of the Apollo 11 crew breakfast and Suiing Up stand as the only artist's visual record of the activities of that morning of these three men destined to make history for all mankind.

He had joined ASITAF, as Honorary Member, since its beginning, in 2008 together with his son Chris, (*see note 1*) and had designed the "ASITAF card 2009" and "ASITAF card 2010".

States, 50 percent larger than conventional U.S. commemorative stamps.

Chris followed in his footsteps as a NASA accredited artist and stamp designer, in the USA and many other countries.



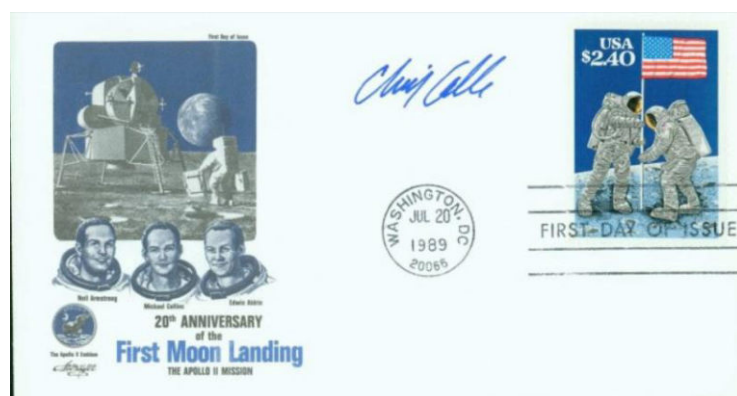
Paul Calle's sketch of Apollo 11 astronauts having breakfast.

"Painting and sketching with my father has always been an inspirational part of my creative process" he recalls. For years the two Calles shared a studio together. With subjects ranging from an astronaut on the Moon to distant planets, Chris Calle is an artist whose Space Art can be seen as small as a postage stamp or as large as a 10 x 20 foot mural. Chris has designed more than 35 postage stamps for the United States and hundreds more for countries as diverse as Sweden and the Marshall Islands, as well as designs for the United Nations.



Left: AS.IT.AF. 2009 card. Right: AS.IT.AF. 2010 card

In that year every ASITAF member also received as a gift a vintage C76 FDC cover, personally signed by him. Despite his drawings, sketches and paintings of the space programme - often very large - being on exhibit at Space and Science museums throughout the United States including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, U.S. Space and Rocket Center, the National Postal Museum, and the National Gallery, but perhaps his most famous work is no bigger than a postage stamp. Paul Calle had in fact the privilege of designing the *Apollo* stamp universally known as "**First Man on the Moon**", which was the largest postage stamp ever issued by the United



Cover by Chris with \$2.40 USA stamp which Chris designed for the 20th anniversary of the First Moon Landing.

Perhaps Chris's most well-known philatelic artwork is the **\$2.40 Priority Mail stamp** design of 1989 - in the 20th anniversary of the First Moon Landing - which depicts Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin planting the American flag on the Moon.

Chris's US postage stamp design work also includes the two stamps in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the first Moon Landing jointly designed in 1994 with his father Paul Calle. The two stamps flew on the Shuttle STS 68.



Cover by Chris and Paul for "A Tribute to Space Exploration".

During his 20+ years as an illustrator, his artwork focused on historical subjects and the theme of Space Exploration produced in paint and pencil for publications, advertising, coins, and philatelic First Day Covers. As an official NASA artist, Chris covered two of the early Space Shuttle missions, producing artwork that is now in the collections of the National Air and Space Museum and NASA. His artwork is in the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian museums, Space and Science Museums throughout the United States, and corporate and private collections worldwide.

Today in his fine art career Calle's oil paintings and pencil drawings focus on the history and future of manned space exploration. Chris is the author of "Celebrating Apollo 11, the Artwork of Paul Calle", which details Calle's involvement in the NASA Fine Art Program and focuses on the on-the-spot artwork Paul created as the only artist present during the suiting up of the Apollo 11 crew on the morning of their historic launch to the Moon.

Chris portrayed his father Paul in the 2018 movie **First Man**, (see note 2) the story of Neil Armstrong. Chris sketched Ryan Gosling and the cast during the breakfast and crew walkout, using the same sketchbook and pens Paul used in 1969 while sketching the Apollo 11 crew during the morning of the launch in the crew breakfast and suiting up rooms. What an incredible experience!



Cover designed by Chris Calle for the launch of the Axiom-3 mission.

Also young Chris's son Ian and daughter Arianna enjoyed drawing and painting, especially space artwork inspired by their

grandfather Paul Calle....and father Chris.

Ian now 24 years old and Arianna 20 years old, look back fondly on the times they did drawings like their artist father and grandfather. One year the entire Calle family attended Spacefest together, an event in Tucson Arizona which brought together astronauts for an autograph show, artists displaying an art exhibit, speakers and authors.

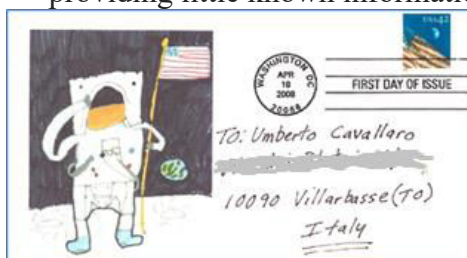


Paul, Chris, Ian and Arianna.

Ian and Arianna did drawings of Moonwalkers, Astronauts floating in Space, rocket ships etc. Many of the attending astronauts autographed their drawings, including Alan Bean, Charlie Duke, Gene Cernan, and Buzz Aldrin!

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Chris Calle for revising the article and providing little known information.



Left: Cover designed by Ian Calle when he was 7 years old.



Left: Cover designed by Ian Calle when he was 7 years old.



Two covers left: Covers depicted on 1994 by Ian and Arianna Calle for the FDC of the Apollo's 25th anniversary stamp (designed by their Father Chris and Grandfather Paul).



The "Paul Calle Space Art" article first appeared in AD-ASTRA - N° 11 – (December 2011) and the "Italian astronauts on C76" and "CALLE: a family of space artists" articles appeared in AD-ASTRA - N° 63 (March 2025) are reprinted with permission. You can check out the ASITAF website [Here](#)

(Note 1) See Calle, the first Honorary Member of ASITAF, in AD*ASTRA #41, (June 2019) p. 16 and Paul Calle Space Art in AD*ASTRA #11, (December 2011) p. 12-14.

(Note 2) See Putting their stamp on the Moon, in AD*ASTRA #41, (June 2019) p. 5-15.