

Cristina de Middel

In 1964, Zambia became an independent nation in southern Africa. The same year, a group of citizens launched a fledgling space program and entered Zambia in the space race alongside the United States and Soviet Union, aiming to place the first person on the moon.

In 2012, Spanish photographer Cristina de Middel created the *Afronauts*, a fictional photographic re-creation of this short-lived space program. Her photographs, here and on the far gallery wall, attempt to capture the history of African cosmologies and the Modernist inspiration behind this period of Zambian history.

From right to left:

BUTUNGABAI, 2012

Digital print on archival cotton paper, 12 x 12 inches

BUTUNGA, 2012

Digital print on archival cotton paper, 12 x 12 inches

UMUNKA, 2012

Digital print on archival cotton paper, 12 x 12 inches

INYONI, 2012

Digital print on archival cotton paper, 12 x 12 inches

Artworks courtesy of Dillon Gallery.

For more information on the Afronauts project, please see the iPad below.