

# **PUBLIC FOLDER / GOLDEN RECORD**

The fourth edition of the serial book project Public Folder is an artistic analysis of the 120 images, which are stored on the Voyager *Golden Record* and sent to space exactly 35 years ago. Every image is given to an artist and should function as a starting point for the artist's own work. The collected artworks will be related to each other by the arrangement in the book – conceptual framed by the title.

The sort of contribution is free, as long as it is reproducible in the book. Required is a work for one page (or two-page spread), which of course can consist of several parts.

**Size:** 24 x 20cm (two-page spread 24 x 40cm)

**Fileformat:** PDF, Tiff, Jpg (max. quality) / min. 300dpi,

**Colour:** RGB (eciRGBv2, AdobeRGB) or CMYK (ISOcoatedv2, Fogra39) ..if possible

**Other:** text-contributions as RTF or layouted as PDF (with fonts included); moving image, sculptures and anything else needs to be documented for the bookform

*The artist keeps all the right of the work, however by contributing, the artist gives permission to Public Folder to publish the work in relation to the issue Public Folder / Golden Record. It is inevitable that the contributed work is free of any copyright violation. Any possible copyright violation needs to be reported to Public Folder in advance.*

to:

**info@public-folder.com**

## GOLDEN RECORD

*In August and September 1977, two remarkable spacecraft named Voyager were launched. After exploring Jupiter and Saturn, they will slowly leave our solar system and cruise for eons to come through the realms of other stars. Affixed to each is a gold-coated phonograph record, a message from Earth to possible extraterrestrial civilizations.*

*By far the most complex and informative of all our attempts so far [1977] to communicate with other intelligences, the record contains, encoded in the audio spectrum, 117 pictures explaining our planet and ourselves; greetings in fifty-four different human languages and greetings from the humpback whales; a representative selection of "the sounds of Earth", from an elephant's trumpet to a kiss; and almost ninety minutes of some of the world's greatest music*

*The chance that the record will ever reach an extraterrestrial is remote, but this by no means diminishes the significance of its presence on Voyager. [...]*

*"No one sends such a message on such a journey without a positive passion for the future. For all the possible vagaries of the message, any recipient could be sure that we were a species endowed with hope and perseverance, at least a little intelligence, substantial generosity and a palpable zest to make contact with the cosmos." – Carl Sagan*

*(Murmurs Of Earth, 1978)*

### The Contents of the Record

#### *Side A:*

- 116 pictures
- The first two bars of the Beethoven Cavatina – *Audio*
- Greetings from the President of the United States (Jimmy Carter) – *picture (letter)*
- Congressional List – *Images (textlist)*
- Greetings from the Secretary General of the United Nations (Kurt Waldheim) – *Audio*
- Greetings in fifty-four languages – *Audio*
- UN Greetings – *Audio*
- Whale Greetings – *Audio*
- The sounds of Earth – *Audio*
- Music (ca. 30 min) – *Audio*

#### *Side B:*

- Music (ca. 60 min) – *Ton*

*Visual part: ca. 11 min. – 159 picture-takes à 4 sec.: 98 pictures in grey, 19 colour images - each in three different greylevels (57 pictures), 4 pictures of textpieces*

*Audio part: ca. 1:53 min*

## Technical dates

Two one-sided 'mothers' from the industrial record production, connected back to back.

*Material:* gold-plated copper

*Weight:* 570 g

*Size:* 300mm diameter, 1,25 mm

*Running speed:* 16 2/3 rpm

*Durability:* ~1 billion years

*Photoengraved label:*

– THE SOUNDS OF EARTH, Side 1(2), NASA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
PLANET EARTH

*Engraved handwriting (Groove Message):*

– TO THE MAKERS OF MUSIC - ALL WORLDS ALL TIMES ; SIDE / A (B)

*Production:* CBS, James G. Lee Record Processing Centre

*11 copies exists - 2 onboard the Voyager spacecrafts, 1 on museum display. 8 copies are archived at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Archives, USA.*

*The record's cover consists of diagrams showing how to retrieve the data and audio as well as the location of earth in relation to 14 nearby pulsar stars and the lowest form of a hydrogen atom meant to be a base for retrieving the encoded information. A pure sample of uranium-238 was electroplated on the cover for dating purposes.*

*Total weight including attached pickup and needle: ~1kg*

*It will take over 40,000 years to come within 1.7 light years of the nearest star.*

## Golden Record Team

Executive Director: **Carl Sagan** (1934-1996), astronomer, -physicist, cosmologist, author

Technical Director: **Frank Drake** (\*1930), astronomer, -physicist, president and founder of SETI

Art Director: **Jon Lomberg** (\*1948), space artist, science-journalist

Assistive Director: **Linda Salzman Sagan** (\*1940), artist, author,

Creative Director: **Ann Druyan** (\*1949), Author, producer,

Producer: **Timothy Ferris** (\*1944), science-journalist, (editor at Rolling Stone Magazine that time)

*Scientific basics and advisers:*

*Philip Morrison, Frank Drake, A.G.W. Cameron, Leslie Orgel, Bernard M. Oliver, Stephen Toulmin, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, Robert Heinlein*

## Timeline

Dec. 1976	NASA request to Carl Sagan, start of the process
Jan. 1977	decision for the record format
14.05. 1977	decisive assembly („Mission of western background“)
<b>May-June 1977</b>	<b>selection of music and pictures</b>
mid June 1977	exposure of the pictures
July 1977	production of the record
26.07. 1977	first official press release about the Golden Record
20.08. 1977	first start (Voyager 2)

<http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/spacecraft/goldenrec.html>

<http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/index.html>

<http://goldenrecord.org/>

<http://public-folder.com>