Sometimes, a little distance is all you need to see things in a brand new way. For astronaut Terry Virts, his newfound perspective was from the International Space Station (ISS), where he installed the Cupola module, granting an unprecedented 360-degree view from the station. When Virts later became the commander of the ISS, he made good use of the Cupola, taking more photographs than any astronaut who came before him. Many of those images were later used in the National Geographic book View From Above and IMAX film A Beautiful Planet, but to hear Virts tell it, no photo can capture the perfect shade of blue from a sunrise viewed from outer space.
Biography

TERRY VIRTS

NASA astronaut Terry Virts has served as pilot of the space shuttle Endeavour, a crew member on the Russian Soyuz spacecraft, and most recently as commander of the International Space Station during 200 consecutive days in space—one of the longest continuous space missions of any NASA astronaut.

Virts appeared in the 2016 IMAX film A Beautiful Planet, a breathtaking portrait of Earth from space that features stunning footage—much of it shot by Virts while aboard (and outside) the International Space Station—of our magnificent blue planet and humanity’s impact on it.

Virts’ photography, which provides incredible aerial views of Earth and the vast space that surrounds it, is featured in the National Geographic book View From Above, released in October 2017.
Engagement Events

Tuesday, November 5, 2019
LOBBY DISPLAYS: SPACE@VT
How are Virginia Tech researchers contributing to our understanding of the universe? Visitors to the Moss Arts Center explored this at an open exhibition in the lobby, featuring work by the Center for Space Science and Engineering Research.

Special thanks to Scott Bailey, Center for Space Science and Engineering Research

Go Deeper

How does Virts describe how his relationship to Earth evolved over the course of his tenure on the International Space Station? If you had been in his shoes aboard the ISS, what about his work and lifestyle would you have found most appealing? Most challenging?
For our third major public art commission, artist Daniel Canogar created a site-specific sequence of dynamic, data-fed sculptural forms. *Surge* encompasses thousands of flickering LED lights in moving, ever-changing, computer-generated abstract images that glide across four ribbon-like sculptural forms. Currently responding to real-time information on local weather, the generative visuals of *Surge* flow continuously across the Grand Lobby walls.

**Did You Know?**

The *Surge* project required over seven months of planning between the Moss Arts Center and the Canogar studio. Using floor plans, 3D renderings, photographs, sketches, and Skype calls, the sculpture was uniquely designed to fit in our Grand Lobby. Custom-made components of *Surge* were shipped from Spain and China and fabricated, assembled, and installed over a two-week period here in August. Artist Canogar and studio assistants Justin Goh and Diego Mellado worked with the Moss Arts Center production and gallery crews and IT staff to install and program the customized sculpture, requiring two aerial scissor lifts, a daily crew of eight to 10 skilled workers, and a lot of coffee.

**GALLERY HOURS**

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM  
Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu.