

Indianapolis artist James L. Cunningham witnessed nine space launches as a NASA artist. He is pictured holding his painting, "Infinity Tower," one of 38 in "Visions of Flight," a retrospective of the NASA art program on display through Dec. 8 at the Indianapolis Art League.



# ARTISTS

AND

# SPACE

By **MARION GARMEL**  
The Indianapolis News

Long before there was a man on the moon, there were "The Martian Chronicles."

"It's a great subject for leaps of the imagination, rendering places never seen."

So says James L. Cunningham, Indianapolis space artist.

"And as important as art is to space, it's important to remember space exploration was made possible in part by artists who took these dry bits of speculation (in science fiction literature) and made them real through their paintings. Chesley Bonstell did paintings looking down on earth, the curve of the earth. Mankind had never seen that. Now we see it every night on TV."

Cunningham is one of a select number of specially designated "NASA artists" who were invited to witness launchings and landings of all of America's space probes. Their mission: To set down their impressions in pencil and paint . . . whatever style or medium they chose.

Their works are included in "Visions of Flight: From Rockwell to Rauschenberg," which opened Friday at the Indianapolis Art League, 820 E. 67th St.

This Saturday, from 7 to 9 p.m., a special opening reception for artists, astronauts and the public will follow a roundtable discussion that begins at 5.



Pamela Lee's "Bringing in the 'Big Boy'."



David K. Stone's "A Handfull of Emeralds."

The subject is "The Impact of Space Technology on the Arts." Along with Cunningham, participants include Capt. Alan Bean, Apollo 12 Skylab commander turned artist; Kenneth Bowersox, NASA astronaut and Indiana native; Robert Schulman, director of the NASA art program; Sandra Meisel, science fiction author, and Robert C. Rhome, NASA special applications officer.

Cunningham, in addition to having one piece in the exhibit, curated the show for the art league, meaning he picked the works that are

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