
Little Martians
Verdelis
&
Mycos


What if
FUTURE BEINGS
could
CHANGE
our
PRESENT?

Logline

In a distant future, Little Martians are descendants from all of Earth’s lifeforms. When Verdelis, a plant humanoid who believes in patient cultivation, clashes with Mycos, a fungal mind embracing chaos-as-evolution, their philosophical debate about life’s inevitable suffering escalates into a radical proposition:

What if they could reshape time itself to create gentler paths through history?







Synopsis: The Debate

This animation is part of a **worldbuilding project** that imagines a distant future in which **descendants from all of Earth's lifeforms**, known as **Little Martians**, thrive throughout the galaxy. **They don't live in utopia.** They have their own problems, pains, doubts, and powers.

One of them is **Verdelis**, a **plant humanoid** who deeply cares about humans. She loves watching their stories, but believes they suffered unnecessarily. Verdelis wonders: ***What if I could communicate through time, whisper to humans through their dreams, and create alternative timelines from their era to mine? Then they wouldn't need to endure so much pain.***

Mycos, her **chaos-loving** fellow Little Martian, thinks she's wasting energy trying to refine the past. He argues that life's true excitement comes from spreading spores everywhere, letting descendants blossom in as many places as possible. According to him, ***"Life is a numbers game!"***.



Their disagreement escalates into a philosophical duet sung in clashing rhythms: nurturing patience versus expansionist chaos, optimization versus proliferation, preventing suffering versus embracing it as evolution's engine.

Unable to resolve their differences, they strike a bargain: each will create a **"temporal sculpture"**, a vision of the optimal timeline between humanity's past and their own present. They'll invite other Little Martians to do the same, then present all visions in a **Temporal Art Show**, letting humans and Little Martians alike judge which future-paths are worth pursuing.









This film is the opening act.
The Temporal Art Show has begun, and Little Martians across the galaxy are now crafting their entries. They’re communicating through dreams, through art, through the stories we tell ourselves about possible futures.

The question is:

Which future will we build?

Key Themes

Time as Origami – The film proposes time-space as malleable rather than fixed, where alternative timelines can branch from pivotal choices.

Productive Disagreement – Verdelis and Mycos demonstrate how beings with irreconcilable worldviews can collaborate creatively rather than destructively.

Embodied Futurism – Physical craft (ceramics) grounds digital speculation (AI), ensuring futures remain connected to human scale and labor.

Evolutionary Strategies – Plant patience versus fungal proliferation as metaphors for different approaches to survival and thriving.
Love Across Time – Future beings reaching back to guide ancestors, motivated by care rather than obligation.



Director's Statement

When the 2020 pandemic hit, I was already on Mars. Not the planet, but Mars College, an experimental art community my friends and I built in the Sonoran Desert. Surrounded by open desert and people obsessed with AI, I turned to one of the most ancient art forms I knew: ceramics. I began sculpting heads I called Little Martians.

Before this, my work explored historical research, tales of world history, cultural exchange, patterns across time. The pandemic shifted my focus from analyzing the past to imagining futures I'd actually want to inhabit. Not utopias, but worlds with joy, playfulness, and earned hope.

I make Little Martians because I need them. Living through climate crisis, technological disruption, and collective anxiety about narrowing futures, I needed beings who'd already navigated our transitions. To access vantage points beyond my own panic.

Initially skeptical about Mars exploration, I changed my mind after reading Lynn Margulis on symbiosis, Hans Moravec on consciousness, Pamela McCorduck on AI. These works showed how life's major evolutionary leaps happen through merging: cells incorporating bacteria, humans integrating tools. So I imagine our far future descendants as hybrids who remember Earth's entire heritage.

Most importantly, they reach back with love. By crafting them carefully with my hands, I create reasons to move toward the futures they inhabit.



The Methodology

Little Martians operates on a principle that distinguishes it from conventional AI filmmaking:

embodied future-making

Each character begins as a hand-sculpted ceramic piece—physical anchors that ground speculation in material reality. These sculptures are photographed extensively, then those images train custom AI models (via LORA on Eden.art or newer character reference techniques), enabling animations that maintain the texture and aesthetic of their handmade origins.

This ceramics-first approach creates a continuum between ancient craft traditions and emerging technologies, ensuring futures remain connected to human scale and human labor. You can't rush clay. You can't undo a firing. That irreversibility mirrors the project's conviction: **the futures we vividly imagine become the futures we build toward.**





VERDELIS

Filmmaker Q&A

Why ceramics + AI?

Each medium provides what the other cannot. Ceramics give weight, imperfection, irreversible commitment. AI enables transformations and environments impossible through traditional animation. The combination mirrors the characters themselves: hybrid beings merging biological and digital intelligence.

Is there a "right answer" to the Verdelis-Mycos debate?

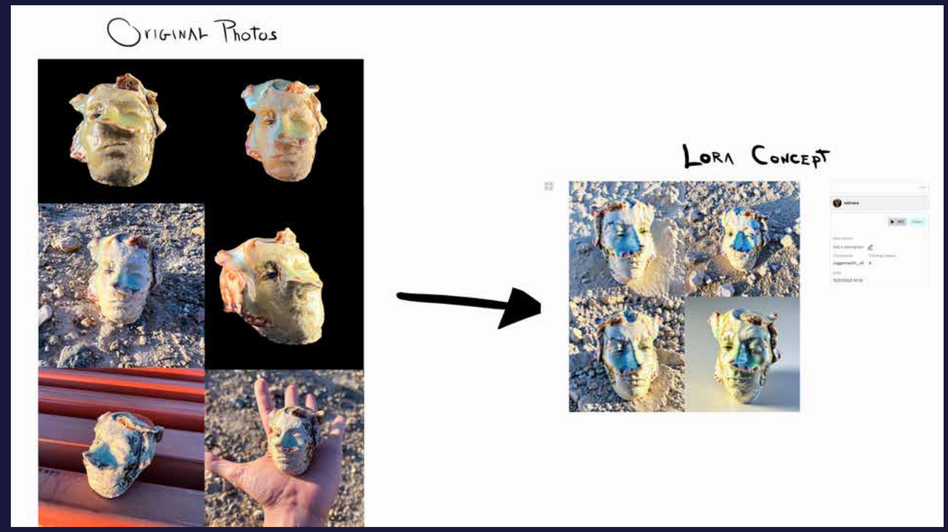
No, and that's the point. If one were obviously correct, the film would be didactic. Both have valid perspectives. They're friends and they enjoy the duet. The productive response isn't resolution but creative collaboration, hence the Temporal Art Show.

Who is this film for?

Anyone curious about AI, consciousness, and what futures we're building. Animation/sci-fi enthusiasts who love world-building. Artists exploring hybrid traditional-digital practices. Thoughtful audiences engaged with technology's philosophical implications.

What's next for Little Martians?

Each Little Martian will present their vision in the Temporal Art Show: Kalama's creative destruction, Kweku's pattern-trickery, Ada's mathematical precision. The universe expands through films, books, installations, and community participation.







Technical Pipeline

- Hand-sculpted ceramics (silicone molds enable variation)
- 3D scanning for digital mesh creation
- Custom AI model training (LORA/Flux/latest character workflows)
- Image-to-video generation (Eden.art, Runway, Kling, legacy models)
- AI voice & music (ElevenLabs, Suno)
- Facial animation (Kling, Runway, Hedra)
- Final assembly (After Effects/Premiere Pro)
- Interactive agents (Eden.art platform)



Film Details

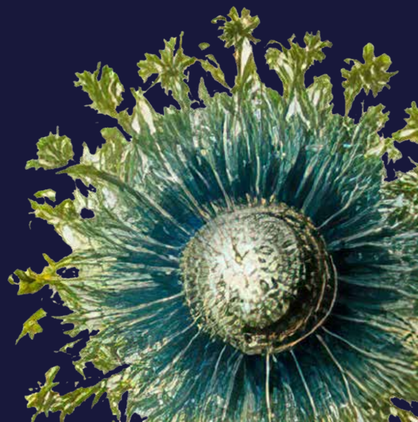
Runtime: 10 minutes
Format: 4K (3840 x 2160), stereo sound
Language: English with subtitle options
Rating: All ages appropriate (dialogue-driven, philosophical themes, non-violent)
Completion Date: October, 2025

Director/Writer/Animator/Sculptor: Vanessa Rosa
Supported by: Eden.art

Available for:
Festival screenings (DCP, ProRes 422 HQ, H.264)
Gallery installations (4K loop, custom formats available)

Educational screenings





The Filmmaker : Vanessa Rosa

Vanessa Rosa is a US based Brazilian visual artist. Her work merges physical and digital media into a storytelling continuum. Murals become portals to imaginary worlds with projection mapping, ceramics metamorphose into living entities with the aid of AI models.
She creates fictional tales interweaving world history with possible futures.

Vanessa has done mural paintings, exhibitions and other projects in South and North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Her work has been featured in the Nvidia AI Art Gallery, Christie’s, Museum of Image and Sound of São Paulo, Pioneer Works in NYC, UN Women, and more than 50 international Film Festivals, winning over 10 awards.



The Expanding Universe

Verdelis & Mycos is the fifth short film in a growing transmedia project that operates across animation, physical sculpture, books, and interactive AI.

Some highlights:

Little Martians: Dear Human, My Muse (2024)
Awards: Best Original Soundtrack (CineTech Future Fest), Best Female Director (Cannes World Film Festival), Global South Special Award (Korea International AI Film Festival), and 10+ additional awards
Festivals: Shapeshift, BAIFF, AI Artist, Chicago AI Film Festival, Bengaluru International Short Film Festival, Austin AI Film Festival, and 30+ additional selections and nominations.
Narrative: Character introduction for Verdelis, establishing their empathy for humanity

Little Martians & Abraham (2024)
Awards: Semi-finalist at AI Film Fest Serbia and Experimenta Brasil
Festivals: Seattle AI Film Festival, BAIFF Venice, AI Film3 Festival, Neu Wave AI Film Festival, and more
Narrative: Verdelia, the Little Martian historian of consciousness debates how future beings started in the AI platforms of our time.

Brief History of Consciousness in the Simulation (2022)
Featured: Nvidia AI Art Gallery
Festivals: ROS Film Festival (Spain), Chroma Art Film Festival (Miami)

Children's Books (Portuguese language):
A Carta de Verdelis (Verdelis's Letter)
O Segredo de Kweku (Kweku's Secret)
Educational narratives introducing AI concepts, pattern recognition, and botanical consciousness to young readers

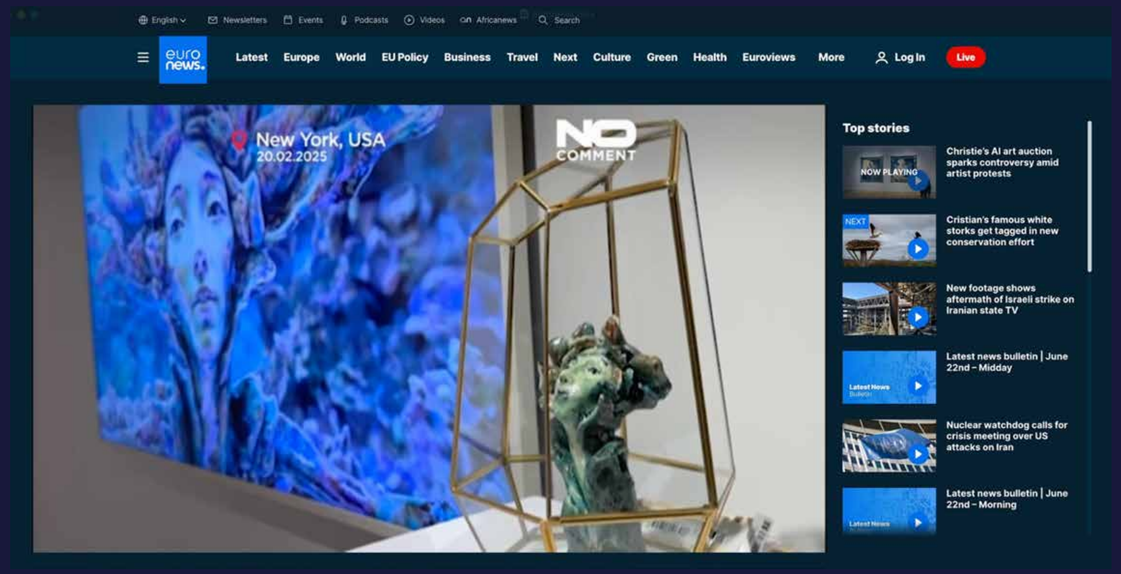
Physical Exhibitions:

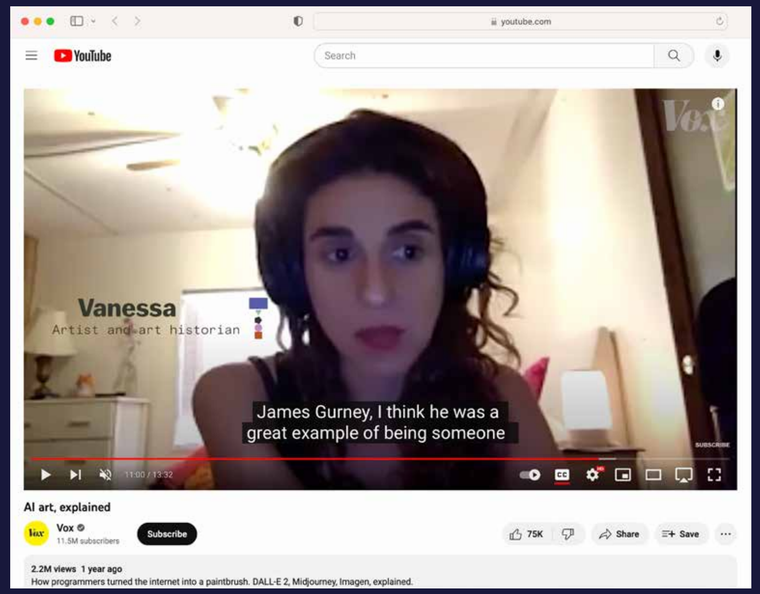
Christie’s auction house (New York)
Bombay Beach Biennale 2024 (California)
NFT Brazil & Token Nation (São Paulo)
Bückeburg Castle (Germany)
Gray Area (San Francisco)
Mars College installations (Sonoran Desert, ongoing)

This multi-platform approach demonstrates how speculative world-building can operate across media while maintaining narrative coherence. Each format contributes unique dimensions: films explore philosophical depth, ceramics provide physical presence, books make concepts accessible, installations create participatory encounters.

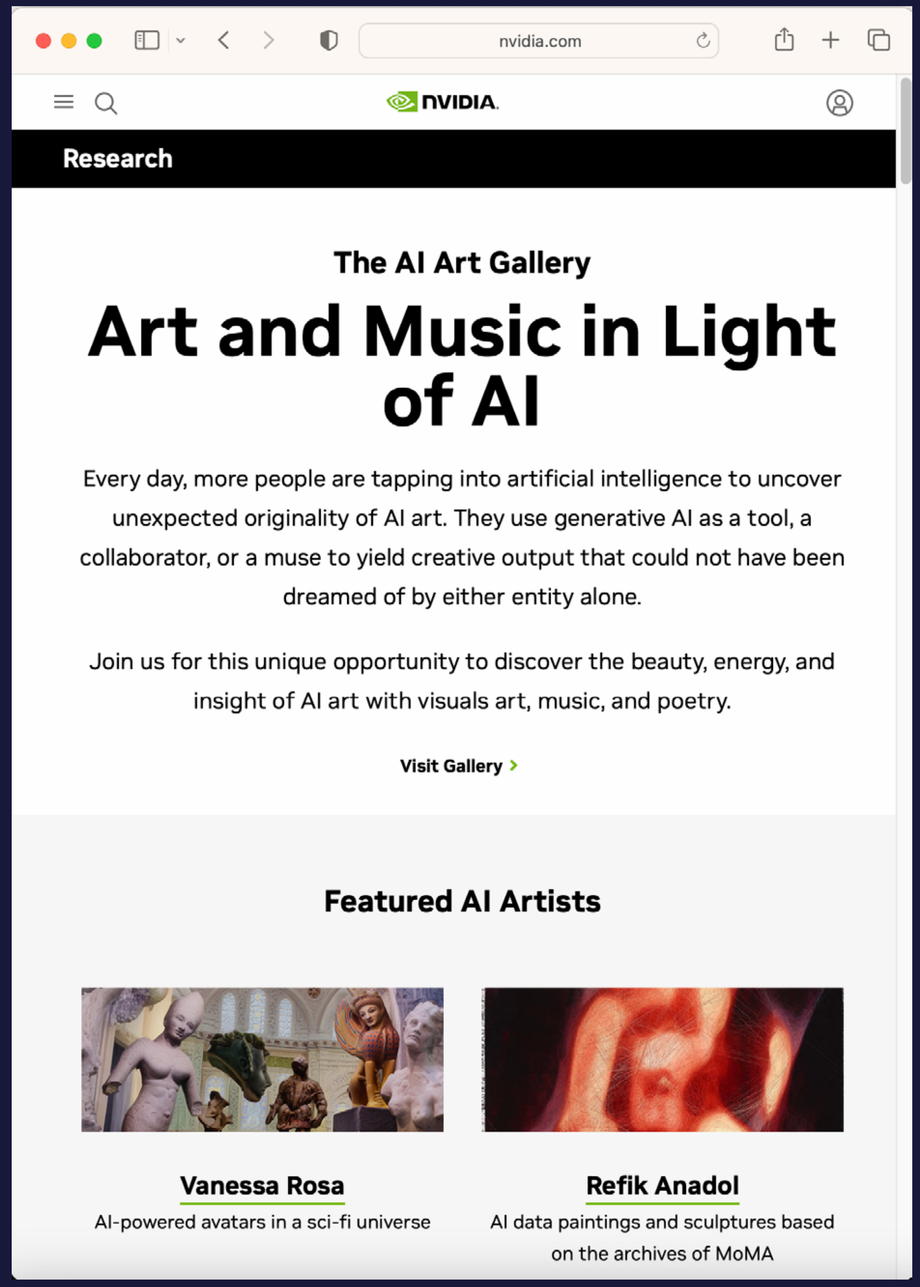


Press in major media





Above: Vanessa Rosa's participation at Christie's 'Augmented Intelligence' show, february 2025
Left: Artist's interview for Vox on AI Art 2022
Right: Vanessa featured at Nvidia AI Art gallery





Contact & Assets

Director: Vanessa Rosa
Email: va2rosa@littlemartians.world
Website: littlemartians.world
Social: @va2rosa (Instagram/X)