The Turner-tipped artist who’s literally out of this world

Fossil beads, future forests, dying stars: Katie Paterson tells Mike Wade how space and time have inspired her work

Like an excited boy in a pet shop, Katie Paterson is eager to share the rare objects she’s collected. Her fascination with ‘space and time’ is particularly unusual.

‘I’ve always been interested in fossils,’ she says. ‘There are so many stories and possible futures in one little bone. I think they’re very beautiful and I think about the story behind a fossil. Is it a story about a fish in a river or a tree that once grew in a forest? Is it a story about a star that exploded millions of years ago? Is it a story about a planet that once existed but is now just a rock in the universe? It’s like a mystery, and I love mysteries.’

Paterson has been collecting fossils since she was a child, and her love of the natural world has never waned. She says she’s always been interested in the way that fossils can tell us about the past and the future.

‘There’s something curious about the way that fossils can tell us about the past and the future,’ she says. ‘They can teach us about the history of life on Earth, and they can also tell us about the history of the universe.’

Paterson’s love of the natural world has led her to create a number of projects that explore the relationship between space and time. Her most recent project, ‘Eon’, is a series of installations that explore the concept of ‘eternal return’.

‘Eon’ explores the idea of eternal return, which is a concept that has been discussed by philosophers and scientists for centuries. It suggests that the universe will one day return to its original state, and that everything that has happened in the past will happen again in the future.

‘I think that’s a fascinating idea,’ Paterson says. ‘It’s a way of thinking about the universe as a cycle, rather than a linear process. It’s a way of thinking about the past and the future as being interconnected.’

In her installations, Paterson uses a variety of materials, including fossils, stones, and metals, to create a sense of timelessness. She says she wants to create something that’s both beautiful and thought-provoking.

‘I want to create something that’s both beautiful and thought-provoking,’ she says. ‘I want to create something that’s both accessible and difficult to understand. I want to create something that’s both familiar and strange.’

Paterson’s work has been exhibited in a number of galleries and museums around the world, and she continues to explore the relationship between space and time in her new projects.

‘I’m always looking for new ways to explore the relationship between space and time,’ she says. ‘I’m always looking for new ways to think about the past and the future.’

In the end, Paterson hopes that her work will help people to think about the universe in a new way.

‘I hope that my work will help people to think about the universe in a new way,’ she says. ‘I hope that my work will help people to think about the past and the future in a new way. I hope that my work will help people to think about the relationship between space and time in a new way.’

Paterson’s work is both beautiful and thought-provoking, and it continues to inspire people around the world. She says she’s always looking for new ways to explore the relationship between space and time, and she continues to create new works that are both accessible and difficult to understand.