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Arts diary

Morse code moon mission

Francesca Martin Wednesday November 21, 2007 The Guardian

British artist Katie Paterson is to try communicating with the moon. At an as-yet unspecified hour on Friday, she will bounce 4 minutes and 33 seconds of silence from Japan to the moon and back through morse code. The work makes reference to composer John Cage's famous piano work 4 minutes and 33 seconds, which consists of silence with the pianist opening and shutting the piano lid to indicate the beginning and end of the piece. That it should take place in Japan, where she has been studying moon-gazing, is important to Paterson. "The moon plays an enormous part in the Japanese aesthetic," she says. "We definitely need more moon appreciation in the west."