

SAN FRANCISCO



WINTERTIME, IN THE LATE 80'S. I WAS AN ART STUDENT, ON A COOL MOONLIT EVENING WALK.

I THINK IT WAS ON CLEMENT STREET



UP AHEAD, ON THE SIDEWALK



WHERE I SPOTTED AN UNUSUAL CONTRAPTION ON THE CORNER

IT WAS AN OLD CARDBOARD TUBE, HAND-PAINTED BUT CHIPPING, CRUDE AND HANDMADE, THAT LOOKED TO BE BALANCED ON A ROCKER BOX OF SORTS, THEN I HEARD A VOICE....



"COME TAKE A LOOK AT THE MOON"

I HEARD HIM SAY, WHO WAS AN OLDER GUY OFF TO THE SIDE WHO APPARENTLY OWNED WHAT WAS A HANDMADE TELESCOPE!

I WAS INSTANTLY INTRIGUED...



I KNELT TO GET A GOOD LOOK, NARROWING IN ON THE EYEPIECE.



IT LOOKED ROAD WORN. THIS 'SCOPE HAS BEEN AROUND! THE EYEPIECE WAS PRIMITIVE, LOOKING LIKE IT WAS PLACED IN A PLUMBING FIXTURE. I WONDERED IF IT'LL HOLD UP TO THE VIEW THAT MY OLD REFRACTOR 'SCOPE GIVES.



WOW!!!

THIS MUST BE THE BEST VIEW OF THE MOON THAT I HAVE EVER SEEN!



CRYSTAL CLEAR AND DETAILED. THE CRATERS, SHADOWS, HIGHLIGHTS, MARE PATCHES, AND MOUNTAIN RANGES WERE MORE VIVID THAN THE BEST PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS! * I FELT LIKE I WAS COMING IN FOR A LUNAR LANDING...



I WAS SHOCKED AT HOW GOOD THIS VISION WAS! I BACKED OFF WITH MY MIND REELING AT THIS STUNNING CLARITY.



I WALKED ON, BLOWN AWAY BY WHAT I WAS NOT EXPECTING TO SEE TONIGHT. I EVEN FORGOT TO THANK THE FELLOW WHO SHOWED ME THIS LIFE ALTERING VIEW.



I REALIZED DOWN THE SIDEWALK THAT THIS WAS NONE OTHER THAN JOHN DOBSON, LEGENDARY FOR SHARING ASTRONOMY WITH THE UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC.

I KNEW THEN THAT I HAD TO GET INVOLVED AND DO THIS TOO!

TO BE CONTINUED...

* YEAH, A LOT BETTER THAN THIS DRAWING I MADE!