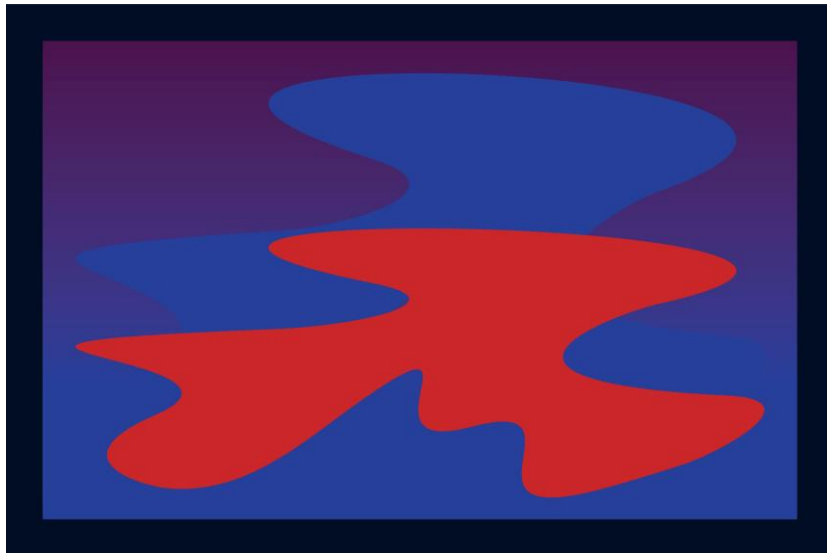


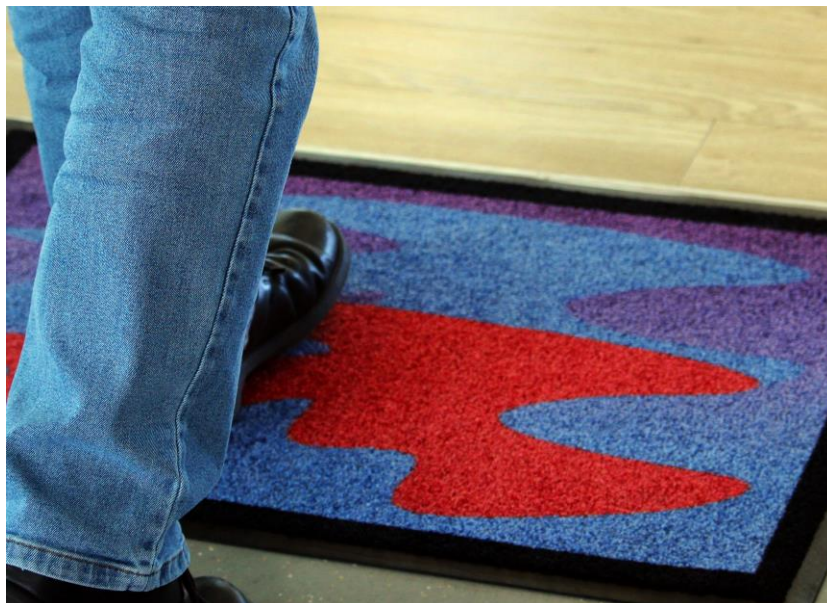
The Cosmic Welcome Mat

by Jonathon Keats and Alice Gorman, PhD

This is a Cosmic Welcome Mat. The mat has been designed to welcome beings from anywhere in the universe – including members of our own species here on Earth – to visit your home during the 71st International Astronautical Congress. The design draws on a universal visual language derived from physics, chemistry and biology, as well as archaeological research into symbolic communication through deep time. Welcomeness is communicated in terms of receptiveness, conveying the potential of an 'alien' organic blob to fit into a standard domestic space. The graphic can be downloaded and printed out, ideally on carpet (though even ordinary paper will suffice), and oriented to fit in your doorway as shown in the photograph. To invite otherness and overcome xenophobia, the welcoming effort must be ongoing and should involve everyone. The Cosmic Welcome Mat is merely an entry point into a future world of tolerance.



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