

Telstar (Wisdom) 200 (Dark bog oak, various sustainable exotic wood veneers) © by Paul Fryer 2008

The *Telstar 1* satellite was planet Earth's first orbital communications platform. This artwork is an exact copy of that satellite, the body of which is rendered in partially fossilised wood which is thousands of years old.

When *Telstar 1* was launched in 1962 it captured the worlds imagination. TV signals were sent live from America to Europe using the satellite as an orbital repeater station in space. It heralded the beginning of the information age as we know it.

The work *Telstar (Wisdom)* is an interpretation of this device as an object more akin to an ancient reliquary or fount. It highlights the very short distance in time between this moment in human technical achievement and the earliest technical drawings of Da Vinci a mere four generations previous. We have come a long way in a short time, and this was only the beginning of the meteoric acceleration we are now experiencing as humankind. *Telstar* was the product of human hands. Perhaps soon the idea of human handiwork will be altogether redundant as time and technology telescope humanity into the pages of history.

Paul Fryer

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