



## Point of Contact

by Paul Fjeld

\$6,500

acrylic on board

23" x 24"

Apollo 11 Eagle makes contact with the left probe as its Commander, Neil Armstrong, struggles to correct a rightward drift near touchdown on July 20, 1969. The glowing engine is firing into the surface, “swallowing” a shock bouncing off the surface from about seven feet. The shock shape is based on detonation tube tests of a 1/20 scale model mounted in an altitude chamber firing at various distances from a surface. Similar “swallowed” shocks were recorded in similar tests of the Ascent Stage firing and verified by TV images of the LM liftoff from the moon. A few seconds after this point shown during the landing, the Lunar Module touched down with the right footpad, descending at about a foot per second, moving leftward at about two feet per second. Armstrong reported that he was confused by the lunar dust shooting out beneath him, giving the illusion of moving backwards. The painting is modified after being published in the May/June 2013 edition of the Houston section of the AIAA’s Horizons publication.

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