

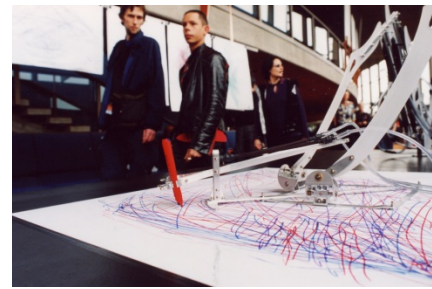
Topics in Art Worlds: Encountering Artworks that Engage Science



Matthew Barney's *The Cremaster Cycle*



Beatriz da Costa's *Piegon Blog*



SymbioticA's *Fish & Chips*

From Patricia Piccinini's sculptures to SymbioticA's fish brain robot, many visionary artists are focused on the power of science and technology in culture. This course will offer an overview of artworks that use and critique science and technology, with an eye to how we can study these works and think about the tasks these pieces attempt in society. While these artists do theorize about their own work, a nexus of academics' critiques which include cultural theorists, art historians, philosophers, historians, and science communicators are also taking an interest in these artworks, so we will examine Stephen Wilson's *Information Arts* and Robert Mitchell's *Bioart and the Vitality of New Media* to get a sense of the ways these artworks are being approached. Then we will study some early proponents of this type of work including Joe Davis, Matthew Barney, and Patricia Piccinini. The course will end with some meditations on the institutions that fund art that engages with science and the way the media presents these artworks.

Week 1: Introduction to Encountering Artworks that Engage Science

Wilson, Stephen. 2002. *Information arts: intersections of art, science, and technology*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press

Week 2: Theorizing the Bioarts

Youngs, Amy. 2000. "The Fine Art of Creating Life." *Leonardo*. 33 (5): 377-380.

<http://hypernatural.com/art.html>

Mitchell, Robert. 2010. *Bioart and the vitality of media*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Week 3: DNA as Protest: Microvenus

Gibbs, Wayt. April 2001. "Art as a Form of Life." *Scientific American*.

Joe Davis. 2010. [Postproduction]. *Heaven and Earth and Joe Davis*. Directed by Peter Sasowsky. Performed by Joe Davis.

Wells, Katherine. January 11, 2001. "'Father of BioArt' Joe Davis on Colbert." *Science & the Arts: from NPR's Science Friday*.

Week 4: Taking Care in Technoculture

Patricia Piccinini. Haraway, Donna. 2007. "Speculative Fabulations for Technoculture's Generations." *Patricia Piccinini*. <http://www.patriciapiccinini.net/essay.php>

Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery. June 14, 2009. "Evolution, 2009 | Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. 14 March - 14 June, 2009."

http://www.roslynoxley9.com.au/artists/31/Patricia_Piccinini/1202/

Catts, Oron. 2002. Ed. *The Aesthetics of Care*, pub. SymbioticA, U.W.A.

<http://www.symbiotica.uwa.edu.au/activities/?a=1333026>

Week 5: Robots and Art

Natalie Jerminjenko's Feral Robotic Dogs.

<http://www.nyu.edu/projects/xdesign/feralrobots/>

SymbioticA's Fish & Chips. <http://www.fishandchips.uwa.edu.au/>

Week 6: Animals and Art

Beatriz da Costa's Pigeon Blog. <http://www.beatrizdacosta.net/pigeonblog.php>

Kathy High's Embracing Animal. <http://www.embracinganimal.com/>

Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir, and Mark Wilson. 2006. *Nanoq: flat out and bluesome : a cultural life of polar bears*. London: Black Dog Pub.

Hansen, Rikke. December 2010. "Animal skins in contemporary art." *Journal of Visual Art Practice* 9 (1): 9-16.

Week 7: Genetics and Art

Ronald J. Gedrim. Winter 1993. "Edward Steichen's 1936 Exhibition of Delphinium Blooms: An Art of Flower Breeding," *History of Photography* 17 (4): 352-363.

Gessert, George. 2010. *Green light: toward an art of evolution*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

Week 9: Semi-living Art and a Media Frenzy

TC&A's Victimless Leather. <http://www.tca.uwa.edu.au/vl/images.html>

Schwartz, John. May 13, 2008. "Museum Kills Live Exhibit." *The New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/13/science/13coat.html> (accessed December 11, 2010).

Ransford, Matt. May 15, 2008. "Victimless Leather?" *POPSCI: The Future Now*. <http://www.popsci.com/scitech/article/2008-05/victimless-leather> (accessed February 18, 2011).

Debatty, Régine. October 12, 2004. "Victimless leather jacket." *we make money not art*. <http://we-make-money-not-art.com/archives/2004/10/victimless-leat.php> (accessed February 18, 2011).

Week 10: Art in the Service of Science?

TC&A's Pigs Wings. http://www.tca.uwa.edu.au/pig/pig_main.html

Zurr, Ionat, and Oron Catts. 2005. "Big Pigs, Small Wings: On Genohype and Artistic Autonomy." *Culture Machine*.

<http://www.culturemachine.net/index.php/cm/article/view/30/37> (accessed December 11, 2010).