

Panel Discussion “Beyond Scientific Visualisation”

On the occasion of the exhibition “Weaving the Universe: From Atoms to Stars”

Thursday 7 October 2010, 7 p.m.

Schering Stiftung | Unter den Linden 32-34 | 10117 Berlin

Under the title “Beyond Scientific Visualisation” five guests from science and the arts will consider questions such as “Are collaborations between artists and scientists able to produce work capable of advancing scientific research?”, “Is art able to serve science without losing its artistic integrity?” or “Are artistic concepts, like beauty, symmetry, and aesthetics, able to fertilize the increasingly complex and abstract visual language of science?”.

THE DEBATERS ARE:

Simon Faithfull

Simon Faithfull is a contemporary artist whose work has been exhibited extensively around the world. Recent projects include a video-work recording the journey of a domestic chair as it is carried to the edge of space (commissioned by Arts Catalyst), a drawing project sending back live digital-drawings from a two month journey to Antarctica (an Arts Council International Fellowship with British Antarctic Survey) and an animated film developed from drawings made on a mundane walk out of London along the A13 trunk road (a Channel 4 TV commission with Arts Council England). Recent exhibitions have included solo shows in Galerie Polaris (Paris), Stills (Edinburgh) and Cell (London). Faithfull’s work also featured at the 2008 Venice Biennale.

Simon Faithfull was born in Oxfordshire, UK, studied at Central St Martins and then Reading University. His practice takes a variety of forms - ranging from video making, to digital drawing projects, installation work and writing. Faithfull is also a lecturer at Slade School of Fine Art, UCL, London.

Dr Rainer Gruber

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Rainer Gruber (*1941) obtained his PhD in quantum field theory and was a scholar of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) in the field of photomorphogenesis. After several years in industry, Gruber was appointed research associate at the Max-Planck-Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics from 1984 to 2006. In recent years he has given numerous lectures on the relationship between science and the arts:

2004

“Imagining space in the interplay between physics and maths“

Conference “Art and Science”. Muthesius Hochschule, Kiel 2004

Published in: Mersch, Michaela Ott (ed.), Kunst und Wissenschaft, 2007

“Trial, Observation and Evidence – Newton’s Law of Gravitation and the Galilean Equivalence Principle at the Beginning of the 21st Century“

International conference “Spectacular Experiments – Performative Practices of Evidence Production in the 17th Century”.

Research Center on Performing Cultures, Berlin 2004

Published in: Helmar Schramm, Ludger Schwarte, Jan Lazardzig (ed.), Spektakuläre Experimente – Praktiken der Evidenzproduktion im 17. Jahrhundert, 2006

2005

“The Peculiarities of Falling – Modern Dance, Gravity and General Theory of Relativity“

Annual convention “Dance as Anthropology” of the dance scientists at the DFG, Berlin 2005

Published in: Gabriele Brandstetter, Christoph Wulf (ed.), Tanz als Anthropologie, 2007

2008

“The Drama of European Time“

Symposium “Split Time – Theatre: a Place to Relax or a Production Machine?“

Annual convention of the Dramatugische Gesellschaft, Hamburg 2008

Published on www.dramaturgische-gesellschaft.de/dokumente/gruber.pdf

“Astrophysical Pictures: the Anarchy of Order“

Published in: Ingeborg Reichle et al. (ed.), Maßlose Bilder, 2009

2009

“Time and Money – Chance Friends or Ancient Relatives?“

Theory Series 2009, Staatstheater Oldenburg

Fiorella Lavado

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Fiorella Lavado was born in Lima, Peru; studied Audio-Visual Communication, and began her career as a producer for advertising and documentaries. For the first four years she worked closely with Chilean artist Carlos Leppe, who has been a very strong influence in her life and work. She worked for international companies such as Adidas, focusing on commercial design and the production of PR and graphic campaigns. During and after that time she studied with different artists like Peruvian Jose Luis Arbulú and German A.R. Penk. Since 1999 Fiorella has been a freelance graphic artist in Lima, New York, Düsseldorf and London. She is currently working from her studio in London.

Projects

Physical Virus

2010 – 2012, A collaborative project with London Zoo, biologist Seirian Sumner and architectural designer Ollie Palmer. Investigation of the similarities between the way humans and ants communicate through the physical environment. The Ant's Ballet.

Weaving the Universe: From Atoms to Stars

2009 – ongoing, Art & science collaboration with Prof. Arthur I. Miller.

Quinoa Films

2005 – ongoing, Creative collaboration with journalist and film maker Carmen Valdivieso Hulbert, *New York based, film/documentary production*, project: Uchuraccay.

Exhibitions | Lectures | Events

Weaving the Universe – Royal Astronomical Society, London.

February – August 2010, Exhibition at RAS Burlington House.

February 2010, Lecture at the Geological Society Lecture Theatre, Burlington House with Prof. Arthur I. Miller.

Artist talk and performance (the Release of the Cloud)

January 2010, The Travel Book Shop, Notting Hill, London.

The Strange Collaboration of Wolfgang Pauli and Carl Jung.

Invited speaker at NESTA - Crucible Alumni Day

November 2009, Ambassadors Hotel, Bloomsbury, London.

Into the Crucibles of Nature – exhibition and lecture

September 2009, Benaki Museum Athens, Greece.

Invited speaker at UK-ROK Round Table on Science & Art and ECSE¹

September 2009, Wellcome Trust

Organised by University College London UK, and Seoul National University of Technology Korea.

The Secret Live of a Dreamer: When Physics Met Psychology

June 2009, University of Oxford – joint lecture with Prof. Arthur I. Miller.

Creative Europe

March 2009, Travel grant by the British Council to "Einstein and Picasso" Open Space meeting in Dortmund.

Art in the Garden - exhibition

From May to October 2008, NIDOS/NESTS site specific outdoor installation.

Arthur I. Miller

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Arthur I. Miller was reared in the golden days of the Bronx and currently lives in London. His journey was via the City College of New York, where he earned a BSc in physics and then the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA, where he was awarded a PhD in theoretical elementary particle physics. After appointments at the University of Massachusetts and Harvard, he became professor of history and philosophy of science at University College London.

"Even though physics was what I focused on at University, my passion has always been those pesky 'what is the nature of' questions. I wanted to understand how scientists made discoveries and how the mind works." [Arthur I. Miller].

Through studying creativity in science Miller realised the essential role played by visual imagery which led him into exploring the nature of creative thinking in art and science. His work as an scientist, writer and historian explores the interrelations between intuition, aesthetics, visual imagery and representation as scientists and artists attempt to 'read' nature.

Selected Publications | Lectures | Interviews

Insights of Genius: Imagery and Creativity in Science and Art.

Einstein, Picasso: Space, Time and the Beauty that Causes Havoc [Nominated for the Pulitzer Prize].

Empire of the Stars: Friendship, Obsession and Betrayal in the Quest for Black Holes [Shortlisted for the 2006 Aventis Prize for science books].

Deciphering the Cosmic Number: The Strange Friendship of Wolfgang Pauli and Carl Jung.

"Did Picasso Know about Einstein?", interview with Ciara Muldoon, *Physics World*, Volume 15, N° 11, November 2002.

"The Worlds of Ai-Weiwei", catalogue entry for "Ai Weiwei: Four Movements," 3-28 March 2009, Phillips de Pury & Co., Howick Place London.

"Creativity and Intellect: When Great Minds Meet", interview with Beatrice Bressan, *CERN Courier*, Volume 50, N° 3, April 2010.

"Can We Unravel Creativity?", presented at Einstein and Picasso, an Open Space Meeting, Dortmund, 7-9 March 2009, inspired by his book *"Einstein, Picasso: Space, Time and the Beauty that Causes Havoc"*.

¹ ECSE: Education Centre of Science & Exhibition

The Secret Life of a Dreamer: lecture with Fiorella Lavado, June 2009, University of Oxford.

Weaving the Universe: lecture with Fiorella Lavado, February 2010, Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, London.

Dr Ingeborg Reichle

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Ingeborg Reichle (*1970) researches art and visual culture with a focus on the relationship between art and science. Since 2005 she has been a member of the interdisciplinary working group “The World as a Picture” at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. Prior to this from 1998 to 2005 she was a research associate at the Art Historical Seminar of the Humboldt University in Berlin and in 2003 she received her PhD on the topic “*Art outside of the laboratory. On the relationship between art and science in the age of technoscience*” from the Hermann von Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik. Since 2008 she has been the scientific coordinator for the interdisciplinary working group “Picture Cultures” at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and head of the youth support programme “Young Forum for Visual Culture”.

Alongside various guest lecture- and professorships in New York, Boston and Heidelberg, Reichle is also assistant lecturer at the Hermann von Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik. In addition she has designed and produced various exhibitions in Germany and abroad.