



Objects of Wonder

by **Alana Quinn**

Objects of Wonder, curated by David Familian and guest-curator Madeline Schwartzman, brings together a wide range of international artists whose work investigates the mystery and wonder of the everyday world around us. Artists explore biological and physical science themes such as time, light, energy, evolution, and changes of state. They draw upon thermodynamic explosions, asteroidal activity, fluid turbulence, insect behavior, natural selection, gravity, and other natural phenomena to create sculptures, drawings, paintings, videos, sound art, gadgets, and installations. The juxtaposition of their work raises intriguing questions for visitors to consider: What is the connection between a perpetual coffee cup vortex (Antony Hall) and a coordinated array of bouncing basketballs (Pascal Sisto)? What does a bacteria-inspired doily (Laura Splan) have to do with the purposeful genetic engineering of new species for humankind's zoological desires (Kathryn Fleming)?

The exhibition is on view from October 3, 2015 through January 26, 2016 at the Beall Center for Art and Technology, Trevor School of Art, University of California, Irvine.

—Alana Quinn

Images courtesy of Beall Center for Art and Technology.

Tania Blanco

Spanish artist Tania Blanco evokes a clinical and futuristic atmosphere in these paintings from the series *Sleep Drunk Vademecum* which are inspired by medical instruments, high precision technology, scientific devices, anatomical models, and clandestine laboratories. www.taniablanca.com



Regeneration

Tania Blanco

2010

Acrylic paint on wood, 19.7 inches in diameter



James Auger and Jimmy Loizeau

The Bionic Requiem is an anticipatory device: it is a music box that will one day play a tune when it is sufficiently powered by a microbial fuel cell which generates energy from the consumption of captured insects. www.auger-loizeau.com



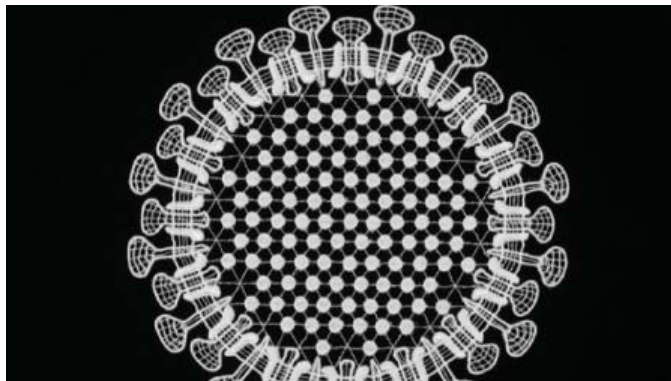
Sublime gadget #5: The Bionic Requiem

James Auger and Jimmy Loizeau
2012

Motor, belt, music player, microbial fuel cell, LED, and glass

Laura Splan

In *Doilies*, Laura Splan re-examines an innocuous domestic artifact that traditionally references motifs in nature, basing each pattern on a different viral structure. www.laurasplan.com



Doilies (SARS)

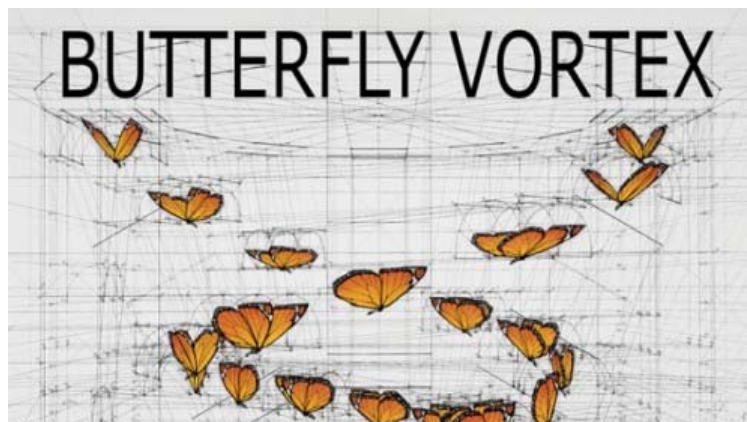
Laura Splan
2004

Freestanding computerized machine embroidered lace mounted on velvet, 16.75 x 16.75 inches (framed)



Rafael Araujo

Created as part of his *Calculations* series, an ongoing examination of the complexity of life, Venezuelan artist Rafael Araujo deftly rendered the motion and subtle mathematical brilliance of butterflies in flight by hand with a pencil, ruler, and protractor. www.rafael-araujo.com



Monarch Double Helix

Rafael Araujo

2015

Acrylic paint, ink on canvas, 56 x 45 inches

Eric Dyer

Implant is an imaginary medical device that plays with the paradoxical threat and promise of the latest anatomically invasive medical technologies. To watch a video of the piece in motion, visit Eric Dyer's website at www.ericdyer.com.

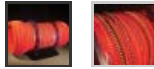


Implant

Eric Dyer

2015

Motorized rotating cylinder, with surrounding scalloped rings; plastic, wood, polyester fabric, nylon 3-D prints painted with acrylic, laser-cut mirrored acrylic, DC motor, power supply, and three programmable strobe flashlights, 56 x 105 x 59 inches



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