

## Art, Language & Biology (ISSEI Helsinki 2008)

Shelley

CFP:

Consilience (or Sunderance?): Art, Language, and Biology

In his 1998 book *Consilience*, Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson called for the unity of knowledge between science and the humanities. That his work was largely misunderstood by the academic community has already been addressed by Stephen Pinker in *The Blank Slate* (2002). Specifically, Wilson called for "consilient research;" this Art History session poses, for example, the following questions (allowing, of course, for questions that are their opposites): What is the relationship between form and narrative (language) in art? How does the scientific language of systems, laws, reduction, cause-effect, pattern, and elegance relate to art-making and art interpretation? What is the relationship of mind (language) and matter in art? What is the role of "para-language" (facial expression, posture, and gesture) in art? How does art develop & express science? Where does art come from in both history and personal experience? How are truth and beauty in art, for example, described through ordinary language? What are the ways in which art ("born in the imagination of individuals") can be seen in the context of gene evolution? What do cross-culture analyses of color vocabulary and color vision tell us? What roles do metaphor and archetype play in both art production and interpretation? What is the relationship between the language of art and art interpretation and neuroscience/evolutionary biology?

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Conference Link is:

ArtHist.net

<http://issei2008.haifa.ac.il/>

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