

## Art & Biomedicine (Copenhagen, 3 Sept 07)

Ingeborg Reichle

Conference

### ART AND BIOMEDICINE BEYOND THE BODY

A one-day symposium about creative visual practices at the frontiers of biomedicine organised by the Medical Museion at the University of Copenhagen in partnership with The Schools of Visual Arts, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen.

3 September 2007, 10:00 – 17:00

Current biomedicine is a vast complex of invisibles: microscopic entities such as viruses and proteins, difficult concepts such as genomics and proteomics, unwieldy databases of information, and large-scale economic issues such as the practice of pharmaceutical companies in a globalised economy. The exploratory work of artists in relation to the body, biology and medical practice is increasingly significant to both historians and practitioners of medicine, and artists are beginning to appreciate the exciting arenas opening up in biotechnology and biomedicine.

Recent biomedical sci-art projects funded by the Wellcome Trust, the Artistsin- Labs project of the Zurich School of Art and Design and the radical initiatives of Critical Art Ensemble among others show a rapidly emerging field of interdisciplinary practice. Artists and designers are skilled conceptualists who can explore these ideas rather than simply 'explain' them.

The conference Art and Biomedicine: Beyond the Body will give voice to the people practicing in this field – artists, biomedical practitioners, exhibition curators, art historians, art teachers and funders will all be speaking. This event will be of interest to researchers and practitioners in the life sciences and in biomedicine, fine arts, history and philosophy of science, material and visual culture and anthropology, history of art and aesthetics, and those interested in developing interdisciplinary practices and collaborations.

Programme

Monday 3 September 2007 10.00 Introduction

Mikkel Bogh (Rector, The Schools of Visual Arts, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts)

Thomas Söderqvist (Director, Medical Museion, University of Copenhagen)

10.20 Morning Session

Ingeborg Reichle (Research fellow, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin):

"Larger Than Life: The Use of Living Organisms in Contemporary Art"

Wolfgang Knapp (Lecturer, Institut für Kunst im Kontext, Universität der Künste, Berlin):

"Artists as Research Scientists; Science as Art? Interdisciplinary Approaches"

Steve Kurtz (Associate Professor, SUNY Buffalo, artist, member of Critical Arts Ensemble):

"Point of Intervention"

12.30 Lunch. Projection of Steve Kurtz's film *Marching Plague* (17 minutes) in the hall.

13.30 Afternoon Session

Richard Wingate (Lecturer, UK Medical Research Council Centre for Developmental Neurobiology, King's College, London):

"Exchange and (Sci)Art (What Art Tells Science About How Science Sees the Brain)"

Ben Fry (Research assistant, MIT Media Laboratory, Cambridge, Mass):

"Computational Information Design and Genomic Cartography"

Ken Arnold (Head of Public Programmes, Wellcome Trust, London):

"Drawing on Science: Medicine, Art and Life at Wellcome Collection"

15.30 Coffee/tea

16.00 Keynote Address

James Elkins (E.C. Chadbourne Chair, Department of Art History, Theory, and Criticism, School of the Art Institute of Chicago):

"Some Languages of Medical Semiotics: Thinking of Non-art Images Discursively"

Critical Art Ensemble's film *Marching Plague* (USA/2006/17 min) will be shown during the day at the conference.

A new sound work by Jacob Kirkegaard commissioned for the conference

will be presented at the Medical Museion, Bredgade 62. [www.fonik.dk](http://www.fonik.dk)

[www.ku.dk/satsning/biocampus/artandbiomedicine](http://www.ku.dk/satsning/biocampus/artandbiomedicine)

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Visual Arts is a higher arts education institution under the Ministry of Culture offering a six-year MFA programme.

information: <http://www.kunstakademiet.dk>

Art and Biomedicine: Beyond the Body is part funded by BioCampus, one of four research priority areas at the University of Copenhagen covering interdisciplinary research about the way in which biomedicine and biotechnology is developed, applied, regulated and understood in contemporary society.

Information: [www.ku.dk/satsning/biocampus](http://www.ku.dk/satsning/biocampus)

The Medical Museion at the University of Copenhagen is a combined academic unit and medical museum with extensive collections. Our field is the history of health and disease in a cultural perspective, with a focus on the material and iconographic culture of recent biomedicine.

Organiser: Medical Museion, University of Copenhagen

Venue: The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Kongens Nytorv 1, Copenhagen.

Information: [www.museion.ku.dk](http://www.museion.ku.dk)

blog: [www.corporeality.net/museion](http://www.corporeality.net/museion)

Reference:

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