Bioart/Moist Reality

Week eleven

Overview

Whereas historically Art and Biology conjured up images of detailed artist studies of fauna and flora now artists work directly with living material.

1959 Aromoarama for Behind the Great Wall film, 1960 A scent of Mystery used the Smell-o-vision system, 1981 Odorama scratch and sniff cards for Polyester, were early attempts to integrate smell and entertainment that never really caught on. Recent developments in the areas of bio-technology and chemistry have accelerated an interest in exploring senses other than sight. Developments in biosensors have very wide application, from watches that read blood level to fertility bras. Bio-identification and bio-surveillance or biometrics (verification of identity based on physiology or behaviour of that person) have obvious security and law enforcement applications.

Science and technology enabled us to observe, transform and manipulate bodily functions. New body imaging technologies like CAT & PET, MRI opened up new view of the body. Bionics enables creation of new hybrids between human and machine. Although tissue to material interface is still to be overcome, the creation of separate bionic components is a possibility. While this field of research has potentially great medical implications, it is also a field ridden with ethical problems. Artists practicing in the field of biological and medical research can engage in deconstructive analysis, the analysis of practical and ethical implications as well as in the experimentation of 'live' materials.

Stelarc, Christa Sommerer & Laurent Mignononneau, Patricia Piccinini, Oron Catts & Ionat Zurr, Eduardo Kac, Critical Art Ensamble, George Gessert, Oron Catts and Ionat Zurr, Marc Quinn, Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey, Suzanne Anker, Christopher Ebener & Uli Winters, Joe Davis, Jon Tower, David Kremer, Knut Mork, Cultural Terrorist Organization, David Goodsell, John Dunn & Mary Anne Clark, Gail Wight, Gary Schneider, Kevin Clarke, Sonya Rapoport, Gina Czarnecki, Thomas Grunfeld, Simon Robertshaw, Michael Spano, Newton Harrison, Richard Lowenberg, Athena Tacha, Ken Rinaldo, Hubert Duprat, Tony Bellaver, Carsten Holler, Marc Bohlen, Leif Brush, Eric Samakh & David Rokeby, Przemyslaw Prusinkiewicz, Demitri Terzopoulos, Louis Bec,
Primary Reading

Czeglady, Nina *Intimate Perceptions*

Langton, Christopher 1989 *Artificial Life*


More on bioart & technology

The Arts Catalyst

Ars Electronica *Life Science* 1999 & *Next Sex* 2000

Coakley, J 2004 *Welcome to the World of BioArt*, the Space ABC Arts Online


Gessert, George *A History of Art Involving dna*


BioTech Hobbyist Magazine

Joy, Bill *Why The Future Doesnt Need Us*

Kac, Eduardo (ed) 2005 *Signs of Life: Bio Art and Beyond*, The MIT Press


Dorothy Nelkin The Gene as a Cultural Icon, Art Journal 55:1

John van Neumann - computer pioneer

New Technologies, Wired, September 1996

Oron Catts and Ionat Zurr The Art of the Semi-Living Art and Partial Life: Extra Ear - ¼ Scale

Oron Catts and Ionat Zurr 2001 Growing Semi-Living Sculptures: The Tissue Culture 7 Art Project

Paradise Now exhibition

Pescovitz, D Reality Check

Ramos, Vitorino & Filipe, Almeida, Artificial Ant Colonies in Digital Image Habitat

Ramos, Vitorino On the Implicit and on the Artificial - Morphogenesis and Emergent Aesthetics in Autonomous Collective Systems

Regis, E Future Weapons

Anders Sandberg Bionics

Society for Developmental Biology

Sommerer, C & Mignonneau, L (eds) 1998 Art @ Science, Springer Vienna, NY


SymbioticA

Thacker, Eugene Biophilosophy for the 21st Century


**on senses**

Ackerman, Diane *A Natural History of the Senses*

Biomertics Research


Alan Hirsch

Interactive Brain-wave visual analyzer

Kohl, James *Phermones*


Wilder Penfield

van Mensvoort, Koert *What you see is what you feel*


Richard Vogt *Taste of Smell Course Syllabus*

**on nature**


Williams, Raymond *Problems of Materialism & Culture*

**on body and medicine**


Czeglady, Nina *Appropriation of Medical Discourse*

Doyle, Richard *On Beyond Living: Rhetorical Transformations*

Foucault, M *Birth of the Clinic*

Foucault, M *History of Sexuality*

Galisen, Peter *Picturing Science, Producing Art*

Gallagher, C & Laqueur T W *The Making of the Modern Body*

Haraway, Donna *Cyborg Manifesto*

Haraway, Donna *The Promises of Monsters*

Harding, Sandra *Whose Science? Whose Knowledge?*

Hayles, N K *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics*

Latour, B & Callon, M *Laboratory Science*

Lupton, Deborah 1994 *Medicine as Culture*, Sage, London

Margulis, Lynn


Stafford, Barbara *Body Criticism*

Stelarc *Parasite Visions: Alternate, Intimate and Involuntary Experiences*

Treichler, P A, Cartwright, L & Penley, C *Visible Woman*

Turner, Bryan S *Regulating Bodies*

Wilson, S *Body and Medicine* in Information Arts: Intersections of Art, Science, and Technology

Wolff Purcell, Rosamond *Special Cases: Natural Anomalies and Historical Monsters*

*The X-ray Century*

**on body & technology**

Anstey, J *We Sing the Body Electric: Imagining the body in Electronic Art*

* Bodies and Their Spaces links

Critical Art Ensemble *Flesh Machine Molecular Invasiion*

Fuller, Gillian *Perfect Match: Biometrics and Body Patterning in a Networked World*, Fibreculture, Issue 1
Huffman, Kathy Rae *CyberIntimacy: From Net Nookie to Coffee Talk*

Morse, M *What do Cyborgs Eat?* in Druckrey, T (ed) 1997 *Electronic Culture*, Aperature, NY

SymbioticA *The Tissue Culture & Art Project*


Vesna, V *Bodies Incorporated: Theoretical Appropriation for Somatic Intervention*

Woodward, K *From Virtual Cyborgs to Biological Time Bombs* in Druckrey, T (ed) 1997 *Electronic Culture*, Aperature, NY

**on aesthetics & bio**


Hennessy, M 1996 *Science Pour l’Art*

Hoffman, R 1996 *Just a Little Bit Unnatural*, in Art Journal 55:1

Koch, A S & Tarnai, T *The Aesthetic Viruses*, in Emmer, M (ed) *The Visual Mind*

Malina, R *Moist Realities*

Elliot M Meyerowitz & Enrico Coen


**on genetic engineering**

Gessert, G 1993 *Notes on Genetic Art*, Leonardo, vol 26, no 3, pp 205-211


Flusser, W 1998 *Curie’s Children*, Art Forum, 26:7
on genetic music
Clark, M A Genetic Music: An Annotated Source List

on art & ecology
Cembalest, R 1991 The Ecological Art Explosion, Artnews, Summer, pp 96-105
Dion, M 1993 The Origin of the Species: Alexis Rockman on the Prowl, Flash Art, October
Dion, M & Rockman 1996 Concrete Jungle, Search Uno Books, NY
Matilsky, B 1992 Fragile Ecologies, Rizzol, NY
Wired Description of Mud Drawings