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Inspired by Science & Technology

Rebecca Kamen - Divining Nature, Installation



Scientists and artists share a common language – a language of questioning. Both look at the world and question how things work and how they can work better... or if not better, certainly how things can work differently from the prevailing expectation.

This common ground shared by scientists, technologists, engineers, mathematicians and artists is celebrated by ArtsWestchester in its summer exhibition, STEAM. The 31 exhibiting artists each bring a reflective and, often, transformational perspective to our complex world.

As an example, artist **Rebecca Kamen** zooms in and interprets patterns observed only at the atomic level. Her installation, *Divining Nature: An Elemental Garden*, is inspired by the naturally occurring elements in the Periodic Table. Her work is informed by her research in chemistry, cosmology, spirituality and philosophy.

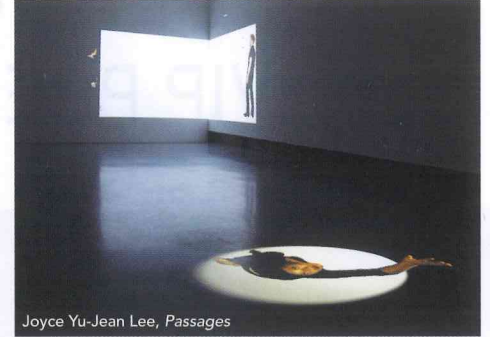
An artwork by **Maria Michalis** reveals the hidden beauty that belies a dangerous reality. Visitors can climb into a bicycle-like machine and generate the power to illuminate oversized Petri dishes containing colorful and hypnotic photographs. What is eerie about these

beautiful glowing images is the fact that they are microscopic enlargements of benzene, a known carcinogen.

The common thread in this exhibition curated by Artist/Educator Patricia Miranda, is not only its "questioning" but its use of technology in its questioning.

BioArt, finds a place in this exhibition. This genre of contemporary art uses living

Maria Michalis, The Petri Series: Benzene



Joyce Yu-Jean Lee, Passages

cells, tissues, or bacteria to create works that range from drawings to installations. **Kathy High's** piece, "Blood Wars", appears to be a contest among blood samples. Her abstract videos are of white blood cells at war to anoint the most fit blood. Both elegant and grotesque, the piece engages with age-old debates about blood traits and lineage.

Technology is a vehicle of social commentary in the work of **Lise Prown** and **Curt Belshe** as they invite viewers to use smart phones to "listen-in" on their "texting" conversations. Artist **Sherry Mayo** also considers the effect of mobile phones on our daily experience drawing attention to contemporary surveillance practices and the selfie culture where we are simultaneously watching ourselves and being watched.

Scott Fitzgerald and **Christopher Kaczmarek** each integrate new technologies into specific spaces. With contact microphones and a custom built speaker system, **Kaczmarek** transforms the gallery's staircase into a sound instrument which responds to the speed and weight of a visitor's steps. Inside ArtsWestchester's bank vault, **Fitzgerald** projects images which warp and adapt as visitors pass by and interact.

The artists' modes of expression represent a wide range of styles: pure aesthetic objects; sound, video and light art; interactive and augmented reality installations; 3D printing; animations; and science and bio-based works.

STEAM is presented in partnership with Westchester Community College's Center for Digital Arts, celebrating its 20th year, and is made possible through generous support from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, celebrating its 25th anniversary with this gift to the community. The exhibition is on view at ArtsWestchester's gallery until August 16th, 2014. For further information, visit www.artsw.org/steam or call 914.428.4220. Gallery hours are 12-5PM, Tuesday-Saturday.

Be in the know! Visit www.artsw.org

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE ARTS IN WESTCHESTER

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