

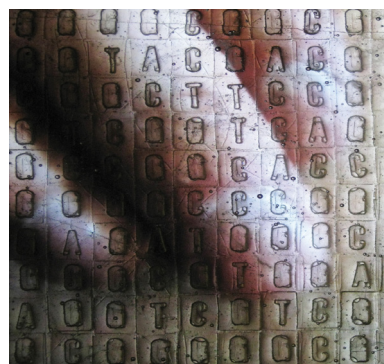


July 20, 2011

Science is something beautiful in *Geneotropes*



Human Nature courtesy of the
artist



Glass Skin courtesy of the artist

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Television has made the science of genetics seem familiar to many of us. Looking closer, the true complexity of our make-up still seems light-years away from our full comprehension. In *Geneotropes*, a new, one-person exhibition by Assistant Professor of Photography Stefan Petranek, art helps illuminate the world of genetics on micro and macro levels.

About *Geneotropes*, which will fill the Basile Gallery at Herron School of Art and Design from August 3 – 26, Petranek, who received a master of fine arts degree at the Rochester Art Institute and did his undergraduate work in biology and chemistry at Bowdoin College, says, “The increasingly commonplace deployment of genetics to characterize life is shifting how we represent nature and ourselves in our cultural discourses. This exhibition brings together three bodies of work that investigate different facets of the human-genetic relationship and its burgeoning cultural relevance in daily life.”

Combining cast glass and video, the work “Glass Skin” displays Petranek’s skin imperfections and sites of previous surgeries through four glass tablets embossed with DNA coding for a protein involved in the onset of melanoma.

“Nine Leaves” is a series of photographs of oak leaves from the same tree. Each leaf was embossed with the DNA that codes for an enzyme involved in the Calvin Cycle (the principle mechanism that makes photosynthesis possible). The work invites the viewer to consider the individuality of each leaf despite their shared genome.

“Human Nature” is a site-specific installation involving typed code.

The works reflect amazement at discoveries made through genetic research while also drawing into question whether our belief in science and technology really benefits us at both the societal and individual levels.

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Parking is available in the Sports Complex garage just west of Herron. Park in the visitor side of the garage and bring your ticket to the Herron Galleries for validation. Complimentary parking courtesy of The Great Frame Up.

Summer Gallery Hours (through August 20th):
Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Fall Gallery Hours (beginning August 22nd):
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Herron Galleries are free and open to the public.