

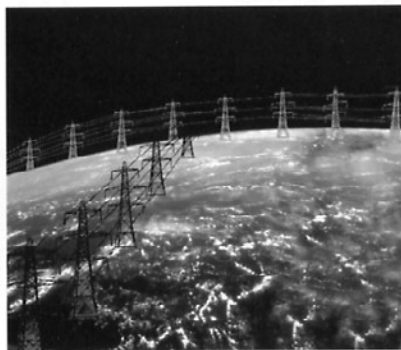
SCI-ART: It's all in the GUT (Grand Unified Theory)

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For the past couple of months, New York has been hosting the "DNAge Citywide Festival for the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Double-Helix." Numerous arts exhibitions including "How Human: Life in the Post-Genome Era" are being held at the International Center of Photography (ICP) (through May 25). Ever since the cloned sheep Dolly made its entrance into the world, the development of genetic research has introduced new understanding of today's science and its startling research capabilities. At times, as instigator or skeptic, the artist stands with scientists, sometimes steps ahead and questioning the meaning to it all.

Other than the hype over DNA research however, a new landscape of science-art explorations is surfacing. In the forefront of celebrating sciences, there is the world of physics. Currently, scientists and artists are focusing their attention on Albert Einstein and his legacy. The field of quantum physics makes its voice heard through an uplifting exhibition, "Einstein," showing at the American Museum of Natural History in New York (through August 10, www.amnh.org). This show elaborately displays biographic documentation of Einstein's life as well as the history and the makings of his life's scientific work. Most importantly, this exhibition has become a great catalyst for artists to revisit or re-introduce their work dealing with the world of theoretical physics, and especial-

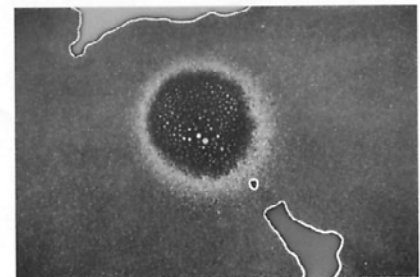
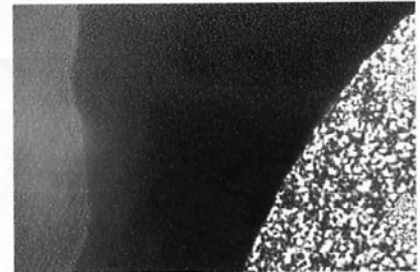


ly artwork inspired by Einstein's *Grand Unified Theory* or *GUT*.

Einstein once mentioned that "God does not play dice with the Universe," implying that there was a certain unified order to the world. GUT (also known as Unified Field Theory) argues that before the Big Bang explosion there was a moment of singularity. In cosmic history, the moment of singularity meant that all four forces of the Universe (gravity, electro-magnetic force, nuclear strong and nuclear weak forces) existed as a single force. It is no wonder that an omnipotent being is usually alluded to when a Universe is thought of as originating from an absolute single force explaining its causation. There is a level of mysticism to mathematical concepts that reveal the fundamental laws and constants of nature. The mathematical con-

cept π (3.14...), Fibonacci's Golden Section numbers ($\pm 0.6180339887...$ and $\pm 1.6180339887...$) and the Alpha constants (137.03599976) are just some that project evidence in this perspective of scientific and mathematical world order. Today, the most recent development of GUT theory is known as the *superstrings theory*, a theory that speaks about multiples of curled up and tenth dimensional Universes with an underlying common thread of existence: that all things at their most microscopic level are made up of vibrating energy string loops. As artists contemplate about the origin of human and cosmic existence, this sort of harmonized world order and its theological connotations has become a topic of artwork.

For starters, to match the theme of the "Einstein" exhibition, Cynthia Pannucci, founder of the Art & Science Collaborations, Inc. (ASCI, www.asci.org), brilliantly orchestrated the annual "DIGITAL '02" exhibition and "ArtSci2002" International Symposium to work in conjunction to honor Einstein, reflecting on his influence on art and science collaborations today. The digital print show entitled, "Envisioning Time, Space, and the Future" was the 5th International Competition exhibition (juried by Julia Van Haaften) that was exhibited at the Technology Gallery, New York Hall of Science and the Taranto Gallery, Chelsea, New York, during the fall and winter of 2002. [more](#)



Top - Bottom: A collaboration by Sandra Kaufmann, Michael Bassett and Pat Daugherty, image of wave/particle duality, quantum mechanics section of Superstrings: A Multi-media Performance Celebrating Science and Art. (Photo: Chianan Yen) / Agnes Denes, Grand Unification Theory, an image of a simple unification of all forces as if they could be carried by cables across our globe unifying all matter. (© Agnes Denes 2003) / Carol Pfeffer, Density in Differential Topologies and Charge Duality, one of a kind photographic prints made by cameraless contact technique.

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