

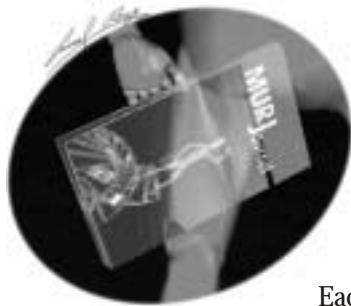
Abstractions

Uncharted Potentials

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Is all that we see or seem...

What is the next big find going to be? Will it be the culmination of meticulous calculations and expectations? Or will it confound the senses, an almost inexplicable wonder? The long-held tenets of science revere methodology, proof and reproducibility. These scientific principles are reaffirmed through mathematics and vindicated by engineering. Noteworthy achievements necessarily build upon precedents and, in doing so, lend credibility to themselves. Respecting left-brain sensibilities, science uses its inherent ordered means to establish organization from a chaotic universe. In stark contrast, the foundations of art continually shift with unpredictable, fresh innovation and enthusiastic pioneering. The contemporary artistic predispositions and vogues are supplanted by stylistic originality and creative radicalism. Following right-brain passions, the arts irreverently celebrate the complexity of the world within us. Yet, imagine the possibilities if such sensibilities and passions mingled.



The arts and the sciences have more in common than we might first imagine. Each novel scientific discovery or artistic masterpiece engenders its successor, either as an affirmation or a repudiation of the status quo. In doing so, it asks each of us to question commonly held beliefs and prejudices. Is an idea in accordance with observations and critiques? Or does a technique bring forth a new expressive form or paradigm? But most importantly, notice that neither of these questions is exclusive to the arts or to the sciences. Sharing similar challenges and motivations, they are our pursuit of uncharted potentials.

What does this continuum of art and science seem like to you? Look around. What do you see? While engaging each potential on this continuum, a new quanta of information is sought, suitable for human consumption. Recognize that this new find, and the body of knowledge to which it adds, can be both aesthetically appealing and logically elegant. Should it be any surprise that our explorations be marked with any less combination of calculation and creativity? Upon closer inspection, one notes that the big finds have, and will continue to affirm, a simple, powerful truth:

Art is the science of our souls as much as science is the art of our minds.

...but a dream within a dream?

– Edgar Allan Poe (1827)

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