

MEDICINE AND ART: IMAGINING A FUTURE FOR LIFE AND LOVE —DA VINCI, OKYO, DAMIEN HIRST

28 NOVEMBER [SAT], 2009 – 28 FEBRUARY [SUN], 2010 MORI ART MUSEUM

Since time immemorial, people have sought to understand the mechanisms of the human body. On the basis of their discoveries in medicine and science, people have attempted to counter the effects of disease and injury and to resist death, seeking ultimately the secret of longevity. The history of medicine is the sum of all such scientific explorations into the nature of the human body. Likewise, attempts to create depictions of beauty have also been repeated in history. The human body, in fact, has always been held up as a place to embody the ideal form of beauty, and people have never tired of its depiction.

In this way, the body can be seen as the meeting point, or the point of departure for journeys into the two very different worlds of medicine and art. The scientist/artist who obviously stood most prominently at this intersection was Leonardo da Vinci. He left us not only stunningly accurate anatomical drawings, but also the **Mona Lisa**. Developments in science and technology have been essential to the advancement of

medicine in the past, and these days too, medicine is advancing with developments in molecular biology. We are now able to explain the mechanism of DNA and shed new light on the question of what a living organism is.

This exhibition brings together roughly 150 important medical artifacts from the Wellcome Collection in London, historical art works as well as about 30 works of contemporary art. It is a unique attempt to reconsider the fundamental question of the meaning of life and death from the parallel, yet rarely compared perspectives of medicine and art, or science and beauty. Also, three anatomical drawings by Leonardo da Vinci from The Royal Collection will be on display for the first time.



Gilles Barbier **L'Hospice / The Nursing Home** 2002
wax figures, television, various elements dimension variable
Martin Z. Margulies, Miami, USA
Courtesy: Galerie G.-P. & N. Vallois, Paris, France

The Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust was founded in the U.K. in 1936 in accordance with the wishes of the late Sir Henry Wellcome, a successful pharmaceutical entrepreneur, and is now the largest charity in the UK. Its goals are to support and promote research to improve the health of humans and animals. The Trust endeavors to support excellent medicine and research in life sciences and undertakes activities that inform the world of the importance of these areas of study through art and other methods of expression that are approachable to ordinary people. Henry Wellcome's original museum numbered well over a million items dating from antiquity to the early 20th century, dealing with, as he himself put, 'all things concerning humans and medicine'. Today, Wellcome Collection presents a mixture of objects from his museum alongside modern exhibits as well as live events in order to explore medicine, art and the human condition.

Organizers: Mori Art Museum, Wellcome Trust

In Association with: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, British Council, RIKEN(tbc), The Japan Association for Cultural Exchange(tbc)

Sponsors: DIAM Co., Ltd., Johnson & Johnson Japan Group, CHUGAI PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., TERUMO CORPORATION

Support: Japan Airlines, BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

Cooperation: Japan Science and Technology Agency

Venue: Mori Art Museum 53F Roppongi Hills Mori Tower, 6-10-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-6150 Japan

Tel: 03-5777-8600 (Hello Dial) **Website:** www.mori.art.museum

Open Hours: 10:00 – 22:00 (Tue: 10:00 – 17:00) Open until 22:00 on 2/22 & 12/29(Tue).

*Admission until 30 minutes before closing. Open everyday.

Admission: Adult: ¥1,500 University/Highschool student: ¥1,000 Child (4 years to Junior Highschool student): ¥500

*Ticket also valid for "MAM Project 010: Tellervo Kalleinen and Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen" and Tokyo CityView observation deck (Tokyo CityView opening hours differ to Mori Art Museum) *Additional entrance fee to the Sky Deck is required: ¥300

Press Images: Images are available on our website.

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PRESS RELEASE

プレスリリース

MORI ART MUSEUM

MORI ARTS CENTER

<EXHIBITION SECTIONS AND EXHIBITED ARTISTS>**Part 1****Discovering the Inner World of the Body**

How did people around the world first acquire understanding of the mechanisms of the human body and the vast world it contains? The first section of the exhibition answers that question by tracing various scientific developments through a vast array of artifacts. Exhibited works include anatomical drawings by Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, anatomical diagrams and models from around the world. There are also works of contemporary art by Francis Bacon, the Brothers Quay, and Matsui Fuyuko, as well as traditional Japanese works of art by the likes of Maruyama Okyo and Kawanabe Kyosai.

Part 2**Fighting Against Death and Disease**

This section looks at how people perceive death and disease and how they have tried to fight against it. In addition to presenting the history of medicine, pharmaceuticals, life sciences and scientific technology, this section poses philosophical questions about the nature of life and death. Exhibited works include Japanese anatomical texts as well as medical journals and historical medical instruments from around the world. There are also paintings on the theme of medicine and works of contemporary art made by Gilles Barbier, Marc Quinn and Yanagi Miwa.

Part 3**Toward eternal life and love**

In light of the latest developments in biotechnology, cybernetics and neuroscience, and with reference to medical materials and works of art, the third part of the exhibition poses the following questions: Considering reproduction is simply the endless repetition of the life-death cycle, what really motivates humans to reproduce? Is it possible to pinpoint the real objective of human life and its likely future? What is life?

Exhibited works include drawings by René Descartes, illustrations by Francis Crick of the double-helix structure of DNA, and contemporary artworks by Jan Fabre, Stelarc, Patricia Piccinini and others.

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PRESS RELEASE**プレスリリース**

REFERENCE IMAGES



Maruyama Okyo
Skeleton sit in meditation on the wave
18c
132.6×59cm
Daijōji temple, Hyogo, Japan



Paolo Mascagni
Illustration of human viscera. 'exploded thorax'
1823-1833
Wellcome Library, London



Michelangelo Buonarroti
Anatomy of the left and right leg
ca. 1515-1520.
Wellcome Library, London



Three anatomical figures from Tibet
c. 1800
Watercolour and black ink on linen, framed.
Wellcome Library, London



Jan Fabre
Ik men mijn eigen brein II (I Drive My Own Brain II)
2008
paint on medical silicone, wax, textiles, leather and metal
ca. 43 x 29 x 24 cm
Courtesy: DEWEER gallery, Otegem, Belgium
Photo: Angelos



Magnus Wallin **Exercise Parade** 2001
video installation
(Installation with double backprojection, 3-D animated video)
variable dimension 2,48 min.
Collection of the artist
Courtesy: Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin, Germany



Walter Schels **Life before Death - Elmira Sang Bastian**
14th January 2004/23rd March 2004
Photography
each 100 x 100 cm
Collection of the artist



Walking stick once owned by Charles Darwin
19th Century
Wellcome Library, London

Press Images: Images are available on our website.

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