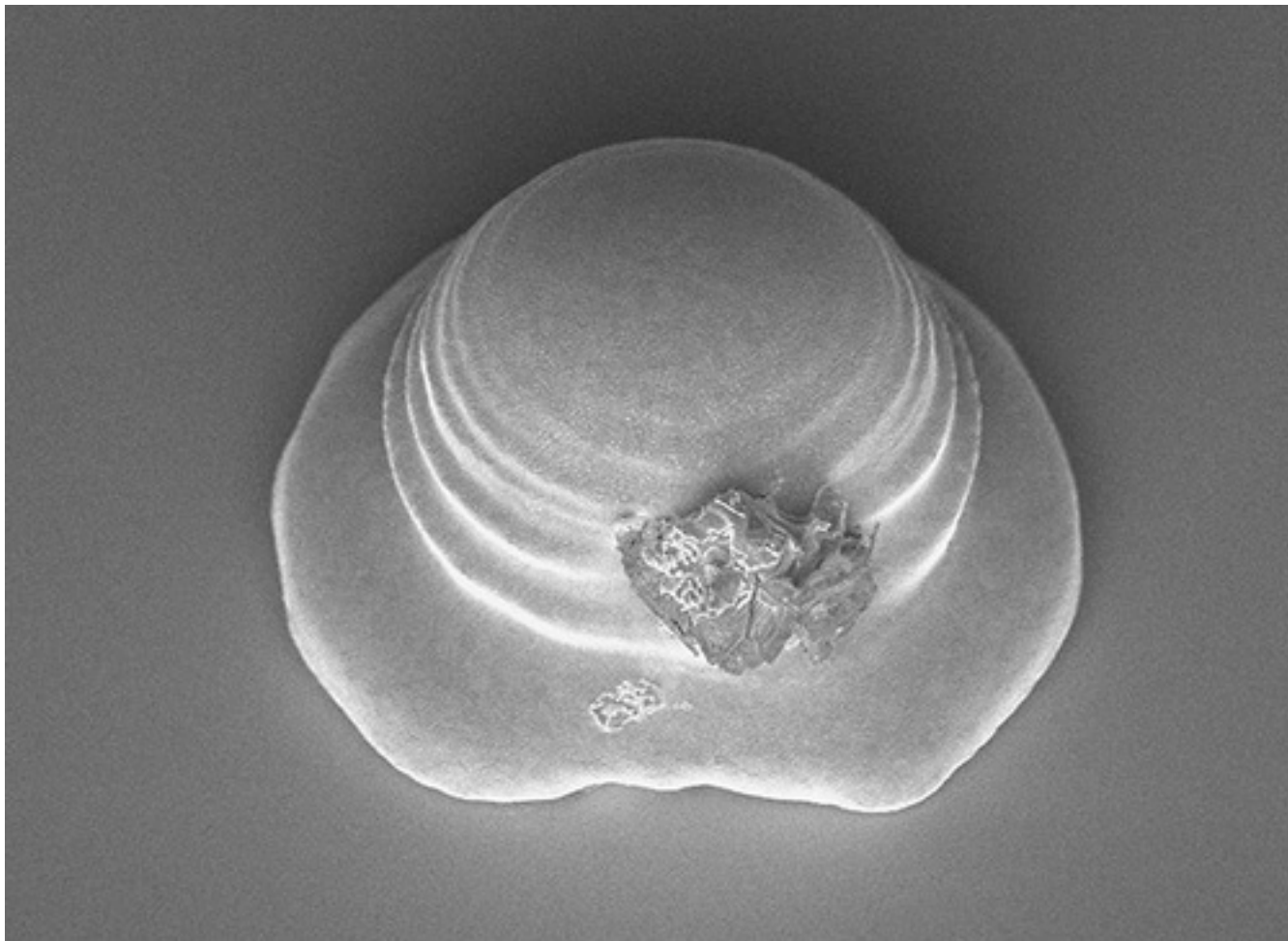


[« Drunken Hungarian Apes | Main | The movie's a pain. But look what came out of it. My first drive-in movie. And pseudo-science. »](#)

Art n' Science n' Stuff



I have never really been a fan of the whole "science IS art," "art meets science" "science is so beautiful" schtick. SciArt is usually just kind of wanky.

Maybe I am just too much of a nerd to appreciate it. Take [DNA 11](#), a company that runs an electrophoresis gel on some of your genes, blows up the result really really big and frames it. So like YOUR OWN DNA becomes like ABSTRACT ART. But DUDE. It's like art with MEANING. And

it's only \$800. Of course I could do it myself with a good digital camera and the components of my cell bio lab in 2nd year. But whatever.

[Enter the Princeton Art of Science Competition 2006](#). You'd expect this to be similarly wanky, yes? Well some of it is, but some of it has a good sense of humor and something to say. I loved the [Art's n'Crafts cell mitosis](#), the [45 micrometre Easter bonnet](#), the [beautiful motion of the c. elegans worm](#), or the [body-louse sized Godzilla](#). Sure some of them are just pretty pictures or random accidents capture by amazingly powerful imaging hardware/software. And a lot of the descriptions read like abstracts from journal articles, but there is some lovely work here - [like this lonely and hauntingly sad photo of a mutant Drosophila](#) or this [shout-out to the kings of minimalism via some seriously pink iron extracts](#).

Anyways. Look through the whole thing and decide for yourself what really makes good or meaningless, up-its-ass SciArt.

(Thanks MT! That's [Murky Thoughts](#) for those of you who don't know)

Posted by [anna](#) on May 23, 2006 at 03:36 PM in [Science](#), [chic geek](#), [like, duh](#) | [Permalink](#)

Comments

ooooh... pretty iron extracts!

Posted by: [kilowatthour](#) | [May 23, 2006 at 08:11 PM](#)

When I was an undergrad I did summer research stint at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda. There was a famous cytogeneticist there called Nick Papescu who used to prey on all the young rotions for blood samples for his gene mapping experiments. He didn't pay cash but he did give each of his victims - er, subjects - a beautiful karyotype. That's photographs of all 46 of your chromosomes, cut out and paired and glued onto cardboard (hey, this was the 1980's) in ascending order with sex chromosomes at the end. I still have mine and if I do say so myself, my chromosomes are pretty darned attractive and are hanging on my wall.

Not SciArt, but cool. In a desperately unhip sort of way.

Posted by: [Jennifer Rohn](#) | [May 24, 2006 at 12:32 AM](#)

I'm guessing the "would you like to see my sex chromosomes?" chat-up line has some way to go before reaching the mainstream though! :-)

Posted by: [Ithika](#) | [May 24, 2006 at 02:03 PM](#)

When it does I bet you some psychiatrist will start talking about "Y" envy.

Posted by: [MT](#) | [May 24, 2006 at 04:57 PM](#)

I got caught by that trick. I had my brain scanned in an MRI when I was a psychology student, and the reward was that I got to keep a print out of my brain. I did get paid (a pretty reasonable £15 an hour for 3 hours) but it was the pic of my brain that drew me in. I showed the printout to my brother who's a doctor and he said "Hey, what are all those fluid spaces at the top of your brain?" And I said "WHAT WHERE WHY ME? WHY?! WHERE?" and he said "kidding". Bastard. But the picture is still cool.

Posted by: [Katie](#) | [May 26, 2006 at 10:06 PM](#)

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