



The BRAIN

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For Immediate Release

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We have recently entered the era of "Big Neuroscience," with major, long-term, collaborative research projects in the United States and Europe devoted to creating a complete picture and understanding of the human brain. Not surprisingly, these "heady" times for neuroscience are having a domino effect in the arts.

Artists have long reflected upon the nature of perception, memory, and emotion in their art. But recent breakthroughs in understanding the brain, accompanied by access to its visualizations, are provoking the imaginations of artists in new ways.

Twenty-seven artists and two scientist-artists were selected from 156 entrants from around the world by the distinguished Co-Jurors: Stephen Nowlin, artist & Director of the Williamson Gallery at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California; and Anjan Chatterjee, the Elliott Professor and Chief of Neurology at Pennsylvania Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. His recent book is [*The Aesthetic Brain: How We Evolved to Desire Beauty and Enjoy Art.*](#)

The **SCIENCE INSPIRES ART: The BRAIN** exhibition is composed of 42 stunning 2D images of original artworks executed by using visual tropes in both traditional and new media. These artists are as intrigued by what science has yet to reveal about the mysterious workings of our brain, as well as today's newest discoveries. The sharing of this information on the Internet, along with MRI and fMRI images and other neuroscience research, enables artists to absorb, analyze, synthesize, and create new art inspired by the brain. Additionally, some of these artists have collaborated with scientists in their labs on experiments that create the resource materials for their art. One received his Ph.D. in neuroscience but then decided to become an artist (not an altogether uncommon experience in the field of biology), and the other neuroscientist pursues dual careers including fine art photography (that incorporates brain specimens from natural history facilities).

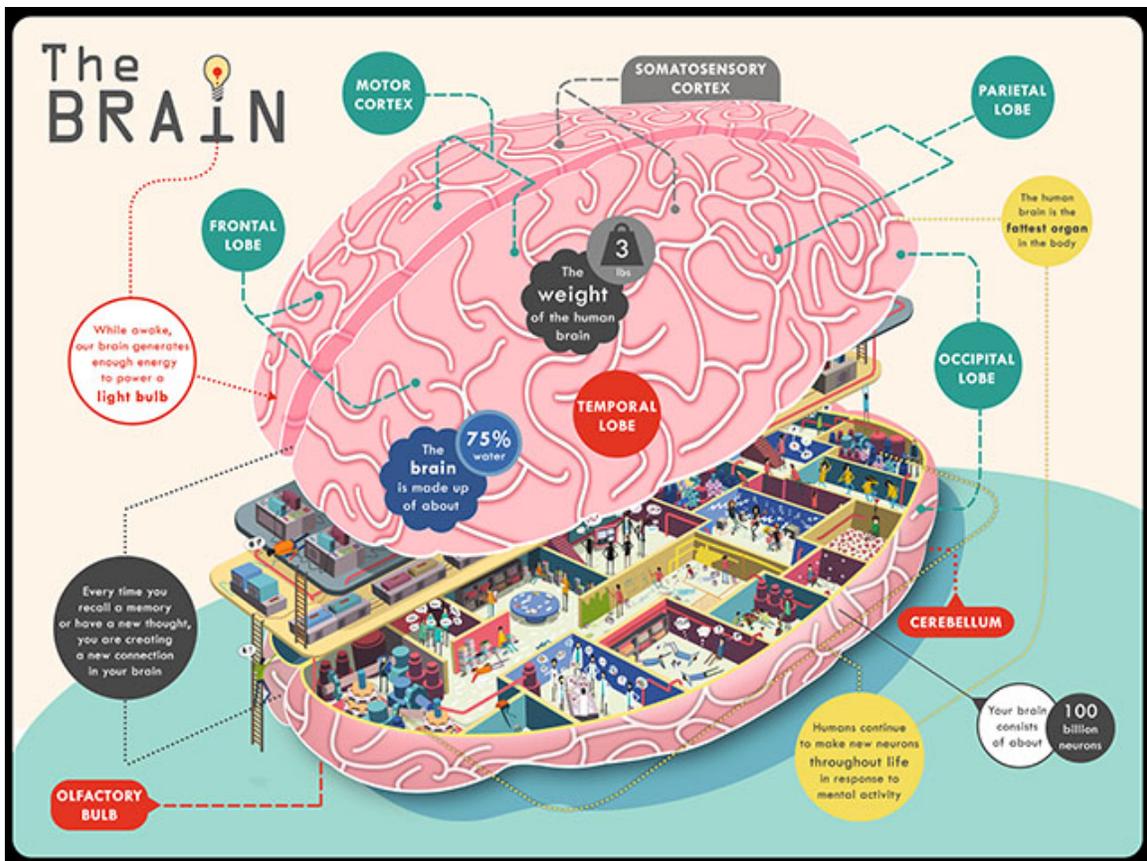
Let's examine the visual tropes utilized by the artists in this exhibition...



Cortical Columns by Gregory Dunn, 2014; gold and metal powders, ink, and dye on aluminized panel

BEAUTY (above)... Uncovering and sharing the exquisite beauty of the brain is manifested in the acrylic paintings of Bonnie Cutts, a mixed-media painting on aluminized panel by Gregory Dunn, a painting by Franco Tosi, Robert Fathauer's ceramic sculpture, the fine art photography of neuroscientist, Eran Gilat, and Geoffrey Harrison's drawings.

NARRATIVE (below)... Telling a story by creating visual juxtapositions and metaphors is also a way to connect ideas about the brain to the larger context of nature, humanity, the cosmos, or even neuroscientists in their labs. This is the case with the mixed-media installation of Julie Amrany, the digital montage of Travis Bedel, a digital print by Lauren Evans, a digital painting of Roger Ferragallo, mixed-media collage on paper by Debra Friedkin, Gunes-Helene Isitan's composite digital photo, José Miguel Mayo's illustration, Remy Nurse's painting, Patricia Moss-Vreeland's digital print, Aga Tamiola's mixed-media on paper, and Jayne Walther's digital print.



Take A Look Inside by José Miguel Mayo, computer graphics digital print

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (below)... The physical, mental, and spiritual challenges faced by those with personal neurological maladies, have inspired an “up-close” exploration of neuroscience in the mixed-media on paper artworks of Laura Ahola-Young, Elizabeth Jameson’s paintings on silk, and Terri Lloyd’s digital print.



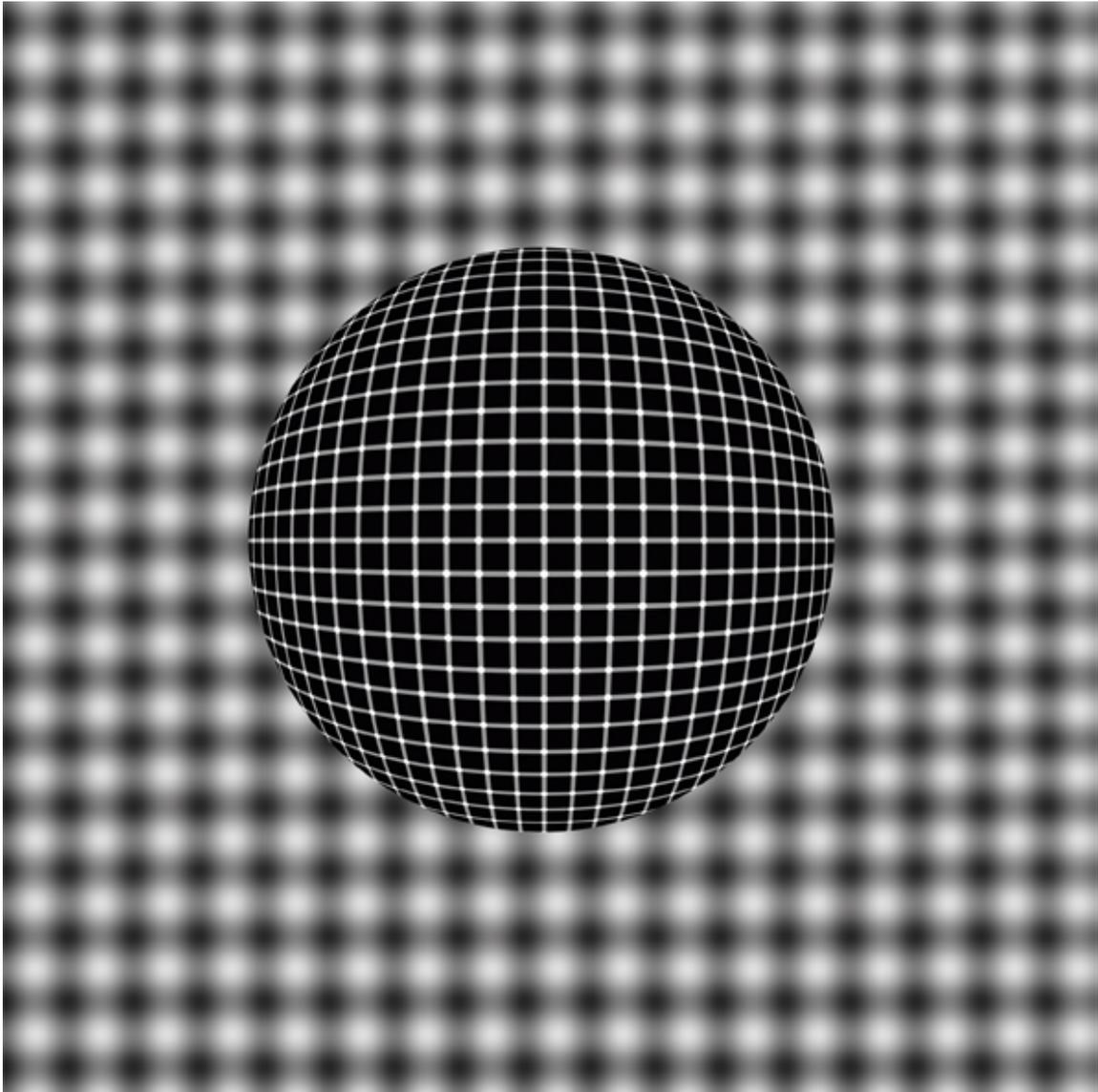
Prodrome by Laura Ahola-Young, 2012, oil and watercolor on paper

MAPPING (below)... Intrigued by the fundamental "fabric" of the brain, several artists have envisioned maps/diagrams of the workings of, as well as the structure (and deconstruction), of this mysterious human organ. These include the works in metal and on wood by Federico Carbajal, the weaving of Lia Cook, the new media mono-print of Valeriya N-Georg, Michael Ricciardi's drawing transfer image, Robert Strati's digital prints, and Ron Wild's digital montage C-print.



Su Brain Tracts Renew by Lia Cook, 2014, woven cotton and rayon

VISUAL PERCEPTION (below)... And finally, there are those artists fascinated by the brain as the arbiter of human perception, as well as “the artist as trickster” through the use of visual illusion. These include Yura Adams’ composite drawing and photograph, Robert Peters’ inkjet print, and William Stoehr’s acrylic painting.



Universal Noise by Robert Peters, 2014, archival inkjet print

The **SCIENCE INSPIRES ART: The BRAIN** exhibition will be available to travel after it closes at the museum on March 29, 2015. Contact Cynthia Pannucci via the www.asci.org website if interested. **The full online exhibition** of the 42 images is at: www.asci.org/artikel1361.html along with the **Co-Juror Statements**. You are invited to attend the Reception on Sunday, October 26, 2014 to see the luscious details of the 18"x 24" framed prints!