

ART MADE OF SCIENCE - MICROSPHERES

AN EXHIBITION BY AYSE GÜL SÜTER



PRESS KIT

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1. About the exhibition

Art Made of Science – Microspheres

The **spheres** resemble cells, tiny building blocks that make up the human body. Cells are the smallest components that represent life in our body.

The idea behind ***Art Made of Science – Microspheres*** by the artist **Ayse Gül Süter** (Turkey, 1982), arose during her **artistic stay in the Histopathology laboratory of the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona)**, where scientists observe microscopic samples of **healthy and unhealthy tissues** – taken from the liver, eye, skin or lung – **whose visual differences allow them to study and understand the pathologies.**

The images that make up Süter’s ***site-specific*** installation focus on the **visually distinctive forms of these tissues.** The artist adapts her observations to produce large-scale images. The work thus converts the **“invisible”** parts of the human body **“visible”** – the cells – and invites the public to experience human cellular structures on a large scale.

The installation, which takes place in the **windows** of the **old operating room of the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site**, takes advantage of daylight in the same way the operating room did in its time. The colours of the piece change depending on the intensity of light and are reminiscent of stained glass art (*vitrail*).

In conjunction with the installation, the video ***Flight over cells***, created by the artist in the Histopathology Laboratory of IRB Barcelona, will be displayed. Visitors will witness how researchers rely on visual representations to diagnose pathologies.

Süter’s work reflects on the connections between science, medicine, life and art, while inviting the audience to experiment with large-scale human cell structures in an innovative way.

This project is the result of the **IRB Barcelona Artist Residency Program, which Süter carried out during 2018.** The program aims to interconnect artists interested in science with the wide range of research, scientists, data and infrastructure available at the Institute, as well as offer the opportunity to share their experiences with the general public. **Since its inception, Quo Artis has participated as a jury in the selection process.**

Art Made of Science – Microspheres

From February 12 to March 12, 2019

Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site

C/ Sant Antoni Maria Claret, 167

08025 Barcelona

Press conference:

February 12, 2019, 12h

Opening:

February 12 from 14 to 16.30h. Free entrance.

Sunday March 3, 2019:

Free entrance.

1.1 Activities

Roundtable: ***Science as a source of inspiration***

What will be the scientific-medical-technological challenges for the 21st century? What can art contribute to science, and science to art? What benefits, but also drawbacks, can occur from this exchange?

The roundtable ***Science as a source of inspiration*** challenges participants to discuss the relationships between art, science and technology, and the interactions that take place between these fields. Based on the personal experiences of the participants, an attempt will be made to answer these questions among others.

Participants: **Marcel.lí Antúnez** (Artist), **Ernest Girault** (Scientist and composer), **Ayse Gül Süter** (Artist), **Neus Prats** (Scientist)

Moderator: **Daniel López del Rincón** (Art historian, exhibition curator)

Thursday, February 14, 2019, 19h
Pau Gil Room, Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site
C/ Sant Antoni Maria Claret, 167
08025 Barcelona
Free entry

Marcel.lí Antúnez is an internationally renowned artist and is one of the most relevant figures of electronic art and science experimentation. His career spans a period of 30 years, during which he has developed an absolutely personal and iconoclastic visual universe, based on a reflection on systems of artistic production. He has carried out installations and performances in museums, galleries, theaters and non-conventional spaces in more than 40 countries, including the Maison Européenne de la Photographie de la Ville de Paris, the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, the DAF of Tokyo, the MACBA of Barcelona or the ZDB of Lisbon.

Ernest Giralt-Lledó is a researcher at the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona) and professor at the University of Barcelona. Parallel to his scientific activity in the field of drug design for mental illnesses, he dedicates himself to musical composition. His most recent work is ***Chemical Elements 2018: A Musical Mosaic***. It is made up of one hundred eighteen fragments, and reflects the periodicity and the properties of the elements from the periodic table, while evoking the varied musical forms that fill the history and geography of our planet.

Ayse Gül Süter is a visual artist specialising in projects related to animation, installations, kinetic sculptures and bioart. She studied Animation and Digital Arts at the University of New York. In 2016 and 2018 she received the Cultural Exchange Scholarship of the Turkish Cultural

Foundation. She was a resident artist at the Visual Arts School of New York. She has also collaborated with scientists at the Marine Biology Laboratory (MBL) in Massachusetts, USA.

Daniel López del Rincón has a doctorate in Art History and is a professor at the University of Barcelona. His research and teaching focuses on the art of the 20th and 21st centuries and, particularly, on the analysis of the relationships between art, nature and science. His publications include ***Bioart: Art and life in the era of biotechnology*** (Akal, 2015) and ***Naturaleza Mutante: Del Bosco al Bioarte*** (Sans Soleil, 2017). He was the curator of the exhibition ***Postnature*** (Etopia, 2018).

Neus Prats is an experimental pathologist and has a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She graduated from the European College of Veterinary Pathology & Laboratory Animal Medicine and is currently responsible for the Histopathology platform at the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona). Previously, she was an associate professor for 11 years at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the UAB and head of Pathology and Predictive Toxicology in the research department in Almirall for 14 years. Currently, she is an ambassador of the Artist in Residence program at IRB Barcelona.

This activity is a collaboration between Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, IRB Barcelona and Quo Artis.

Roundtable: *The therapeutic power of art*

The participants of this table will reflect on how art can stimulate emotional and cognitive development, as well as improve self-esteem in people suffering from some type of illness.

Participants: **Sara García** (Psychologist), **Nadia Collette** (Biologist and therapist)

Moderator: **Paul Rosero** (artist)

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 19h
Room 3-4, Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site
C/ Sant Antoni Maria Claret, 167
08025 Barcelona
Free entry

Sara García Serrano has a degree in Psychology from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She has studied extensively: Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology, Postgraduate Diploma in Psycho-oncology, Postgraduate in Brief Strategic Therapy, Master's Degree in Psycho-oncology, Master of Research in Applied Psychology in Health Sciences, Mindfulness and NLP training. She continued her studies with a stay at the Department of Oncological Psychiatry at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. She has collaborated in various informative talks and has participated in national and international psycho-oncology conferences. She is currently the Coordinator of the Kàlida Sant Pau Center, where emotional, practical and social support is provided to people who live with cancer.

Nadia Collette is an art-therapist at the Palliative Care Unit of Hospital Sant Pau. She is in charge of the clinical evaluation of art therapy intervention at the end of life, within the framework of the Hospital Research Institute. Academic background: PhD in Psychology; Bachelor in Medical Biology; Bachelor and Diploma of Advanced Studies in Fine Arts; Master in Transdisciplinary Art Therapy and Master in Counseling for mourning, loss and trauma.

Carles Ramos is graduated in Fine Arts from the University of Barcelona, then post graduated in Art Therapy at the Goldsmith College of the University of London. He worked in the area of psychiatry for adults in a general hospital as well as in a child mental health center of the (NHS).

In 1997, in Barcelona he initiated the first Master in Art Therapy in Spanish-speaking countries, which was carried out at the UB in conjunction with Metàfora, an art therapy school. In 2001, he participated in the foundation of Asociación Profesional Española de Arteterapeutas, ATe from which he was president and from which he is currently an active member. In 2010, the Master's in Art Therapy became part of the educational offer of the Pompeu Fabra University until 2014 when Metàfora constituted the Master's Degree as an independent entity.

Paul Rosero Contreras is a conceptual artist who works with scientific information, speculative realism and different fictional narratives. His work explores themes related to geopolitics, environmental problems and the human relationship with extreme ecosystems. He received an MFA from the California Institute of Arts - CalArts and an Interdisciplinary Master's Degree in Cognitive Systems and Interactive Media at the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. His work has received national and international awards, and has been widely exhibited at the 57th Venice Biennial, Antarctic Pavilion, Italy, at the 5th Moscow Biennial of Young Art, at the Quai Branly Museum in Paris, France, at the 11th Biennial of Cuenca, Ecuador, at the 1st Antarctic Biennial, at the 1st. South Biennial in Argentina, at SIGGRAPH 2017 in Los Angeles, among other places. Rosero teaches and researches at the San Francisco University of Quito.

This activity is a collaboration between the Kàlida Foundation, Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, Metàfora and Quo Artis.

2. In the words of the artist

About the collaboration between artists and scientists, art and science

I believe that science and art are very similar, since both involve an endless cycle of attempts and failures, but even so, both scientists and artists continue to seek answers about life.

Both approach problems with an open mind, with similar fear and intuition. New scientific concepts have the ability to expand the imagination and artistic vocabulary of an artist.

Many artists today have a close relationship with technology and science. The collaboration between art and science has the potential to advance society. Artists are excellent collaborators in regards to the communication of scientific research, which makes the findings more compelling and accessible.

About her work methodology

I see the scientific image as an observation of my surroundings. I take a sample, observe its behaviour, its shape and colours and transfer these characteristic features to other mediums, giving life to other platforms.

I use several techniques, such as painting on glass, printing on silk, blowing glass or making digital collages to invite the audience to experience with microscopic cellular structures on a large scale.

Even though these “imaginary landscapes” seem to be quite graphic, they are actually very real natural formations. My art has always been inspired by nature and life itself, however, observing life forms in different magnifications has helped me to develop different perceptions of life. My fascination lies in the interplay between the micro and macro worlds, in particular, where their components overlap and unify until they finally come together as a whole.

3. Biography



Ayse Gül Süter (Turkey, 1982) studied Animation and Digital Arts at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. In 2016 and 2018 she received the Cultural Exchange Grant from the Turkish Cultural Foundation.

She was a resident artist at the School of Visual Arts in New York. She has also collaborated with scientists from the Marine Biology Laboratory (MBL) in Massachusetts, USA, to observe marine and plant biology and turn their observations into artistic projects.

During 2018, she was the resident artist at IRB Barcelona, where she has collaborated with several scientists and laboratories to inspire herself to create the works of this exhibition.

Ayse Gül Süter resides in Istanbul, where she continues to work on projects related to bioart, animation, light installations, kinetic sculptures and paintings.

Website: <http://aysegulsuter.net>

Instagram: aysegulsuter

Twitter: @SuterAysegul

4. Organizers

[Quo Artis](#) is an international non-profit organisation whose mission is to establish connections between the fields of art, science and technology through the promotion of innovative projects. In this way, it seeks to contribute to art, culture and society, and promote interdisciplinary cooperation.

The [IRB Barcelona](#) is a first-level research centre dedicated to studying fundamental issues of health and human diseases. The IRB Barcelona was founded in October 2005 by the Generalitat de Catalunya and the University of Barcelona, and is located in the Science Park of Barcelona.

The [Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site](#), a group of modernist pavillions, is a World Heritage Site declared by UNESCO in 1997, property of the Private Foundation Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, formed by the Cathedral Chapter, the Barcelona City Council and the Generalitat de Catalunya.

This project has the support of the Turkish Consulate in Barcelona and Turkish Airlines:



5. Images

[Access to the images folder](#)