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Art versus Image

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ART

v e r s u s

IMAGE

“ *Nanotechnology is redefining how we see and what it means to see.* ”

// Chris Robinson, Department of Art, University of South Carolina

TPOLOGY OF NANOIMAGING

created by // Chris Robinson, USC Department of Art

SCHEMATICS

Represent an idealized version of the image -

Graphs, diagrams, schematics -

3D models, animated simulations -

DOCUMENTATION

Attempts to characterize how the image really is -

Photography, microscopy -

Similar animation -

FANTASY

A wide range of illustrative speculation -

Not necessarily based on hard science -

May captivate at the risk of misinforming -

FINE ART

Seeks meaningful and long term effect on culture -

Almost nonexistent; plenty of opportunity; promise & hope -

Some working in related areas of art and technology -

Many claiming or accepting this designation (misleading) -

HYBRID

Combinations or oddities that don't fit in other categories -

Similar to chemistry or biology, art is a discipline with its own standards, definitions, and training. Just as not all artwork is scientific, not all scientific images are works of art. By exploring the societal implications of scientific discovery, art provides new ways for understanding nanotechnology. However, the distinctions between images and art are not always easy to decipher.

Scientists often make aesthetic decisions to improve the quality of nanoimaging. For example, scientists incorporate color into images, even though color does not transmit at the nanoscale. These changes and manipulations raise larger questions regarding representations in nanotechnology. At what point are these manipulated images an honest scientific depiction, and when do these aesthetic alterations affect the integrity of the nanoimage?