

Public lecture by

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“Science and art”

Abstract:

The relationship between art(s) and science(s) nowadays is very fashionable. Most discussions in this field rely upon comparisons aimed at stressing the similarities between artistic creation and scientific research. It will be argued here that this perspective leads to rather superficial views. If one is to consider the actual practices (social and individual) in the two domains rather than abstract characterizations, it appears that the differences between art(s) and science(s) are both more important and more interesting than their resemblances. It is only by recognizing these differences that one can try to construct meaningful and fecund links. This general position will be exemplified by a few “brief encounters” between a physicist (the speaker) and several contemporary artists, which may lead to a deeper understanding of the nature of scientific work.

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