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Innovative Exhibition at Nassau Museum on Energy Brings Together Art and Science
Connects Major Art by Calder, Pollock, Stella and others with Einstein, Tesla, Brookhaven Lab
Walk-in Aurora Borealis Experience a Star Attraction
July 20 – November 3, 2019



Scott McIntire, Energy Field

Roslyn Harbor, NY—For the first time at any art museum, top-tier scientists and major figures in art (including Jackson Pollock, Alexander Calder, Frank Stella, Jasper Johns, James Rosenquist, Vija Celmins, Julie Mehretu and Man Ray) are brought together in one interactive exhibition. Prepared in collaboration with the Tesla Museum and using scientific images and an experiment from Brookhaven National Laboratory, this innovative show uses masterworks of art side-by-side with images produced by the most advanced scientific instruments, including an active “cloud chamber” experiment from Brookhaven (North America’s only particle collider) to explore the invisible world of energy in all its many forms. Nikola Tesla’s original laboratory is re-created in the museum, complete with generators, prototypes for motors, instruments and patent drawings tracking his inventions of alternating current, long-distance wireless signals (the predecessor of WiFi), lasers and other epochal discoveries. The galleries are filled with major works of painting and sculpture by artists who interpret energy, from electricity to sunlight, nuclear fission, electromagnetic waves, cosmic force fields, the natural voltage of the human body, and sub-atomic activity.



Tesla in his laboratory

At the summit of human thought, a dialogue between art and science is engaged on the topic of energy. The minds that meet in one show include Albert Einstein and Tesla (both of whom lived on Long Island), international art stars Julie Mehretu, Vija Celmins, Man Ray, Mark Tobey, James Rosenquist (a ten-foot wide painting that includes a spinning clock dial), Keith Sonnier, Richard Pousette-Dart, Joseph Cornell and local legend Barbara Prey. One unforgettable experience is the aurora borealis created, using natural light with glass and translucent fabrics, by sculptor Miya Ando inside the elegant gallery that was the original dining room of the mansion. It is one of several works created on commission for the show. Others include a monumental painting by Doug Argue similar to the one commissioned for the World Trade Center lobby and a series of Energy Field paintings by Greenport's own Scott McIntire.



James Rosenquist, *Time Stops the Face Continues*

Though invisible, energy is all around us. Here is physicist Brian Green, in his masterful book *The Fabric of the Cosmos*, on the invisible world our artists have put on canvas and paper: "Living among radio and television broadcasts, cellphone communications, the sun's heat and light, we are all constantly awash in a sea of electromagnetic fields...When you see something, you can think of it in terms of a waving electromagnetic field entering your eye and stimulating your retina, or in terms of photon particles entering your eye and doing the same thing." Way before our time, the greatest artist of all, Leonardo da Vinci, wrote, "The air is full of infinite lines, straight and radiating, intercrossing and interweaving without ever coinciding one with another; and they represent for every object the true form of their reason." The science of art meets the art of science in one thrilling show.

Programming for the show includes artists and scientists in the galleries, lectures on the relationship between science and math and art, a forum on the future of energy including top scientists and executives from local utilities, and a director's seminar held in his private office.

Nassau County Museum of Art is located at One Museum Drive in Roslyn Harbor. The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (62 and above) and \$5 for students and children (4 to12). Docent-led tours of the exhibition are offered at 2 p.m. each day; tours of the mansion are offered each Saturday at 1 p.m. Media Contact: Charles Riley, (516) 484-9338 x 37, criley@nassaumuseum.org

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