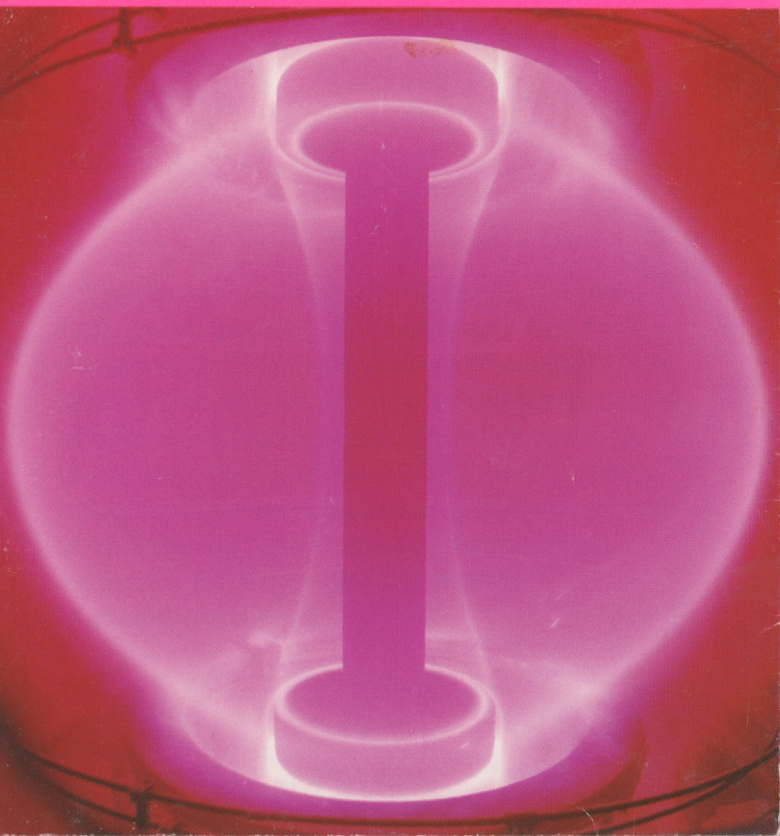


The Arts Catalyst

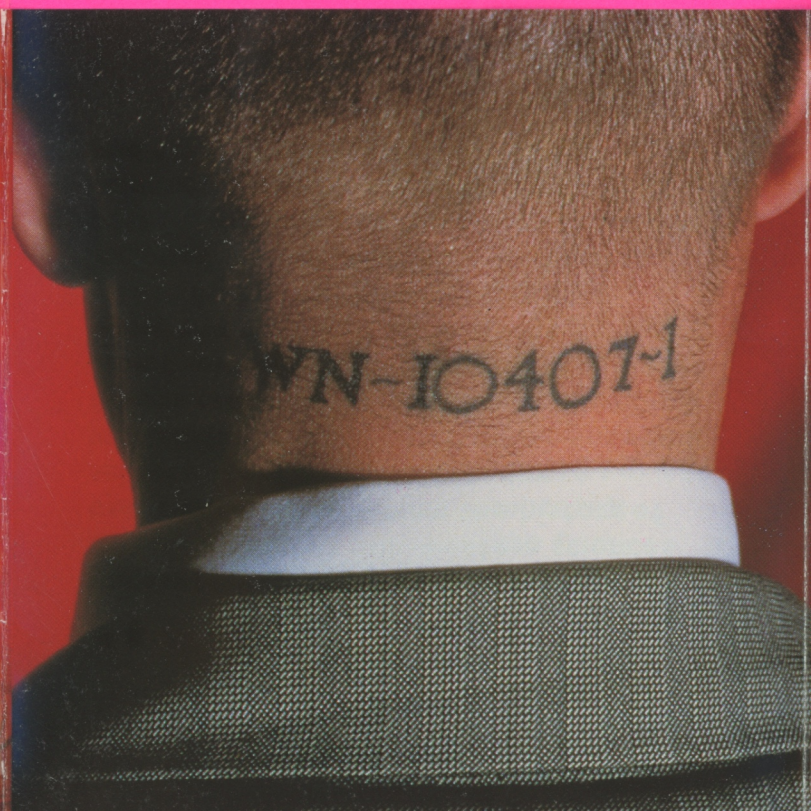
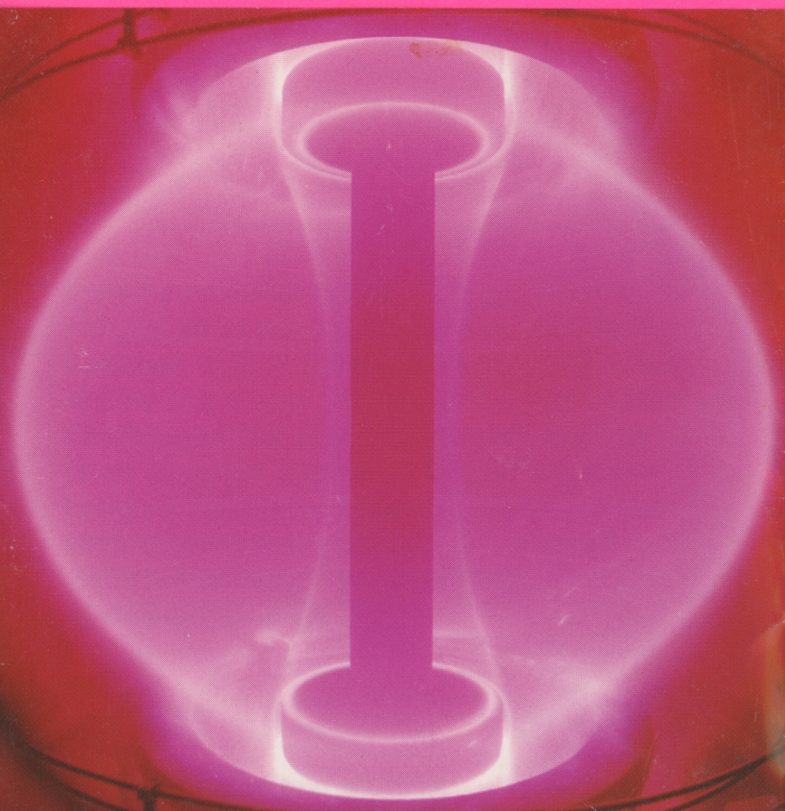
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Why not sculpt with
radioactive material?



Can artists be
astronauts?

Find out more



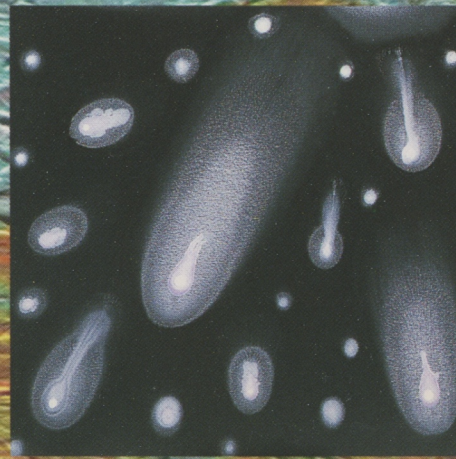
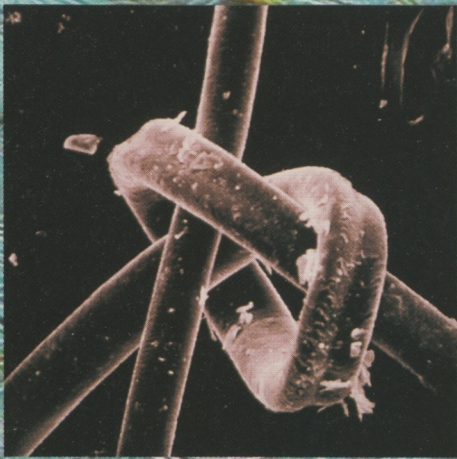
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images left to right
Fusion, Photo courtesy UK AEA Technology
Tattoo, James Acord
Mir Space Station, Photo courtesy NASA/JPL/Caltech
Surface of Io, Photo courtesy NASA/JPL/Caltech

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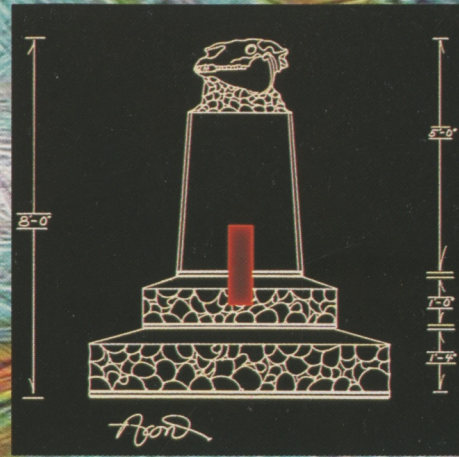
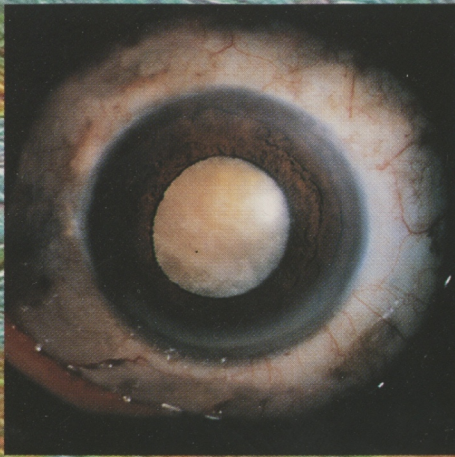
Can art and science

The Arts Catalyst is a science-art agency promoting real collaborations between artists and scientists.

Founded in 1993, based in the UK and working internationally, it uses innovative art practice to break down the invisible walls between science and the public.

Flesh of my Flesh (detail), Donald Rodney

Drapper.White.3 (detail), Letizia Galli



really collaborate?

We see art as directly applied to the scientific environment — not simply illustrative of science. Never afraid to confront issues in science, subjects covered include human fertility, nuclear power, Darwinism, quantum physics, space exploration and the forthcoming total eclipse of the sun.

Nebula (detail), Helen Chadwick
Courtesy Moorfields Hospital, London

We work across all the artforms — specialising in collaborations with museums, galleries, scientific laboratories and other sites.

Work by James Acord
background, Europa 'Ice Rafts' in local and color context
Produced by the University of Arizona

The Arts Catalyst

the science-art agency

Is all science in agreement?

From consciousness to cloning, atomic energy to gender differences, The Arts Catalyst's first international conference *Eye of the Storm*, at the Royal Institution, challenged the impression that science is an isolated and undivided institution. Leading figures in science came together with international artists for heated debates on major controversies in modern science.

Why not sculpt with radioactive material?

Artists working at the heart of scientific research pose radically new questions that confront our fears and assumptions about science. Our *Atomic* project inquires after the lost idealism of the atomic age and examines the hidden world of the nuclear industry. The work of American nuclear sculptor James Acord—the only private individual in the world licensed to handle radioactive materials—demands 'Why shouldn't an artist work with radioactive material?' The Arts Catalyst is setting up residencies in the UK where Acord will meet physicists to explore his provocative ambition. Linked to this will be Carey Young's *Kosmodrome*, depicting the nuclear and space utopia of the former USSR, and Mark Waller's film *Glow Boys*, set in a UK nuclear power station.

Does science come from the West?

Parallel Universe at the South London Gallery looked at non-western sciences and their exclusion from the history of science. Centring on a ten-day installation *CAT*, in which artist Ansuman Biswas remained in a black box devoid of sound and light as a practical experiment using the ancient Indian science of vipassanna, *Parallel Universe* also included presentations by scientists, anthropologists and artists on Islamic science, Shamanic knowledge of plants and Chinese medicine.

Find out more

Can artists be astronauts?

French choreographer Kitsou Dubois analyses the body's movement in zero gravity. She has undertaken a number of parabolic flights with the French Space Agency and used her experiments to develop an training protocol for astronauts to overcome physical problems of living in space. Using the latest scanning technology, in an adventurous collaboration with Imperial College, London, she will further her research comparing the body's interior workings on the ground and floating in space. This will be the start of our *Space Programme* in which we will commission art that directly engages with space exploration and astronomy from 2000 onwards.

Who do we collaborate with?

Cultural institutions we have worked with and exhibited at include the Natural History Museum, the Barbican Centre, The Place and the South London Gallery. Scientific bodies include Imperial College of Science and Technology, the Royal Institution and Kings College Hospital. We are in discussion with scientists from many disciplines and we would like to hear from artists (in any medium) interested in specific areas of science, particularly those making work about space exploration and astronomy.

What happens when the sun goes dark?

The total solar eclipse in Europe of 1999 dramatically illuminates the effects of events in the sun's atmosphere on the earth and our solar system. The Arts Catalyst's *Total Eclipse* programme in 1999 includes a new commissioned performance evoking the solar wind, a conference *Heart of the Sun*, an education programme linking up young people along the path of the eclipse, and, continuing our ongoing discussion about non-Western, science, a programme about the cultural meaning of eclipses *Paths of Totality*.

Who pays for all this?

Current funders and sponsors:
The Arts Council of England
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