MOLECULES THAT MATTER

1900 ASPIRIN
1910 ISOOCTANE
1920 PENICILLIN G
1930 POLYETHYLENE
1940 NYLON 6,6
1950 DNA
1960 PROGESTIN
1970 DDT
1980 PROZAC
1990 BUCKYBALL & CARBON NANOTUBES
March 24–May 10, 2009

The College of Wooster Art Museum
Ebert Art Center
Sussel Gallery
Burton D. Morgan Gallery

EVENTS

Opening Reception
Friday, March 27
6:00–8:00 p.m.
Introduction at 7:00 p.m.
by Raymond J. Giguere,
Class of 1962 Term
Professor of Chemistry,
Skidmore College

Artist’s Lecture
Monday, April 13
7:00–8:00 p.m., Rm. 223, Ebert Art Center
Bryan Crockett, Associate Professor of Art,
California State University, Long Beach

Lunchtime Lecture
Wednesday, April 1
12:00–1:00 p.m.
Fashioning the Pill,
Jimmy Wilkenson Meyer

Faculty Roundtable
Thursday, April 30
7:00–8:00 p.m., Sussel Gallery
Jaime Carrejo, Studio Art
Melissa Schultz, Chemistry
Stephanie Strand, Biology
Thomas Tierney, Sociology
Panel Moderator:
Virginia Pett, Chemistry

Curator’s Tour
Thursday, April 9
7:00–8:00 p.m.
John S. Weber, Dayton Director,
Frances Young Tang Teaching
Museum and Art Gallery,
Skidmore College

All events are free and open to the public.
In the twentieth century our knowledge of substances at the molecular level has significantly redefined our world—even life itself. How we have changed and who we have become as a result of this remarkable molecular revolution is the overarching story this exhibition conveys.¹

—Raymond J. Giguere

The discovery of carbon-based molecules during the twentieth-century and the capacity to understand and reshape matter at the molecular level has recast notions of human identity, transformed expectations for health and longevity, and radically altered our relationship to nature. The exhibition, **Molecules That Matter**, tells this story by examining the influence of just ten molecules. Organized by the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, this traveling exhibition is a collaborative effort conceived by Raymond J. Giguere, Class of 1962 Term Professor of Chemistry at Skidmore College, and co-curated by John S. Weber, Dayton Director of the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore.

Giguere and Weber selected roughly one organic molecule per decade notable for its impact on humanity, in consultation with a volunteer scientific advisory board consisting of professionals from academia, industry, and the exhibition collaborators, the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia. Along with aspirin (1900) and isooctane (1910), the ten molecules include penicillin G (1920), polyethylene (1930), nylon 6,6 (1940), DNA (1950), progestin (1960), DDT (1970), Prozac (1980), and buckyball and carbon nanotubes (1990).

All of the molecules are illustrated by traditional, scientifically accurate ball-and-stick models, each untraditionally oversized. Interspersed among the giant molecules are works of art by nationally and internationally recognized contemporary artists: Thomas Asmuth, Susie Brandt, Chrissy Conant, Tony Cragg, Bryan Crockett, Kara Daving, Robert Dawson, Melissa Gwyn, Frank Moore, Michael Oatman, Roxy Paine, Dan Peterman, Alexis Rockman, Ed Ruscha, Jean Shin, and Fred Tomaselli. Completing the exhibition are historical artifacts, including memorabilia from classic gas stations where isooctane made its mark, wartime posters touting the value of penicillin, photos of women raising their skirts to reveal nylon stockings, and bottles of Bayer Aspirin that chronicle the evolution of that historic brand.


*Molecules that Matter* was organized by the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in collaboration with the Chemical Heritage Foundation of Philadelphia, and funded by The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Friends of the Tang, Sara Lubin Schupf, the Hach Foundation, Amgen, and donors to the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The presentation of *Molecules That Matter* at The College of Wooster Art Museum was made possible by a generous bequest from Muriel Mulac Kozlow, a member of the Class of 1948, the Julia Schoolroy Halloran Fund endowment, Wooster’s Cultural Events Committee, and the Ohio Arts Council.
The College of Wooster
Art Museum

Ebert Art Center
1220 Beall Avenue
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Sussel Gallery
Burton D. Morgan Gallery

MUSEUM HOURS
Tuesday–Friday
10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday
1:00–5:00 p.m.
Free Admission

INFORMATION
330.263.2495
artmuseum.wooster.edu

Front:
A section of a giant nylon molecule model dominates the foreground in this installation view from Molecules That Matter at the Tang Museum and Art Gallery. Jean Shin’s Chemical Balance 2 (2005), is behind the nylon molecule.

Photo: Art Evans, courtesy of the Tang Museum, Skidmore College.