

Arcade

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Panya Clark Espinal

John Dickson

Alex Geddie

Gordon Hicks

Annie MacDonell

Sally McKay

Arcade September 28 – November 9, 2008

presented by Harbourfront Centre, in partnership with the Ontario Science Centre

A museum, gallery or science centre is often the first place many of us get to view and interact with displays that illuminate the wonders behind our everyday experience of the world. The Ontario Science Centre's Science Arcade is such a place. For almost four decades, it has engaged us hands-on in exhibits that inspire and compel us to see how science plays an integral part in our lives, etching memories of delight. It's fun. It's science. Can we come to see it as art? What new wonders might we see in that act?

Now, at Harbourfront Centre we bring the two seemingly opposite disciplines of art and science together to address those questions, and to explore a new arcade. Six artists have taken decommissioned exhibits that once sparked curiosity about science and transformed them using the lexicon of art. **John Dickson, Panya Clark Espinal, Alex Geddie, Gordon Hicks, Annie MacDonell and Sally McKay** are all artists with a keen interest in science and digital media. To further explore the correlation of disciplines, included in the exhibition is the fiction work "The Transformed Man" by science fiction writer **Robert J. Sawyer**. The artistic transformations of *Arcade* transcend perceived barriers between art and science and create new focus. *Arcade* provides a holistic approach to science and art that appreciates its interdependence of ideas and creative arrangements.

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Origins – The Ontario Science Centre's Science Arcade

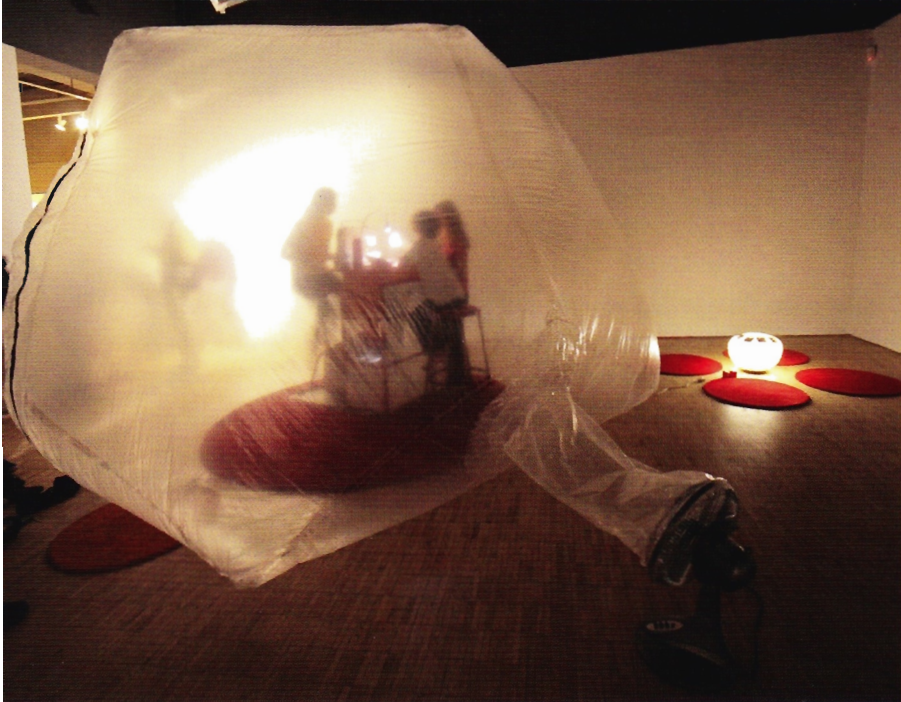
*I hear and I forget
I see and I remember
I do and I understand
— Confucius*

It's a fair bet that Confucius would have loved the Science Arcade. Since 1969, the revolutionary concept behind the worldwide popularity of the Ontario Science Centre – “let visitors touch the exhibits” – has found expression in this playground for the mind and senses.

In the Science Arcade you can actively engage in learning by turning a crank, tracing a pattern, pushing a button, pedaling a bike, playing an instrument, perceiving optical illusions and, of course, making your hair stand on end.

For millions of visitors, the delights of the Science Arcade have been a spark for curiosity and a greater interest in science. And even as the Science Centre evolves – with visitors creating art and tackling real world challenges in new areas like the Weston Family Innovation Centre – the Science Arcade remains a source of inspiration.





Bubble

Panya Clark Espinal

Ontario Science Centre origin: Bicycle Generator

Mixed media



Bubble is a self-contained performative structure powered by myself and viewers. In occupying *Bubble*, I reflect on both the physical toil, emotional enchantment and psychological force of self-activation. Each one of us has a job that we are here to do and the requirements of which only we can really know. *Bubble* endeavours to brush up against multi-faceted aspects of sustainability.

Panya Clark Espinal's practice as a multi-media sculpture installation artist has scrutinized and engaged in the mechanisms that drive the making of meaning in our culture. Her work has questioned issues of authenticity, appropriation, reproduction, collection, display and the museum. Solo exhibitions include the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, The Canadian Embassy (Tokyo), Oakville Galleries and the National Gallery of Canada.