

NEWS RELEASE

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New Art Exhibition Inspired by Scientific Manuscripts to Open at NAS

WASHINGTON – Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “Rebecca Kamen: Fundamental Forces,” an exhibition inspired by the artist’s investigation of drawings and writings from rarely seen scientific manuscripts. It opens Feb. 17 and will remain on view through July 6, 2015, at the National Academy of Sciences.

The title "Fundamental Forces" refers to the four fundamental forces in physics: gravity, electromagnetism, and strong and weak nuclear interactions. Inspired by the process of scientific discovery, Kamen investigates scientific drawings and writings from rare manuscripts that form the basis for our understanding of these fundamental forces. Her work reflects how the ideas of science permeate all areas of human endeavor -- including art. The exhibition features nine sculptures, five paintings, and one sculpture/sound installation with a soundscape by Susan Alexander.

Kamen's work is informed by wide-ranging research into cosmology, history, philosophy, and various scientific fields. Through residencies and research opportunities, she has investigated rare scientific books and manuscripts at the libraries of the American Philosophical Society, the Chemical Heritage Foundation, the Center for Astrophysics, and the Cajal Institute in Madrid, using these significant scientific collections as a catalyst in the creation of her work.

Based in Virginia, Kamen is the recipient of a Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Professional Fellowship, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Fellowship, two Strauss Fellowships, and a travel grant from the Chemical Heritage Foundation. She was recently an artist in residence in the neuroscience program at the National Institutes of Health. Kamen is the first visual artist selected for "Nifty Fifty," a program of the USA Science and Engineering Festival that creates opportunities for role models in science and engineering to speak to area high school and middle school students.

“Rebecca Kamen: Fundamental Forces” will be on exhibit at the NAS Building, located at 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The galleries are open weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A photo ID is required. The exhibition is organized in celebration of the centennial of Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity.

The **Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences** sponsors exhibitions, discussion forums, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. For more information, call 202-334-2436 or visit www.cpnas.org. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and -- with the National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council -- provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.

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Images from the exhibition:



Doppler Effect, 2005, steel and copper wire,
10 x 12 x 10 inches



In the Beginning, 2003, acrylic on mylar,
36 x 24 inches



Portal Installation, 2014 (sculpture and sound installation),
mylar and fossils. Soundscape by Susan Alexjander

For print-quality images,
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