Classic Experiment from 1952 on the Origin of Life Recreated in Art-Science Exhibit

EAST LANSING, MI- How did life begin on Earth and other planets? A Michigan State University professor has combined art and science to explore that question.

Adam Brown’s “Origins of Life Experiment #1.2” is a recreation of the Miller-Urey experiment of 1952, considered to be the classic experiment on the origin of life. Brown’s work simulates what is thought to be Earth’s original atmosphere by combining hydrogen, ammonia and methane in a glass chamber. Add lightning and the result is amino acids.

“This experiment has the potential to reveal some of the underlying mechanisms of how life began on this planet and others,” said Brown, associate professor of electronic art and intermedia in the Department of Art and Art History. “But at the same time, we’re practicing science and creating an art piece. It’s a true hybrid.”

Brown’s art/science piece will be at the MSU Museum through May, after which it will travel to Vienna, Austria, for the science, art and film festival “Bio: Fiction.” His is an open source science experiment that will travel the world, asking other artists and scientists to contribute.

“Artists are good at making problems while engineers and scientists are good at solving and understanding them,” Brown
said. “So when there’s a reciprocal relationship, there can be really good outcomes.”

And that’s the premise of MSU’s new electronic art and intermedia concentration within the Department of Art and Art History. Intermedia is the merging of various types of media, said Brown, who directs the program.

“If we want to encourage new forms of creative expression, new forms of academic discourse – then we have to break outside the walls and crossing disciplines allows you to do that,” Brown said. “How can that ever result in anything other than innovation?”

Brown is also the artist in residence for the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action. The National Science Foundation-funded center crosses disciplines to study evolution in action – in natural and artificial systems.

“NSF is increasingly trying to figure out ways to take the information learned in the sciences and make it available to the public,” Brown said. “And that’s what artists do. So as the artist in residence, I give people at BEACON the chance to view things through a different lens.”

To foster such discussion, the EAI program will host the Form From Thought Symposium March 30-31, a free public event at the MSU Union. There also will be an open house for the new Form From Thought Laboratory, a state-of-the-art multimedia space housed on the ground floor of Kresge Art Center. This is where students will conduct intermedia research.

The symposium will bring together artists and scientists from campus and elsewhere to discuss the intersections among art, science and technology. The event will include a panel discussion with Michael Rush, the newly appointed director of MSU’s Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum.

**Today’s News**

March 24, 2011

- Baroness Carmen Thyssen Opens New Museum in Málaga with More than 230 Works
- Indianapolis Museum of Art to Introduce Work of Contemporary Japanese Painter Tawara Yusaku
- A Minute with: Julian Schnabel on Palestinian Film... Which May Be His Last
- Alan Cristea Gallery Presents an Exhibition of Rare Portrait Lithographs by Pablo Picasso
- Exhibition Examines Artists' Expressions of Intimate Personal Experience
- Pinacothèque de Paris Presents a Retrospective Exhibition of Works by Hugo Pratt
- Bonhams Appoints Filipa Rebelo de Andrade as New Representative in Portugal
- Phillips de Pury & Company To Offer Iconic Painting Of Elizabeth Taylor, Liz #5, 1963 By Andy Warhol
- Lust & Vice: Major Exhibition Filling Three Rooms and Five Display Cases at The Nationalmuseum
- Dame Vivien Duffield Gives £8.2 Million to 11 Cultural Organisations Across England
- Installation of Skylar Fein Mixed Media Portrait with Related Works on View at the Brooklyn Museum
- First Major Retrospective to Honor Artist Sheila Hicks at the Institute of Contemporary Art
- Second Solo Exhibition of Works by Tim Rollins and K.O.S at Lehmann Maupin Gallery
- Mesmerizing Flora-Montages from Colombian Artist Mariana Vera at Frederico Sève Gallery
- Crystal Bridges Museum Introduces New Senior Management and Curatorial Staff
- Classic Experiment from 1952 on the Origin of Life Recreated in Art-Science Exhibit
- Smithsonian American Art Museum Announces Artists Selected for Exhibition "40

**Most Popular Last Seven Days**

1.- Japan Nuclear Woes Prompt Visitors to New Mexico Museum
2.- Bidder Pays $460K for Roughly 8-Pound Gold Nugget
3.- Robert De Niro Testifies in Gallery Owner Lawrence Salander-Related Art Fraud Trial
4.- Exhibitors Bring their Greatest Works to the World’s Most Influential Art Fair: TEFAF
5.- Canvases and Letters Show how Pink Floyd Founder Syd Barrett Put Painting Before Pop Music
6.- Leading British Art Collector Charles Saatchi's Ex-Wife Sells Off Art at Christie’s
7.- Nest Egg's April 16 Auction Features Photographic Nudes, Fine Art and Cameras
8.- After Forty Years, An Exhibition in Paris Features the Sculptural Work of Joan Miró
9.- Israeli Archaeologists Find a 1,500-Year-Old Byzantine Church Southwest of Jerusalem
10.- The Victoria & Albert Museum Announces the Shortlist for the Jameel Prize 2011
Under 40: Craft Futures® Opening in 2012
The Hyde Collection Launches New Website
Kazakh Artist Almagul Menlibayeva at Priska C. Juschka Fine Art
Art 42 Basel: The Premier International Art Show Announces Details of This Year’s Edition
The Museum of Modern Art Highlights Impressions from South Africa, 1965 to Now
Sword Bought for Royal Marines Museum in Time for Battle Anniversary
David Zwirner Presents New Work by Stan Douglas Inspired on Press Photography
Albright-Knox Shows Recent Acquisition of All or Nothing by Pipilotti Rist
Filthy New Exhibition at the Wellcome Collection in London Explores Importance of Dirt
Westmoreland Museum of American Art to Receive Major Gift of Mid-to-Late 20th-Century American Art
WTC Steel to Honor Arizona Shooting Victim Born 9/11
Rare Violins Return to Italy from Russia with Love
US Museum Seeks to Identify Children of Holocaust

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