Dee Breger
Seeing Beyond Our Vision

Kemper Room Art Gallery
Paul V. Galvin Library
March 1 - April 7, 2007

opening reception:
Thursday, March 1, 4:30 - 7:30 pm

exhibition hours:
Monday - Thursday: 12 noon - 6 pm
Friday: 12 noon - 9 pm
Saturday: 8:30 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 2 - 6 pm

art.iit.edu

Using a Scanning Electron Microscope, Dee Breger is able to reveal to us the natural beauty of an invisible world that includes seeds, shells, mosquitos, bloodclots, fossils, and feathers; the common to the exotic.

curator:
Robert J. Krawczyk, Associate Professor,
College of Architecture

exhibition coordinator:
Caroline Morais, College of Architecture

gallery consultants:
Aminhossein Ghorashi, College of Architecture
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sponsored by:
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Image: Radiolarian Shell Detail with Diatom. Copyright, Dee Breger, 1993
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Kemper Room Art Gallery
Paul V. Galvin Library
Illinois Institute of Technology
35 West 33rd Street, Chicago, IL 60616

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Sunday: 2 - 6 pm

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Gallery Director
Assistant Professor, College of Architecture

Jennifer Pierce
Exhibition Coordinator
College of Architecture

Kemper Room Art Gallery
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Dee Breger
Seeing Beyond Our Vision
Using a scanning electron microscope, photomicrographer Dee Breger is able to reveal to us the natural beauty of an invisible world that includes seeds, bugs, feathers, bloodclots, microfossils, and cosmic dust; the common to the exotic.

In using scanning electron imagery to create revelatory - and relevant- art for an often science-phobic public, Breger's goal is to offer an arresting picture of the microworld that inspires a sense of wonder at its breathtaking elegance, astonishment at its diversity, and delight in the stories it has to tell. Inhabiting the domains of both ivory tower science and the general public, Breger strives to use this privileged viewpoint to make my images of the tiniest gifts from the natural world, as well as the fabricated world that derives from natural phenomena, both attractive and entertaining. It's kind of a bait-and-switch: present an arresting image, then tell its story (and incidentally expose the viewer in a highly enjoyable way to what Science is really all about). While Breger's more abstract images can stand alone as fine art, this ambassadorial approach to the informational/educational content is enthusiastically embraced by both the naturally-absorbent kids and the adults who normally think the world of science is beyond their reach,

As an observer trained in both studio art and electron microscopy, Breger feel that my images must not only stir the imagination with strong visual impact and fascinating content, but also represent the highest achievements in technical operation of the microscope and the subsequent image enhancement that allows them to soar into the realm of fine art. As a scientist grounded in the disciplines of research, Breger seek to maintain the integrity - the truth - of the specimens. As an artist Breger wants her images to be utterly beautiful and to speak to the viewer's heart.

Breger writes:

So it seems that in making use of the scanning electron microscope, a tool intended for investigative and descriptive purposes, the very act of liberating something familiar from its workaday boundaries, or of revealing aspects of something more exotic, can create riddles and solve them, please the eye, and send the imagination soaring. Perhaps the micrographs in this exhibit will affirm that in the routine technical pursuits of science we often find an unexpected elegance.

Dee Breger is Director of Microscopy at Drexel Nanotechnology Institute Research and Professor Department of Materials Science and Engineering Drexel University, Philadelphia. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin (Madison) with a degree in studio art, Breger began working as a scientific illustrator at Columbia University's premier Earth science research institute, now known as the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. She quickly switched to full time operation of the transmission electron microscope (TEM), and then to the scanning electron microscope (SEM) when Lamont acquired one of the first commercially available models. In 1982 she founded Lamont's SEM/X-ray Analysis Facility and ran this multidisciplinary laboratory for 22 years. Although she has specialized in scanning electron microscopy since the inception of the technology, Breger has also worked in other capacities in various laboratory and field programs in many of the Earth sciences. To date, she has participated on over 30 expeditions in many farflung corners of the world, mostly at sea, particularly in the north and south polar regions.

Dee Breger can be reached at: Drexel University, www.materials.drexel.edu/breger or deebre@coe.drexel.edu