

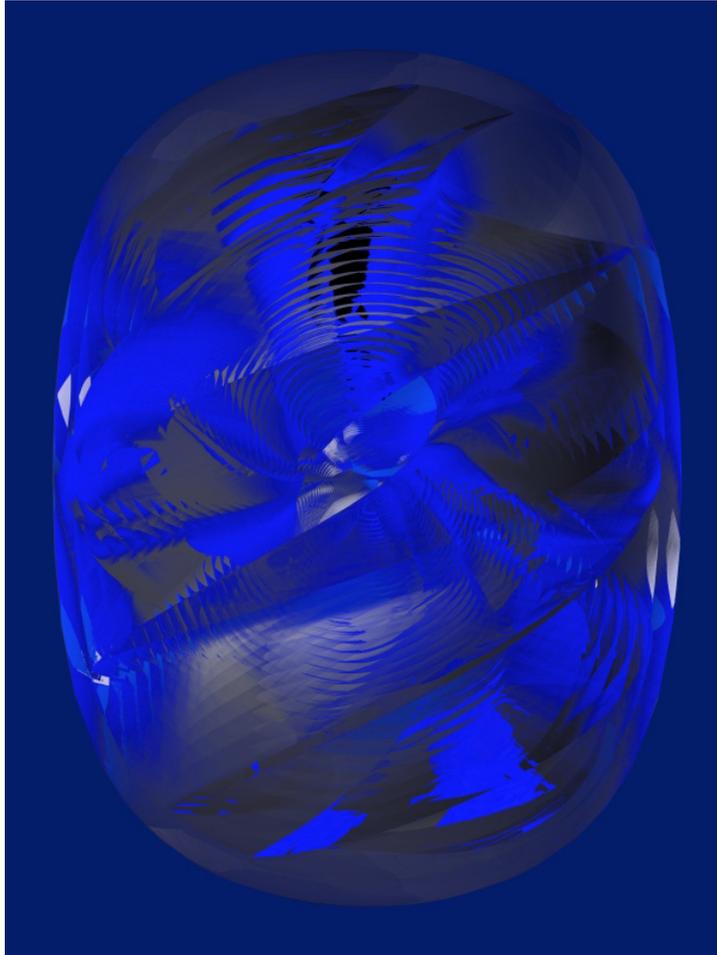
creative statement

sized matter - perceptions of the extreme unseen

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~janhande/sizedmatter/sizedmatter.htm>

fermilab art gallery - june 6th - august 26 - 2005

jan-henrik andersen - janhande@umich.edu



Blue Bottom Quark in interaction with Higgs Field

The nature of the work is to lift the veil on the optically impossible task of visually observing subatomic particles by translating their properties and classification, known as the Standard Model of Subatomic Physics, into a coherent visual language. No one has ever seen, nor will anyone ever see something as small or fast as a Quark or a Neutrino, one could argue that they may look like anything, if they have looks at all. On the other hand, a translation from physical properties to visual aesthetics may offer a platform to discuss their potential visual qualities as a mean to increase common availability to this abstract, yet very real matter - aiming to make this fantastic and beautiful part of our world conceptually available to a broader audience. The proposal on display in the Fermilab Art Gallery, is contextualizing the particles in a syntax where the properties of velocity, color, mass and spin is represented as visual elements within an order of itself. While science propose and explain our world with measurable means, visual art and design offers an intellectual and emotional appreciation of **that which cannot be explained by any other means**, measurable or not.

This freedom from the constraints of scientific conventions may broaden our comprehension of our world, and I have taken great pleasure in freely bridging science with design – hopefully for the better of both as they are linked by common beauty.

The work seeks to convey the order and harmony at the very base of our world, perhaps pointing to the open universal questions, and even the wonderful and unpredictable that is always prominent in our quests for enhanced understanding.

We use languages; spoken, written, marked and shaped, to communicate a wide variety of thoughts, emotions and actions. In my work I make the argument that spoken and written languages for the most part convey thoughts with an intellectual content, and when in need of illustrating emotional or poetic aspects, we often supplement the spoken or written word with metaphors – images of thoughts. The metaphor points to the familiar and tangible, perhaps even humorous. We feel safe and enriched because we understand. The thought has been translated, often simplified, to suit our shared experiences. The same mode change occurs when we're dealing with images directly, and often fall short of explaining the full sentiment of our intentions; we borrow from the object culture to illustrate whichever narrative we're bringing to town. We all know the meaning of putting the cart in front of the horse.

The creative joy I found in translating the physical properties into images, was only rivaled by translating the images and their curvilinear geometries and properties into functional objects. The visual logics of the geometries seen in the virtual space of the images, was continued into actual space, where I experimented with the consequences of adding two more dimensions; the human scale and function. The goal was to activate a broader sensory response than provided by vision alone; to search for physical venues to communicate the visual language and broaden the cognitive approach. By balancing the body, paralleling the equilibrium found in particle parity, either on a chair or in a little boat, we become increasingly aware of the limitations of our initial perceptions.

In a space defined by an object that engage our body and senses, we may open up for an enhanced experience where velocity and standstill; time, energy and matter steps forward in our conscience - experiencing action and reaction, and processing the properties of our physical world. This is not a philosophical stand, it merely points to the world as we understand it, bit by bit.



Lenee balancing the 6'2", 40lb carbon fiber tender "Neutrino" on the Huron River, - thank you, for always helping and supporting the project, and me, for years.