

Gabriel Harp – “Chromosoma”

Harp explains that the objects of “Chromosoma” suggest an analogy between the genome and the cinema. Shared histories of discovery and language offer additional support and point to an opportunity for discovering unmarked classes in the genome as new methods of representing the “genetic unseen” arise through the analogy of cinematic language. This analogy takes into account preexisting metaphors which are not satisfying given the current state of scientific understanding. Pre-existing metaphors such as blueprint, code, and map also fail to satisfy the social requirement that metaphors be accessible and gender neutral. The value of this presentation is the familiarity it affords when using a cinematic model to structure our understanding of the genome.

Look for Harp’s article "Deconstructing the Genome with Cinema" in the August issue of the Journal Leonardo (vol 40 issue 4).