

Rachel Mayeri - "Stories from the Genome"

“The cloudy future of our genetic understanding and the suspected map of human history contained inside the smallest piece of every one of us is on display in a collection of ideas ranging from Nature vs. Nurture to cloning to psychoanalysis to the homunculus theory to Mortal Kombat to the semi-conscious act of sexual selection. Mayeri's video is a formalist free-for-all that humorously takes it all into account and simultaneously leaves it all up for debate.” -- Sean Gallagher, Cinematexas

Mayeri describes “Stories from the Genome” as part cloning experiment, part documentary, following an unnamed CEO-geneticist whose company sequenced the Human Genome in 2003 - a genome that secretly was his own. Not satisfied with this feat, the scientist self-replicates, producing a colony of clone-scientists to save himself from Alzheimer's. The animated video switches between misadventures in cloning, and a history of equally improbable theories of human development. Mayeri explains that “Stories from the Genome” is based on the true life story of Craig Venter, who was the CEO of Celera Genomics in a race with an international consortium of scientists to decode the human genome. He did in fact use his own genetic material for the Human Genome Project, completed in 2001. Mayeri is an Assistant Professor of Media Studies Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California.

For more on Mayeri's work, please visit

Her new video comparing human and nonhuman primate social behavior, entitled “Primate Cinema: Baboons as Friends”.

<http://www.soft-science.org/primate.html>

Additional information on this artist can also be found at

<http://www.soft-science.org/stories.html>

http://www.vdb.org/packages/Soft_Science.pdf