

# MOLECULES THAT MATTER

1900 **ASPIRIN**

1910 **ISOOCTANE**

1920 **PENICILLIN G**

1930 **POLYETHYLENE**

1940 **NYLON 6,6**

1950 **DNA**

1960 **PROGESTIN**

1970 **DDT**

1980 **PROZAC**

1990 **BUCKYBALL &  
CARBON  
NANOTUBES**

# MOLECULES THAT MATTER

March 24–May 10, 2009

## **The College of Wooster Art Museum**

Ebert Art Center

Sussel Gallery

Burton D. Morgan Gallery

## **EVENTS**

### **Opening Reception**

Friday, March 27

6:00–8:00 p.m.

Introduction at 7:00 p.m.

by Raymond J. Giguere,

Class of 1962 Term

Professor of Chemistry,

Skidmore College

### **Lunchtime Lecture**

Wednesday, April 1

12:00–1:00 p.m.

*Fashioning the Pill,*

Jimmy Wilkenson Meyer

### **Curator's Tour**

Thursday, April 9

7:00–8:00 p.m.

John S. Weber, Dayton Director,

Frances Young Tang Teaching

Museum and Art Gallery,

Skidmore College

### **Artist's Lecture**

Monday, April 13

7:00–8:00 p.m., Rm. 223, Ebert Art Center

Bryan Crockett, Associate Professor of Art,

California State University, Long Beach

### **Faculty Roundtable**

Thursday, April 30

7:00–8:00 p.m., Sussel Gallery

Jaime Carrejo, Studio Art

Melissa Schultz, Chemistry

Stephanie Strand, Biology

Thomas Tierney, Sociology

Panel Moderator:

Virginia Pett, Chemistry

*All events are free and open to the public.*

In the twentieth century our knowledge of substances at the molecular level has significantly redefined our world—even life itself. How we have changed and who we have become as a result of this remarkable molecular revolution is the overarching story this exhibition conveys.<sup>1</sup>

—Raymond J. Giguere

The discovery of carbon-based molecules during the twentieth-century and the capacity to understand and reshape matter at the molecular level has recast notions of human identity, transformed expectations for health and longevity, and radically altered our relationship to nature. The exhibition, **Molecules That Matter**, tells this story by examining the influence of just ten molecules. Organized by the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, this traveling exhibition is a collaborative effort conceived by Raymond J. Giguere, Class of 1962 Term Professor of Chemistry at Skidmore College, and co-curated by John S. Weber, Dayton Director of the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore.

Giguere and Weber selected roughly one organic molecule per decade notable for its impact on humanity, in consultation with a volunteer scientific advisory board consisting of professionals from academia, industry, and the exhibition collaborators, the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia. Along with aspirin (1900) and isooctane (1910), the ten molecules include penicillin G (1920), polyethylene (1930), nylon 6,6 (1940), DNA (1950), progesterin (1960), DDT (1970), Prozac (1980), and buckyball and carbon nanotubes (1990).

All of the molecules are illustrated by traditional, scientifically accurate ball-and-stick models, each untraditionally oversized. Interspersed among the giant molecules are works of art by nationally and internationally recognized contemporary artists: Thomas Asmuth, Susie Brandt, Chrissy Conant, Tony Cragg, Bryan Crockett, Kara Daving, Robert Dawson, Melissa Gwyn, Frank Moore, Michael Oatman, Roxy Paine, Dan Peterman, Alexis Rockman, Ed Ruscha, Jean Shin, and Fred Tomaselli. Completing the exhibition are historical artifacts, including memorabilia from classic gas stations where isooctane made its mark, wartime posters touting the value of penicillin, photos of women raising their skirts to reveal nylon stockings, and bottles of Bayer Aspirin that chronicle the evolution of that historic brand.

1. Raymond J. Giguere et al., *Molecules That Matter* (Saratoga Springs, New York: Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, 2008), 14.

*Molecules that Matter* was organized by the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in collaboration with the Chemical Heritage Foundation of Philadelphia, and funded by The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Friends of the Tang, Sara Lubin Schupf, the Hach Foundation, Amgen, and donors to the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The presentation of *Molecules That Matter* at The College of Wooster Art Museum was made possible by a generous bequest from Muriel Mulac Kozlow, a member of the Class of 1948, the Julia Schoolroy Halloran Fund endowment, Wooster's Cultural Events Committee, and the Ohio Arts Council.

**The  
College  
of  
Wooster  
Art  
Museum**

Ebert Art Center  
1220 Beall Avenue  
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Sussel Gallery  
Burton D. Morgan Gallery

**MUSEUM HOURS**

Tuesday–Friday  
10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday  
1:00–5:00 p.m.

*Free Admission*

**INFORMATION**

330.263.2495  
artmuseum.wooster.edu

**Front:**

A section of a giant nylon molecule model dominates the foreground in this installation view from *Molecules That Matter* at the Tang Museum and Art Gallery. Jean Shin's *Chemical Balance 2* (2005), is behind the nylon molecule.

Photo: Art Evans, courtesy of the Tang Museum, Skidmore College.

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