

## The Museum of Art and Science of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel and a Few Responses of Visitors

Abraham Tamir

Department of Chemical Engineering at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, P.O. Box 653, Beer-Sheva 84105, Israel, Telephone: 972-8-646-1111, Email: [atamir@bgu.ac.il](mailto:atamir@bgu.ac.il), Websites: <http://www.bgu.ac.il/museum>; <http://www.bgu.ac.il/museum/tmoaas>

**Abstract:** This paper describes the Museum of Art and Science, the first of its kind in the world. A few responses of visitors are also presented. [Nature and Science. 2006;4(2):31-33].

**Keywords:** museum: exhibition; art, science; art and science; God

### The Museum

The two cultures - Art and Science, usually looked upon as two different entities, are practically one totality. The close interaction between the "two cultures" finds also attestation in the words of Cheng-

Dau Lee, Nobel laureate in physics: "Both, science and art are not separated from each other. There is even a similarity between them as they help us observe nature. With the help of science we can find out routines of nature. On the other hand, by means of art we can describe the emotions of nature."



Figure 1. Vertical and horizontal sections of the museum in Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The major aim of the museum, the first of its kind in the world, established by the author of this site in 1998 is to demonstrate the Interaction Between Art and Science, namely, to bring to the attention of the viewer that Science can also be seen through the "eyes" of Art. Thus, the two cultures - Art and Science, usually looked upon as two different entities, are practically one totality. Applying this approach adds a new dimension to Art, namely, demonstrating Science by Art. For example, the famous artwork by Sandro Botticelli "The Birth of Venus", painted at about 1485, in addition to

aesthetic aspects, can be used to demonstrate Archimedes' Law, that explains why she is not sinking while standing on the shell. Most probably Botticelli did not consider this aspect while painting this artwork.

The combination between Art and Science is demonstrated here by facial combination of Albert Einstein, Mona Lisa and Leonardo Da Vinci. The reason for selecting these images is because Mona Lisa is the most famous painting in the history of Art. Leonardo Da Vinci who painted her, was probably the

first to utilize the close interrelationship between Art and Science, while Einstein was the greatest theoretical physicist of all times.



Figure 2. Responses of visitors on the museum

\* "A unique and fascinating exhibition. Thank you Professor Tamir." Aaron Klug, Cambridge, England (Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry)

\* "If only school science had been made this interesting! A fascinating trip with the brain". David Elliot, Director, the British Council

\* "As one who is coming from art, the idea of combining Art & Science is wonderful. The introduction of art to the "temple of science" is a positive action, especially in our era"

\* "Excellent! This is how an academic institute should look like"

\* "Wonderful, too good to be true"

\* "Wonderful exhibition relating two different worlds"

\* "Fascinating exhibition. So nice that there is somebody who does something to arouse the thinking of students above the taught subjects, taking the soul, thoughts and logic to other worlds"

\* "Very special, full of taste and very elegant"

\* "Fascinating and broadening the knowledge of the pupils - your future students - either in Art and in Science"

\* "Good luck on the innovative exhibition in its ideas and avenues"

\* "The exhibition adds to the university. It is absolutely interesting to observe the pictures during the intervals between the lectures..."

\* "It is not a regular exhibition. We will visit again"

\* "I received new dimensions to old subjects"

\* "Very interesting. I don't think that the artists thought scientifically while painting"

\* "Eventually you found what to do with art, to explain in a simple way most important concepts in science. Until today I did not understand why and what is art for,

but to sale pictures and sculptures"

\* "To bring Art & Science to the crowd"

\* "Dear Abraham! You succeeded in transforming a classroom building to a colored, aesthetics place which is full of life"

\* "I was always thinking that people are divided into two: those who are engaged in science in a dry and precise form, and those who are engaged in art. By observing the exhibition and your explanations, I was happy to reveal that it is possible to unite the two entities"

\* "I found my self revealing dimensions and movements in places I did not realize. All respect to the creators who succeeded to transfer to the paper difficult and abstract concepts"

\* "Simply fascinating! To someone who studies humanities, there is no significance to scientific concepts. But the interaction between Art & Science is so strong. It is wonderful to see surrealist artists, which I like, given to a different interpretation, different from what I have seen"

\* "Dear Abraham! We were impressed of your scientific-artistic contribution and your interpretations. Good luck on the opportunity you give visitors of the university and particularly the students to enjoy aesthetics of art and the interaction between Art & Science"

\* "Of all exhibits, I was most impressed by the Visitors Book. So many wishes and nice words. So if all are wishing so highly, I don't have any other choice but to join them"

\* Creates an excitement! It is the best proof that Science is much but not certainly all. After all this it is much easier to believe that there is God.

### **Abraham Tamir**

Abraham Tamir is a full professor in Chemical Engineering at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel. In the course of his administrative career he has been also Rector of the University (1986-1990), the highest academic position.

Abraham Tamir is the author of 170 scientific articles and 10 books. He also developed an efficient gas burner, which may save about 25% of the gas consumption when applied to domestic gas stoves and outdoor cookers. In 1990, the largest manufacturer of camping equipment in Israel launched the market with a new product, the *Rotoflame Camping Cooker*, which applied successfully the new burner. In 1984 he was awarded The Michael Landau Research Prize for "Development of Domestic Stoves" and in 1991 The Bergman Prize for contribution in the development of the subject "Combustion Processes in Swirling Flows"

Abraham Tamir is considered as world expert on "Impinging-Stream Reactors", a method for intensifying technological processes. A reviewer described him once as the father of impinging streams. His achievements are summarized in his book "Impinging-Stream Reactors", published by Elsevier in 1994, which was translated also to Chinese.

In 1998 he founded the Museum on Art and Science in his University, the first of its kind in the world. He also established about 40 exhibitions on Art&Science in Israel and abroad. During 2000-2005 he acted the Associate Editor on Art and Science in the Canadian Journal of Chemical Engineering. From 2003 he is editing a column on Art and Science in the Scientific American published in Israel and from 2006 in the journal The Chemical Engineer (tce) published in England. In recent years he has been teaching a new course he developed, entitled, The Interaction Between Art and Science at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and colleges in Israel.

### **Correspondence to:**

Abraham Tamir  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
P.O. Box 653  
Beer-Sheva 84105, Israel  
Telephone: 972-8-646-1111  
Email: [atamir@bgu.ac.il](mailto:atamir@bgu.ac.il)  
Websites: <http://www.bgu.ac.il/museum>;  
<http://www.bgu.ac.il/museum/tmoaas>