



Universität Hamburg
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



PAS DE DEUX

ARTS & SCIENCE

As much as the methods of investigation and the language we use to describe our work differ between art and the natural sciences, the two fields are not separate but enfolded into each other, each supporting the other's unique dance.

The advancement of the natural sciences and specifically of physics and chemistry is driven by human curiosity and the search for the fundamental principles that are responsible for the complexity we observe in nature. In view of the wealth and enormous diversity of structures and phenomena occurring in nature, it comes as a surprise that a few fundamental principles might govern this huge range of organized structures. The success story of modern natural science, however, has impressively demonstrated that the idea of few principles is a most fruitful starting-point for scientific progress.

Besides the scientific quest for understanding, the natural sciences offer an impressive beauty which is manifest in many visualized research results – offering a fascinating aesthetic view on science. Although art and the natural sciences follow two

different ways of understanding our world, they could certainly influence one another. The overlap, as a common saying states, is WONDER: the desire to know and learn something, caused by something beautiful, remarkable, or unfamiliar. It is a feeling of amazement that leads us to ask deeper questions and investigate further.

Visualizations bring abstract physical principles to life and expand science's reach to a wider audience. The skillful engagement with a specimen to obtain a perfect microscopic image involves as much embodied skill as any other form of craft. Science expands our bodily senses, enabling us to see microscopic worlds and solar systems, conceive of long gone histories and project the future. It shapes our understanding of self and the world around us. It influences our actions as well as our dreams and aspirations – and with it our art and design.

The Making of the Exhibition

“Arts & Science” is an initiative of The Hamburg Centre for Ultrafast Imaging (CUI). The members of the cluster of excellence were asked to hand in appealing scientific visualizations; a jury including experts from science and art then chose the pictures most suitable for the exhibition – from a purely aesthetic point of view.