

THE CENTER OF SCIENCE AND MATH IN CONTEXT (COSMIC) &
GRADUATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
AND MATH PRESENT:

Science Education Colloquium

University of
Massachusetts Boston
Campus Center
Ballroom

Thursday,
November 1, 2007

4:30 PM,
with reception to follow

Event is free and open to the
public, but advance
registration is requested

Please RSVP to Anthea
Gabriel at 617-287-7587
or
anthea.gabriel@umb.edu

Art & Physics: Parallel Visions In Space, Time, and Light

Dr. Leonard Shlain, Chairman of Laparoscopic Surgery at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco and an Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery at UCSF

The thesis of the nationally best selling book of the same name, proposes that the visionary artist anticipated, through the use of image and metaphor, many of the ideas of modern physics before the revolutionary physicist expressed them in numbers and equations. An overview of the links between art and physics begins with their connections in Classical Greece and continues right up through the art of the present. Although the book primarily focuses on the visual arts, Dr. Shlain also makes connections between music and literature and discoveries in physics.

Shlain concludes that art and physics are both languages. One uses image and metaphor and the other uses number and equations, but the visionaries of both are involved in trying to understand the nature of reality. It behooves all of us to try to better integrate our two hemispheres to become more creative and fulfilled. One place to start is to understand art in terms of physics and physics in terms of art. The creations of twentieth century artists will then begin to be seen as expressions of inexpressible ideas in physics and we will gain a new sense of awe for the beauty of the concepts contained within the new science.



Leonard Shlain is the Chairman of Laparoscopic Surgery at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco and is an Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery at UCSF. He is also the author of three critically acclaimed, national bestselling, award-winning books: [Art & Physics: Parallel Visions in Space, Time, and Light](#); [The Alphabet Versus The Goddess](#); and [Sex, Time & Power: How Women's Sexuality Shaped Human Evolution](#)

This event is presented by the Center of Science and Math in Context (COSMIC) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, with partial support from the Boston Science Partnership. Please visit our project websites at

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to learn more about our initiatives to improve science teaching and learning in Boston's schools, community colleges and universities.

