

Art and science

MY BRAIN AS A FLOWER_Monika E. Auch
after Maria Sibylla Merian

Monika Auch is M.D. and visual artist. She reflects on the impact of modern Brain research on the human self image.

Do we really believe that a colourful MRI scan represents our brains?

Aren't humans more than their grey matter?

How important is the participation of artists in the academic and public debate about brain research?

Auch visualizes the materiality, physical fragility and yet to discover secrets of the human brain in graphic art prints and sculptures.

Her work is a continuation of the century old tradition of the reproduction of anatomical studies with contemporary skills and tools.

Inspired by 17th century botanist Maria Sibylla Merian¹ she represents the images of her MRI brain-scan as flowers.

'My brain as a flower' is a series of large format silkscreenprints printed in transparent layers with pure plantpigments from woad, safflower, reseda and other plants. These are living colors, i.e. they will change in time and thereby emphasize their materiality. Natural pigments also have amazingly subtler tones than industrial pigments. The material qualities support the aesthetic query about transcience and ephemereal aspects of the brain.

more information:

www.monikaauch.nl about the empirical study

and

www.monikaauch.nl

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¹ Maria Sibylla Merian lived in Amsterdam in the 17th century. She was a botanist brilliant draughtswoman and owned a printing workshop. She travelled to Suriname to conduct her botanical studies. Her scientific work was on a par with contemporaries like Jan Swammerdam and Antoni van Leeuwenhoek.