

[Subscribe](#)[News & Features](#)[Topics](#)[Blogs](#)[Videos & Podcasts](#)[Education](#)[Citizen Science](#)[SA Magazine](#)[SA Mind](#)[Products](#)

## Blogs

[About the SA Blog Network](#)

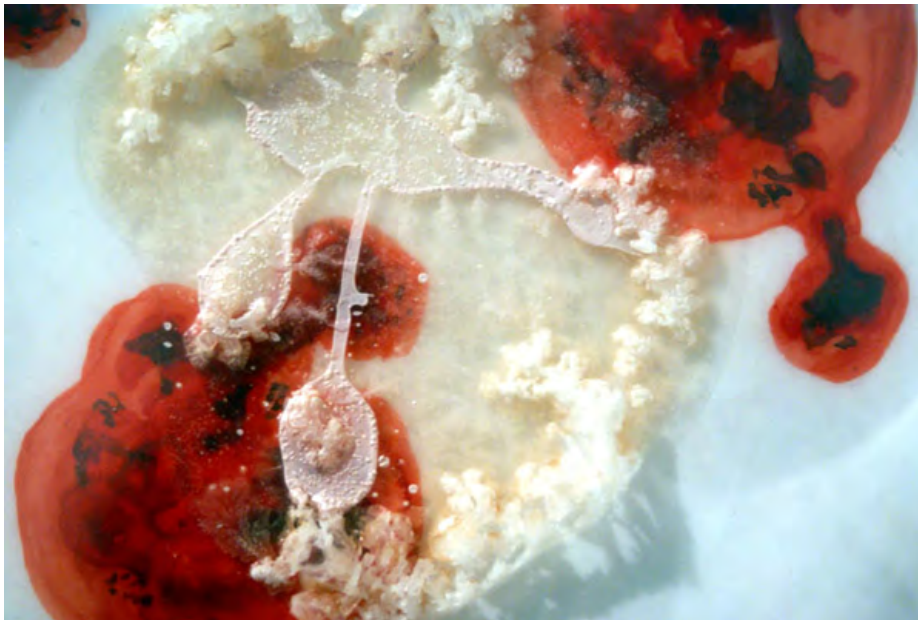
### Symbiartic

The art of science and the science of art.

[Symbiartic Home](#) [About](#) [Contact](#)

#### Ambient Plagues Unleashed

By Glendon Mellow | September 12, 2013 |

[Share](#) [Email](#) [Print](#)

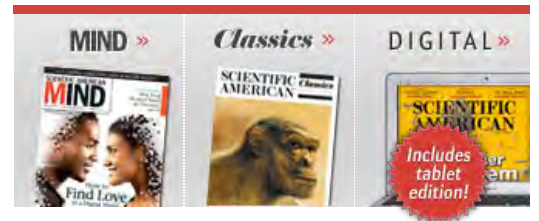
Rabies © Elaine Whittaker

Ambient Plagues have been unleashed upon my fair city of Toronto by Elaine Whittaker at the Redhead Gallery.

The show opened September 4th, with the reception tomorrow, Friday the 13th if you're inclined to mix superstitious luck with scientific microbial nightmares.

Whittaker is a sculptor, encaustic painter and mixed media installation artist here in Toronto, and one of the preeminent sciartists in the fine art scene.

### More from Scientific American



### Blog Network Highlights

<p><a href="#">But Not Simpler »</a></p> <p>Excerpts From The Mad Scientist's Handbook: So You're Ready to Vaporize a Human</p>	<p><a href="#">The Urban</a></p> <p>My IDP and Me: De what I want to be w grow up.</p>
---	--

ADVERTISEMENT

About the show, from the [Redhead Gallery exhibition listing](#):

Have you walked out of a pandemic movie lately with the hair raised on the back of your neck? Not because of the throes of flesh eating zombies but because the guy who sat beside you was coughing the whole time? We are surrounded by microbes, are composed of microbes, and we are terrified of them. We live in a porous world, in porous bodies.

Through sculpture, photography, microscopy, and live bacteria, the artworks blur the boundaries between what is real and what is manufactured, what is animate and what is inanimate. Ultimately, they challenge viewers' perceptions about their bodies, a site that has become trespassed, tainted, and contaminated by a popular culture that escalates social anxiety and terror of microbes, by artificially creating a sense of bioparanoia.

"Bioparanoia". I like that.

Bioart is the future, people! Go see this show and witness a fine art movement at its roots.



Infection © Elaine Whittaker

Most Read Posts	Latest Posts ▼
Guest Blog <a href="#">The Dignity of a Porn Star</a>	
The Artful Amoeba <a href="#">Yeast: Making Food Great for 5,000 Years. But What Exactly Is it?</a>	
Beautiful Minds <a href="#">Why Education Needs More Radioactive Spiders</a>	
Guest Blog <a href="#">LHC Celebrates 5 Years of Not Destroying the World</a>	
Guest Blog <a href="#">Why We Don't Need Pandas</a>	

### Follow Us:

See what we're tweeting about  
[Scientific American Editors](#)



[katherineharmon](#) And was the end of my morning run. Flooded St. Vrain Greenway. #longmontflood <http://t.co/PTTotn9VKV>  
2 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



[sciencegoddess](#) Gives a whole new meaning to "spaghetti straps". See the First 3D Printed Dress Made from Flexible Materials. <http://t.co/4JoopJ8hxa>  
2 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



Contagion 1 © Elaine Whittaker



28 Days Later © Elaine Whittaker

The reception is tomorrow, Friday the 13th, 6:30-9pm at the Redhead Gallery in the 401 Richmond St. W building.

---

More places to find Elaine Whittaker:



FlyingTrilobite RT @mariocardoso: OMG FLAT DESIGN SO FRESH SO NEW! <http://t.co/aH4BKhjAY> 2 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

[More >>](#)

### Free Newsletters

Get the best from Scientific American in your inbox

**Tap into your MIND**  
GET BOTH Print + Tablet Editions at the lowest price available. **SUBSCRIBE**

Latest Headlines on [ScientificAmerican.com](http://ScientificAmerican.com)

Farmers Believe They Can Dodge Climate Risk, Wary of Regulations

North America's Highest Peak Not as Tall as Once Thought

Two Dead, Hundreds Evacuated, Cars Stranded in Colorado Flooding

The Scientific Secret of Fluffy Pancakes

Groundwater Contamination May End the Gas-Fracking Boom

Latest from **SciLogs**

Journal Club: Woolly mammoth extinction due to warming climate

Alaska, updated — modern maps detail the 49th state

Natural history and desk-based ecology

Parasite-Swapping in Two Introduced Species: The Cane Toad Strikes Again

When you want to learn about science communication... ASK the science communicator

[More >>](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

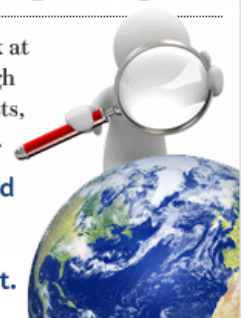
### SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN In-Depth Reports

Comprehensive look at timely topics through web articles, podcasts, & interactive media.

Stay informed and

**Sign Up Today**

for the email alert.



- [Portfolio site](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Google+](#)
- [Redhead Gallery](#)



Hope you're enjoying September's SciArt Blitz so far here on Symbiartic! On this day last year, Kalliopi featured the surreal bone sculpture artwork of James Prosek in her post, [Forget Jackalopes, I Want That](#). Check it out!



About the Author: Glendon Mellow is a fine artist and illustrator inspired by evolutionary biology working in oil and digital media. He moderates the [ScienceArt Circle](#) community on G+. Glendon's Portfolio is at [glendonmellow.com](#), and work-in-progress blog is at [The Flying Trilobite](#). Find him on [Google+](#). Follow solo on Twitter at [@flyingtrilobite](#), or Follow on

Twitter [@symbiartic](#).

[More »](#)

The views expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily those of Scientific American.

Tags: [art gallery](#), [bioart](#), [biological painting](#), [Elaine Whittaker](#), [exhibitions](#), [fine art](#), [medical art](#), [plague](#), [Redhead Gallery](#), [sciart](#), [SciArt blitz](#), [Toronto](#)

[Previous: Maki Naro and Science Comics](#)

[More Symbiartic](#)

[Rights & Permissions](#)

Like 21 Tweet 1 3 Share 1 [Stm](#) [+ reddit this!](#)

### Add a Comment

You must [sign in](#) or [register](#) as a ScientificAmerican.com member to submit a comment. Click one of the buttons below to register using an existing Social Account.

[Add Comment](#)

### Video of the Week



[Summer of Love at Scientific American](#)

### Image of the Week



[The Incredible Beauty of a Blown Out Candle](#)

**NEW! DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS INCLUDE IPAD ACCESS!**

Read issues, enjoy exclusive videos, bonus interactive features, audio interviews & more.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN DIGITAL

**SUBSCRIBE NOW!**