

## PRESS RELEASE

# VICTORIA VESNA NANOMANDALA

curated by Dobrila Denegri

opening reception : **wednesday march 30 2005 19 p.m.**  
through : **saturday may14 2005**  
hours : **tuesday – saturday 4 - 8 p.m.**

For its first solo show in Italy **VICTORIA VESNA**, one of the most prominent and innovative artists working in the field of advanced technologies and multimedia art, presents her recent work: **NANOMANDALA**, realised in collaboration with nano-science pioneer James Gimzewski, and a group of Tibetan monks.

NANOMANDALA is visually powerful installation that consists of a video projected onto a disk of sand, presenting an image of mandala, a cosmic diagram and ritualistic symbol of the universe, used in Hinduism and Buddhism. Mandala can be translated from Sanskrit as “whole”, “circle” or “zero”.

In this interactive work visitors can touch the sand as images are projected in evolving scale from the molecular structure of a single grain of sand—achieved by means of a scanning tunneling microscope (STM)—to the recognizable image of the complete mandala, and then back again. This coming together of art, science and technology is a modern interpretation of an ancient tradition that consecrates the planet and its inhabitants to bring about purification and healing.

The sand mandala of Chakrasamvara seen in this installation was created by Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Gaden Lhopa Khangtsen Monastery in India, in conjunction with the “Circle of Bliss” and “NANO” exhibitions at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. To complement the video, sound artist Anne Niemetz has developed a meditative soundscape derived from sounds recorded during the creative process of making the sand mandala.

Of the installation the artist, Victoria Vesna, says: "Inspired by watching the nano-scientist at work, purposefully arranging atoms just as the monk laboriously creates sand images grain by grain, this work brings together the Eastern and Western minds through their shared process centred on patience. Both cultures use these bottom-up building practices to create a complex picture of the world from extremely different perspectives."

NANOMANDALA makes part of NANO the larger project, realised at LACMA: an exhibition that seeks to provide a greater understanding of how art, science, culture and technology influence each other. Within this show modular, experiential spaces are using embedded computing technologies to engage all of the senses in order to provoke a broader understanding of nanoscience and its cultural ramifications. The various components of "nano" are designed to immerse the visitor in the radical shifts of scale and sensory modes that characterize nanoscience, which works on the scale of a billionth of a meter. Participants can feel what it is like to manipulate atoms one by one and experience nano-scale structures by engaging in art-making activities.

Studio Stefania Miscetti thanks for the collaboration to:

**American Academy in Rome**

Studio Stefania Miscetti thanks for the collaboration to:  
**AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME**



## VICTORIA VESNA

Born 1959, in Washington D.C., lives and works in Los Angeles. Victoria Vesna is a media artist, professor and chair of the department of Design | Media Arts at the UCLA School of the Arts. Her work can be defined as experimental research that resides in between disciplines and technologies. She explores how communication technologies affect collective behaviour and how perceptions of identity shift in relation to scientific innovation. Currently she is collaborating with nano-scientist Jim Gimzewski to develop a series of installations that address the impact of nanoscience on culture and consciousness in an experiential manner. Recently they opened a large exhibition, NANO at the

Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Other notable works are "Bodies INCorporated", "Datamining Bodies", "n0time", "Cellular Trans\_Actions" and "zerowave@wavefunction".

Victoria has exhibited her work in numerous solo and group exhibitions, published 20 papers and gave over 100 invited talks in the last ten years. Recently her work has been shown at: Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Art House, Dublin, San Francisco Art Institute, Irvine Fine Arts Center, Venice Biennial, SKC Gallery, Belgrade, P.S. 1 Museum NY, Shinchon Art Festival, Seoul, Biennale for Electronic Arts, Perth, Austin Museum of Art, New Museum of Contemporary Art New York, Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, Huntington Beach Art Center, Long Beach Museum, Bienal de Mercosul, Porto Alegre, ZKM, Karlsruhe, ecc.

She is completing an edited volume entitled "Database Aesthetics" to be published by Minnesota Press. Other recent publications: "Context Providers: Conditions of Meaning in Digital Arts". MIT Press. 2004; "notime: collaboration shifts". eds. Cambridge: MIT Press; "The Nanomeme Syndrome: Blurring of fact and fiction in the construction of new science." con Dr. James Gimzewski. Technoetic Arts journal. 2003, "Buckminster Fuller". Pioneers and Pathbreakers. OLATS/Leonardo.2002, ecc. She realised an educational video: "Life in the Universe with Stephen Hawking" in collaboration with the scientist.

She is recipient of many grants, commissions and awards, including the Oscar Signorini award for best net artwork in 1998 and the Cine Golden Eagle for best scientific documentary in 1986. Vesna's work has received notice in publications such as Art in America, the Los Angeles Times, as well as Spiegel (Germany), The Irish Times (Ireland), Tema Celeste (Italy), and Veredas (Brazil).

Recently her work "Balkan Ghosts" (2004) has been presented in Italy within group exhibition "Mediterraneans" at MACRO al Mattatoio.

For more information: <http://vv.arts.ucla.edu>, <http://bodiesinc.ucla.edu>, <http://nano.arts.ucla.edu>

---