



THE VIRAL SUBLIME



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Fine Art Painting

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Details of upcoming exhibitions of Suzi Morris's work can be found at:

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Sublime is something that is so limitless, dangerous or grand that it demands respect, admiration and reverence. The historical evolution of the Sublime dates as far back as the first century AD, but how relevant is the Sublime today?

2. WHAT IS THE VIRAL SUBLIME?

Morris's practice based doctoral research seeks to expose the potential of virology and genetics as contemporary forms of limitlessness, terror and awe. What wonderment as science unleashes the power of viruses in creating therapies to cure cancer. The terror of the limitless capacity of viruses and the transcendent potential of art generated through the substance of oil paint share the components of awe, veneration and fear that are intrinsic to the Sublime.



3. WHAT HAS PAINT(ING) GOT TO DO WITH VIROLOGY?

Paint has many characteristics akin to viruses.

- Pigments have inherent qualities of mutation and transformation.
- Paint and viruses have kill or cure properties.
- External environment affects the behaviour of paint and viruses.
- Both evolved naturally and behave unpredictably.
- Modern technology has enabled paint and viruses to be manufactured or in the case of viruses genetically engineered.

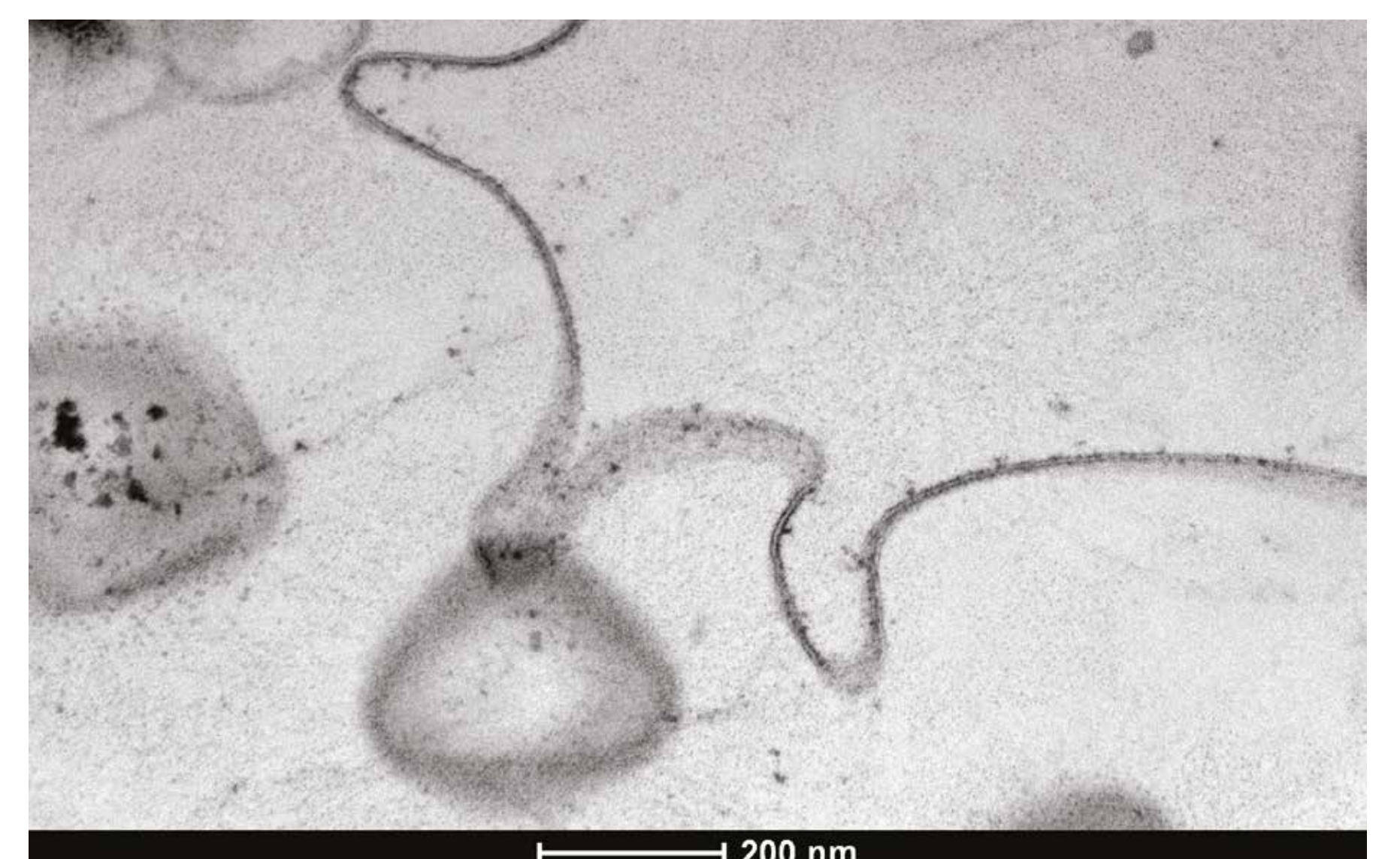
4. OBJECTIVES

Painting offers the capacity to materialise and communicate an image behind the proverbial looking glass of consciousness, where the depth of the imagination is limitless. In responding to science and identifying the inherent behaviour of the mutable substance of oil paint in relation to viruses Morris seeks to communicate science to a wider audience.



5. HOW CAN SCIENCE BENEFIT?

- Art can raise questions about the purpose of the science and present different ways of looking at research outcomes.
- While science seeks to understand the human condition through empirical research, works of art express the human condition through materials.



6. WHY IS THE RESEARCH NECESSARY?

As Genomic Medicine opens the doors to personalised medicine **Morris's intentions are to expand the dialogue between science and art** creating works of art that will engage public understanding and initiate change in societies perceptions of disease.

7. INTERIM CONCLUSIONS

- The paradoxical kill or cure aspect of viruses now marks a turning point as out of degeneration theory comes regeneration.
- Recent viral discoveries have reopened the debate on our evolution.
- Virology and genetics are being exposed as powerful contemporary forms of limitlessness, terror and awe.
- The Viral Sublime becomes a new category and an extension to existing knowledge surrounding notions of the Sublime.

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