

# INCOMPLETE NATURE

## Open Call - Members' Show, Interface

14 – 24 September

### THEME

The title *Incomplete Nature* is borrowed from the name of Terrence W Deacon's book about how life and the mind emerged from inanimate matter and in which he attempts to approach values, purpose and meaning from a scientific perspective.

The "Theory of Everything" that emerges from scientific investigations appears to include everything but the feelings, meanings, consciousness, and purposes that make us (and many other animals) what we are. These phenomena are left unexplained by the natural sciences because they lack the physical properties—such as mass, momentum, charge, and location—that are assumed to be necessary for something to have physical consequences in the world.

Robert Logan, in his review of Deacon's book writes:

There is little doubt that the paradigm of reductive science does not and cannot explain the phenomena of life, sentience, mind, purpose, meaning and value. We have learned much about the operations of the physical brain, its neurons, its neural networks, its chemistry, and its bicameralism and yet we cannot connect these understandings with human behaviour, human will and human spirituality. Part of the new paradigm that Deacon is developing is the notion that biology in addition to being a physical and chemical science is also a semiotic science in which meaning plays an essential role in understanding living systems.<sup>1</sup>

Deacon argues that many phenomena with no clear physical explanation can still have causal influence in the world. "To navigate in a world without value is to be without rudder or destination," he says, "and yet without science, we navigate blind."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Logan, Robert K.: 'Review and Précis of Terrence Deacon's *Incomplete Nature: How Mind Emerged from Matter*' (Open Access Information ISSN 2078-2489) accessed 18 July 2018

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/82e4/cf6cef4597e9be30e8b8be1b7a28d905fe57.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Deacon, Terrence W., *Incomplete Nature, How Mind Emerged from Matter*, cited by Vlasits, Anna, 'Incomplete Nature, Berkeley Science Review', 2012, accessed 18 July 2018

<http://berkeleysciencereview.com/article/book-review-incomplete-nature/>

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Please send a single PDF attachment that includes the following material:

- A concise artist's statement (max 200 words)
- CV (max 2 pages)
- Max 5 examples of existing work you feel are appropriate to the exhibition's theme. Each image of existing work must include the title, its dimensions, the material/medium, the date and your name. Web links to up to 2 video works can be sent, accessible on either YouTube or Vimeo – you must include passwords for any private videos, and works longer than 5' must be abridged.
- Examples of previous work (no more than 10 images; each image of existing work must include the title, its dimensions, the material/medium, the date and your name, and also information on where the work has been shown, if applicable). Web links to up to 2 video works can be sent, accessible on either YouTube or Vimeo – you must include passwords for any private videos, and works longer than 5' must be abridged.
- New work which responds to the Interface environment is welcome. Where new work is being proposed please include a clear outline text not to exceed 250 words. Please include any sketches or visualisations in the PDF document.

**Deadline: 17 August**

Artists must be members of Interface to apply. Information on membership is on the website

Applications should be submitted via email to **[info@alannahrobins.com](mailto:info@alannahrobins.com)**