The highly praised Culture in Transition series continues for a sixth year at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design with an extraordinary dual exhibition of visual art inspired by science. Visual Analogies and Inquiries: The Work of Michiko Itatani and Birgitta Weimer AND, TINY: Art from Microscopes at UW-Madison, January 21 – March 5; Artist Talk, Thursday, Jan. 20, 6 – 8 p.m.; Opening Reception, Gallery Night, Friday, Jan. 21, 5 – 9 p.m. Frederick Layton Gallery, 273 E. Erie Street, Tues. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Free. 414.847.3200 miad.edu

MILWAUKEE… The highly praised Culture in Transition series continues for a sixth year at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design with an extraordinary dual exhibition of visual art inspired by science.

Visual Analogies and Inquiries: The Work of Michiko Itatani and Birgitta Weimer, and TINY: Art from Microscopes at UW-Madison are on view January 21 (Gallery Night) – March 5, 2011, in MIAD’s Frederick Layton Gallery.

An Artist Talk will be held on Thursday, January 20, 6 p.m., with Itatani and Weimer joining Stephen Paddock, a member of TINY’s curatorial committee.

“Birgitta Weimer and Michiko Itatani are very accomplished artists, and innovators in the genre of visual art informed by science who have exhibited widely in the United States and internationally,” said Director of Galleries Mark Lawson.

“Their art, together with the TINY exhibition, provide an extraordinary collection of diverse, awe-inspiring works that explore what some say is an implicit connection between art and science.”

Michiko Itatani (Chicago): www.michikoitatani.com – is influenced by the pursuit of truth and the desire to understand 21st century complexities. Her work, which examines issues of territory – the human body, technology and abstract notions of mental and physical space – is striking for its juxtaposition of traditional oil on canvas with nontraditional installation formats.

“At the center of the concept,” Itatani says, “is my realization that human knowledge is extremely limited. However, the effort we make toward understanding is uplifting; it is serious and comical at the same time.”

Itatani will exhibit four untitled works from “Writing-Moon/Flesh Studies,” “Fragments of Change,” “Unordered Set” and “Shadow of the Mind,” respectively. The series titles reveal the artist’s interest in science, linguistics, layers of meaning and uncertainty.

Birgitta Weimer (Königswinter, Germany); www.birgitta-weimer.com – has studied Ethnology and Anthropology in addition to her Fine Arts background, and sees art and science as equal means to define the world. Drawing inspiration from scientific-rationalistic models of the world, Weimer works in a variety of media, including plastic, rubber, steel, acrylic glass and vinyl. She compares her three-dimensional wall piece Morphogenesis to neurons, blood vessels or electronic impulses. Weimer describes her artistic process as similar to an operation.

“Sculpture is descended from the Latin verb for cutting, and this is what I do … with extreme precision.”

Weimer’s additional installations are entitled “Circulation,” “Fluidum” and “Convolution.”

The 30 models and images in the second exhibition, TINY: Art from Microscopes at UW-Madison, were selected by a curatorial panel of artists, scientists, academics and educators at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and organized by Madison’s Tandem Press.
Collected as primary data, they “possess great beauty as a bonus…” according to Tandem. Most of the images have been collected using modern light microscope, or X-ray crystallography with associated digital imaging systems.

The exploration of the relationship between art and science has a long tradition at UW-Madison and throughout history, with practitioners of these seemingly disparate fields relying on each other’s skills and tools to advance and evolve their own field, according to Tandem.

Many MIAD alumni work in areas that merge art with science. Mark Holzer (Illustration & Painting ’07) designs interactive materials for science education at Milwaukee’s Center for BioMolecular Modeling, while Erica Lyn Huppe ’06 is a Scientific Illustrator at the Burpee Museum of Natural History. Industrial Design major Ryan Ramos ’07 is Lead Industrial Designer at GE Healthcare.

MIAD’s Culture in Transition series was inaugurated by Lawson in 2006 to explore the rapidly changing nature of our global culture.

Also on view:
“De$ign: Great Design is Great Business.” Experience how Trek uses the power of great bicycle design to drive business in a global marketplace, January 21 – March 12, Brooks Stevens Gallery of Industrial Design.

Work by MIAD Interior Architecture + Design students from the Urban Ecology Design Project slated to open in the Menomonee Valley in 2012: River Level Gallery.

Hi-resolution images, artists’ statements and information on the works in the TINY exhibition are available on the MIAD ftp site: http://snipurl.com/miadartscience
User: miadmedia
Password: Media2010

To view a slideshow of images click here.

MIAD is Wisconsin’s only independent, non-profit college of art and design offering the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree- the most highly regarded undergraduate degree in the visual arts that is dually accredited at the national level. The college’s graduates are creative thinkers whose leadership skills make them uniquely suited to address our 21st century economic and societal challenges. With its students, graduates and faculty, MIAD plays a transformational role in education, culture and business in Milwaukee and beyond.