

Much of my practice involves the exploration and utilization of new and unique material processes. As a sculptor it has become self evident that my practice leans towards an exploration of the physical world through this material handling, which informs my work and contributes to its inventiveness. Many of the materials I use are direct metaphors for the ideas I'm exploring.

One of the reasons for doing this body of work was to meet a challenge I put to myself of working on a small scale. For years I've done large-scale works and numerous attempts to work small produced unflattering results. As a formal process, taking something with its origins in the microscopic world and rendering it much larger than life, corrected this problem.

The display format was designed to mimic the laboratory aesthetic of Petri dishes and microscope slides. Each element exists separate from the others. While pulling things apart and examining their constituent components is a completely valid form of inquiry, with 50 to 100 trillion cells in our bodies, (nobody really knows) that are all alive and playing their role, the irony is that our constituent whole is even more complicated.



Gerald Beaulieu

Gerald Beaulieu originally comes from Welland, Ontario. He studied art at the Ontario College of Art and Design, graduating in 1987. In 1988 he moved to Prince Edward Island where he now works and lives with his family. He is primarily a sculptor and installation artist receiving a number of national awards and grants for his work. He has had over 70 solo and group exhibitions across Canada the U.S. and Europe. His work is in numerous public collections including the Beaverbrook Art Gallery and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. . His most recent solo exhibition *Field Work* was presented at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown PEI in the spring of 2010.



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Bodily Functions

May 15 to June 20, 2011



ARTSPLACE Artist-run Centre
Annapolis Region Community Arts Council
396 St. George Street
Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia B0S 1A0
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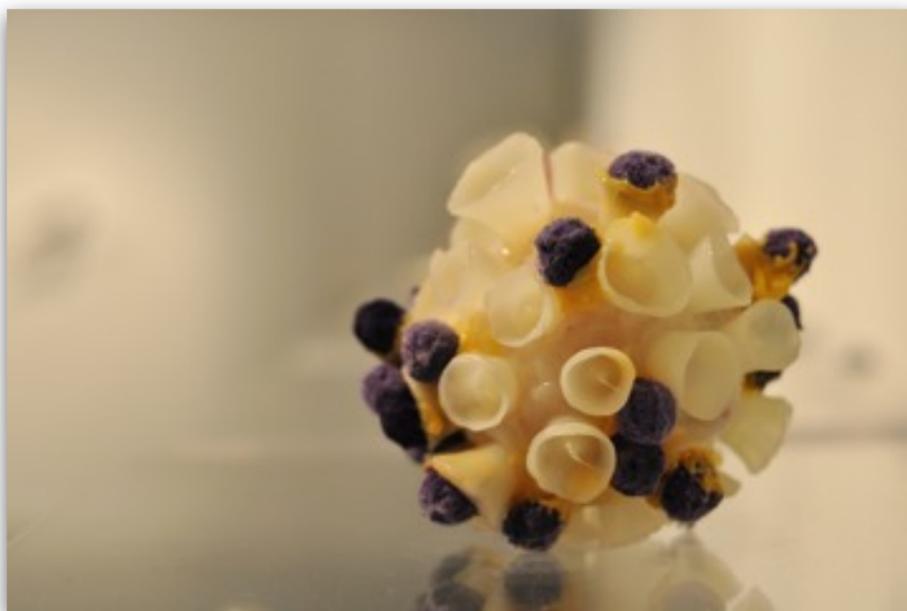


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Sponge Bath, 2008.
Silicone, wire, foam, epoxy, gel wax. 35 x 22 x 18 cm.

Bodily Functions is an ongoing series of small scale works dealing with the physical make-up of our bodies as a collection of individual cells, organs and systems. The body has been a continual subject of my practice and these works try to re-imagine ourselves by looking at the ecosystems, the strange wildness contained within our physical forms. The works are deliberately tangible reinforcing the notion that our place in the physical world is defined by our own physicality and our sensory perceptions of the physical. These pieces are inventions, intended as metaphors and also an examination of the metaphors we assign of our organic existence, the essence of our biological make-up and the processes that occur, from infection to respiration to circulation to degeneration to regeneration; all events that occur within ourselves and the larger social context in which we live.



Sponge Bath, 2007.
Silicone, fiber and epoxy resin. 15 x 15 x 13cm



Family Jewels, 2009, left.
Glass beads, epoxy, gel wax.



Family Jewels, 2009, right.
Machine parts, epoxy, gel wax. 16 x 9 x 12 cm.

"Even a single cell is breathtakingly complicated. Far from being a bag full of juice, the cell is packed with elaborate membranous machines and molecular conveyer belts. The key to understanding how such complexity is put together is that it is all done locally; by small entities obeying local rules."

Richard Dawkins, The Greatest Show on Earth

Culture Medium, 2008.
Wire, fabric, sponge, gel wax. 29 x 16 x 14 cm.

