

Response to the Nanomeme Syndrome

This article discusses the somewhat new phenomena that are Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. The article discusses how revolutionary these developments have been and how they are shaking our grasp on science and several other disciplines.

The article discusses how the idea of Nanotechnology has been around for some time. Scientists have been dreaming of making unimaginably small machines which would work together in great numbers for years. However, it was simply accepted that being able to create something that small (on the nanometer scale) was impossible. The article describes how through the use of individual strings of electrons scientists can now examine objects on the nanometer scale to see how they are truly formed. This technique is more Nanoscience than Nanotechnology. I found this part of the article very interesting because I, as the article warned, have a tough time grasping what it means to work on the nanometer scale. The fact that nanomachines can be created today is fascinating because we will never be able to “see” the machines directly. They are simply too small, wavelengths of light can not be shortened (via a microscope) to the point where the atoms would become visible because the image would become too blurry to make out first. This means that the scientists have to use Scanning Tunneling Microscopes in order to “feel” their creations rather than see them.

The article is very interesting and brings up exciting new developments however it brings up one point which I would have liked it to develop further. The article mentions the blurring of the line between science and art due to the development of nanotechnology. I was unsure what the article meant about this blurring but would like to

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see it happen. Maybe the article was implying that since scientists would be unable to view their creations, their work would be more an art than a science. Either way nanotechnology is a fascinating science with many possibilities in the not too-distant future.