Special Exhibition
"LOVE STORIES - Why You Are Not Alone."
Stories about our Earth’s stories of finding a partner

National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) (Director: Mamoru Mohri, Ph.D., Address: Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo) presents a special exhibition "Love Stories - Why You Are Not Alone." from April 23 (Sat.) to August 15 (Mon.), 2005.

The exhibition examines 'love’not from the usual emotional or conceptual aspects, but from scientific perspective of Earth’s stories in finding partners. Through experiencing this exhibition, you may rediscover ‘love’ and find new lights on your current / future partner.

Based on Miraikan’s concept of showing science as a part of culture, this five-part exhibition provides you with an opportunity to ponder about the love of living forms that foster life and culture.

Prologue: "Why We Are Not Alone"
Pictures taken by young photographer Yoichi Nagano will unravel various stories of couples. Visitors will experience contemporary love through these photos taken with a sharp perspective.

Chapter 1: "The Story of Life Forms in Love"
This chapter introduces variation of genders, for example, a reptile whose gender is determined by difference of temperature. In the case of the "clownfish", when a larger female clownfish, leaves its smaller male partner, the male transforms into a female.
Also introduced are the origin of gender and various love strategies employed by living forms to hunt for partners.
Chapter 2: "The Story of Homo Sapiens in Love"
This chapter reflects on the relationship between reproductive function and life span, as well as the "love of homo sapiens". What is interesting in this relationship between reproductive function and life span is the "Grandma Effect" hypothesis of evolutionary anthropologists. The hypothesis cites that in the long span of human history, the remarkable increase in the percentage of elderly people has played an important role in human evolution. This chapter will try to verify the "love" of homo sapiens who, unlike other forms, have acquired language and can hand down their culture.

Chapter 3: "The Story of Human Beings in Love"
This chapter unravels the trials and errors as human beings try to convey messages of love by developing communication means from words, literature, art to database.

Epilogue: "The End of the Beginning"
Visitors will face the "present" from both perspectives; as a life form, and as a human being who passes on culture. There will be a demonstration using leading edge technology that will cast light on such questions as: can both men and women give birth to a child? Can they control emotions? Can they fall in love with someone who does not exist?

Exhibition "Love Stories—Special Symposium"
During the exhibition season, life scientists, who are advisers of the exhibition, and intellectuals, who are active in the field of media and criticism, will hold a "Love Stories—Special Symposium", a unique talk event in which science and culture are merged.
"Lounge Talk"
In the lounge, the academics who supervised this exhibition and creative artists who participated in the production of the exhibition will hold a "Lounge Talk" in front of an audience under the keyword "love" and present their researches and creative activities. There will also be lab classes and special lessons using the latest computer software by the scientific advisers and researchers who supervised this exhibition.

General information on the exhibition is as follows:

Outline of the "Special Exhibition: Love Stories"

Title : "LOVE STORIES - Why You Are Not Alone."
Venue : National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan)
          Address: 2-41, Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0064
          Access: Yurikamome Line
          Five minute walk from Fune-no-Kagakukan Station
          Four minute walk from Telecom Center Station
          Tokyo Rinkai High-Speed Railroad, Rinkai Line
          Fifteen minute walk from Tokyo Teleport Station
Duration : April 23 (Sat.) – August 15 (Mon.), 2005
          Opening Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (last admission 4:30)
          Closed: every Tuesday (open during the Golden Week and summer holidays)
Fare : Included in museum admission (900 yen for adults, 350 yen for 18 years and under)
        Group discount (8 persons or more): (800 yen for adults, 300 yen for 18 years and under)
        *Admission is free for a holder with a physical disability certificate and his/her attendant.
Planning and Producing: National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

Science Advisors: Mr. Tadatoshi Ishino, Professor, Tokyo Medical and Dental University
Mr. Yasuo Sakuma, Professor, Nippon Medical School
Ms. Mariko Hasegawa, Professor, Waseda University
Mr. Daisuke Yamamoto, Professor, Waseda University

Exhibition Design: Yukio Hashimoto Design Studio
Art Direction/Design: Mr. Tatsuya Ariyama
Photographs: Mr. Yoichi Nagano
Art Products: Mr. Takeshi Ishiguro
Music: Mr. Michiharu Shimoda (Silent Poets)

Curatorial Members (Miraikan): Ms. Maholo Uchida, Mr. Takehiko Sugawara, Ms. Yoko Ogawa, Ms. Yuko Hashimoto, Ms. Nae Morita, Ms. Mao Imaizumi

Host: National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan)

For further information, contact the following:

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