

Wunderkammer

Wunderkammer, a word of German origin which translates to “wonder room”, is a room filled with an eccentric collection of seemingly random objects brought together for the sole purpose of amazing the viewer. The amazement, however, is precisely the intention of the artist, which is to have the viewer reevaluate their values and how they perceive the world around them, as well as question the concepts they once viewed as irrefutable. Upon first viewing the dissonant collection, viewers attempt and fail to make sense of the assortment, but instead allow their imagination to create the missing connections. It was due to the creative questioning spirit created by wonder rooms that our world of common technology was developed.

Wunderkammern originated in the 15th century as ostentatious collections by Kings, but became more common over time and became simple “cabinets of wonder”, owned by the common people. We now are pleased to present our small interpretation of a wonder room as a tribute to the once magnificent and admired wonder rooms. We hope you leave with a sense of wonder and appreciation for the modern sciences and arts!

Enjoy!

The PASI 2009 Team

Inspired by Gary Nickard's Wunderkammern exhibition at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio. Professor Nickard is a faculty member at UB's Department of Visual Studies.

Visit www.physics.buffalo.edu/ubexpo for more information about this exhibit.

