

# Science & Art

## Meet the Scientist-Artists Ahna Skop — The Elegant Worm



Ahna Skop believes passionately that art and science are two ways of knowing about the world, and she is active in both. She was raised in a household where there weren't any boundaries between art and science.

Her father taught drawing, sculpture, and anatomy, and

was a medical illustrator. Her mother — a high school teacher and ceramist — had an interest in biology. Many of her designs are inspired by what she saw in the cross sections of various organisms. According to Skop, Leonardo DaVinci is the epitome of a true artist/scientist. He was curious about the world around him, and he used his artistry as a means of exploring and expressing scientific questions. Skop is enthusiastic about what she sees through the lens of a microscope and

is driven by the beauty.

Skop is assistant professor of genetics at the University of Wisconsin, and is recognized for her innovative research into the mechanisms of cytokinesis, "...one of the most fundamental of cellular events," she says. "It is fundamental to growth and development of all life on this planet."

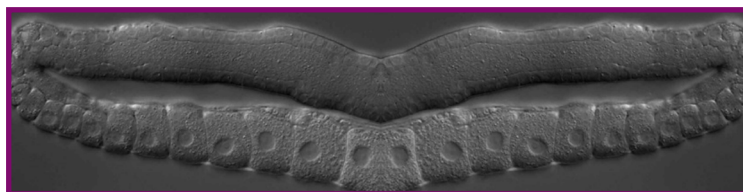
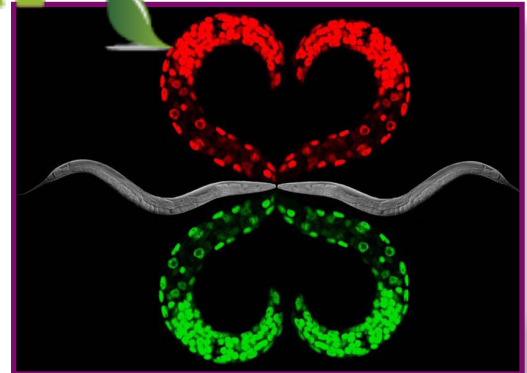
In 2007, Skop received the Presidential Early Career Award for scientists and engineers. Her work with *C. elegans* has led to discoveries that offer potential treatments for cancer.

*"I look through my microscope and the organisms I see are beautiful and exciting. I take pictures of this microscopic world so that I can share it with others. At the same time, these creatures are also the focus of my research. For me, science and art are intertwined."*

—Ahna Skop

look at live specimens.

For more info: [skoplab.weebly.com](http://skoplab.weebly.com)



Skop loves sharing *C. elegans* with the world. In this exhibit, in addition to some beautiful artwork, you'll see *C. elegans* live! A real microscope with video head lets visitors