

Reinhard Sonntag

*Emergent Systems*

(2023)

Aluminium bars, recycled steel objects, galvanised nuts and bolts, recycled nuts and bolts, metal paper clips, galvanised binding wire, pop rivets.

The work is a sculptural construction consisting of approximately 15 cluster pieces installed on three concrete pillars. It represents a mix of emergent complex systems that 'invade' or 'infect' the building.

The work reflects my fascination with scientific complexity and the way in which living matter organises itself from basic building blocks to emerge as complex life-forms that co-exist on the same planet.

The sculptural pieces are built from a variety of metal objects acquired in hardware and stationery stores and collected in scrapyards. The configuration of their

components is intended to accentuate the multiplicity, connectedness, and nonlinearity that characterise complex and chaotic systems. The sculptures represent various cellular structures, modes of protein folding, and viral processes. They are interspersed with graph-like fragments of pseudo-scientific data visualisation.

This composite sculpture broadly follows the pattern of a viral infection, and its organic and fluid appearance is meant to establish a visual contrast with the linear and solid appearance of the pillars on which it is installed.

In a playful glimpse into an aspect of the relationship between culture and nature, I imagine the way in which a tertiary education institution may be invaded by knowledge-carrying complex systems designed to challenge our hierarchical and linear perceptions of the world.

These systems also reference the natural molecular recycling processes by which organic life sustains itself, as well as the complex biological and technological processes that sustain contemporary civilisation.