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ART REVIEWS

LOS ANGELES TIMES

By **SUSAN KANDEL**
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Connected: "Investigations," a large group show at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, feels a bit like a science fair, which is not to say the work is amateurish but rather unusually uncynical.

The show purports to bring together people who are interested in exploring the linkages between art, mathematics and science. What this means is that pretty much any kind of investigation is up for grabs. There are optical tricks, technological metaphors, meandering sound waves, hybrid forms, rigorously nonsensical mechanisms, conceptual maps, bacterial cultures and astronomical notations.

What's particularly interesting is how uniformly beautiful the work is, a fact that suggests that

this generation of artists has a very different agenda than the artists who participated, for example, in LACMA's famous "Art and Technology" exhibition of 1971. Notable among the offerings is **Habib Kheradyar's** moiré-wrapped wall piece, which seems to dissolve into pure pattern and then to reconstitute itself before our eyes; **Carl Cheng's** sculpture of air bubbles rising through water, which is positively balletic; and **Eric Chan** and **Heather Schatz's** strange, abstract forms, products of an artificial evolutionary process whose details are less compelling than the gorgeous, saturated colors in which they are rendered.

■ *Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., (213) 485-4581, through June 16. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.*