



CHOOSE A GROUP OF OBJECTS FROM THE CONTENT LINKS. EXPLORE THE OBJECTS IN LOTS OF DETAIL: WHAT WAS THE FUNCTION? WHAT MATERIALS? WHAT NARRATIVES DO THEY TELL?



THIS DNA DOUBLE HELIX MODEL, BUILT BY WATSON AND CRICK IN 1953, MARKS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND SERVES AS BOTH A SCIENTIFIC TOOL AND A POWERFUL SYMBOL. CONSTRUCTED WITH METAL RODS AND WIRES, IT ACCURATELY REPRESENTS THE STRUCTURE OF DNA AND ILLUSTRATES HOW GENETIC INFORMATION IS STORED AND REPLICATED. THE MODEL TELLS A STORY OF COLLABORATION AND CONTROVERSY—HIGHLIGHTING OVERLOOKED CONTRIBUTIONS LIKE THOSE OF ROSALIND FRANKLIN—AND SYMBOLIZES DEEPER THEMES OF HUMAN IDENTITY, THE ORIGINS OF LIFE, AND THE ETHICAL BOUNDARIES OF SCIENTIFIC CONTROL. TODAY, IT TRANSCENDS ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSE, BECOMING A RICH METAPHOR FOR THE BODY, INFORMATION, AND OUR TECHNOLOGICAL FUTURE.





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ONE EXHIBIT THAT RESONATED WITH ME WAS A MODEL OF DNA MADE ENTIRELY OF WIRE. IT WAS SIMPLE YET POWERFUL — TWO SPIRALS OF WIRE SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR, CONNECTED BY DELICATE LINKS. DESPITE THE SIMPLICITY OF THE MATERIAL, THE STRUCTURE WAS FULL OF RHYTHM AND MOVEMENT. IT SEEMED TO COME ALIVE, AS IF THE WIRES WERE QUIETLY PULSING WITH INVISIBLE INFORMATION.

THE WORK MADE ME REFLECT ON THE NATURE OF DNA ITSELF — NOT JUST A BIOLOGICAL COMPONENT, BUT AN INTERNAL CODE THAT SILENTLY RUNS EACH HUMAN BODY. THE USE OF WIRE REINFORCED THIS IDEA; IT LOOKED LIKE A CIRCUIT, LIKE A PART OF A MACHINE, BUT ARRANGED IN AN ORGANIC SPIRAL. I WAS AMAZED AT HOW SOMETHING SO MECHANICAL COULD BE SO HUMAN. THE MODEL SEEMED TO BE AT THE INTERSECTION OF LIFE AND TECHNOLOGY — A PERFECT ECHO OF MY OWN PROJECT EXPLORING THE MEANING OF DNA AS A DIGITAL CODE OF EXISTENCE.

THE EXHIBIT WAS IN A LARGE GLASS CASE THAT ALLOWED ME TO VIEW IT FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES, WHICH ENHANCED THE SENSE THAT IT WAS BOTH A DESIGN PIECE AND A LIVING STRUCTURE. I WAS DEEPLY AWARE OF THE COMPLEXITY WITHIN EACH HUMAN BODY AND QUIETLY APPRECIATED HOW INVISIBLE SYSTEMS — WHETHER GENETIC OR DIGITAL — DEFINE US.

THIS EXPERIENCE MADE ME REALIZE THAT SCIENCE AND DESIGN ARE DEEPLY CONNECTED. A DNA STRAND IS MORE THAN JUST DATA; IT HAS SHAPE, EMOTION, AND PRESENCE. IT INSPIRED ME TO BRING THE SAME FEELING TO MY OWN WORK: DESIGNING WITH CODE, NOT JUST AS A FUNCTION, BUT AS A LIFE FORM.