

A human as a quantum object



Artist Julian Voss-Andreae has created the sculpture "Quantum Man" as a "metaphor for the counterintuitive world of quantum physics". Consisting of thin, upright steel sheets, the 2.5 m sculpture appears as a solid mass of steel when viewed from the front but becomes almost transparent when looked at from the side. This, says Voss-Andreae, symbolizes the different pictures of reality we obtain when viewing matter on different scales: solid classical predictability on the surface and cloudy quantum uncertainties underneath. German-born Voss-Andreae originally trained as a physicist, graduating from the Freie Universität Berlin in 2000, before joining the research group of renowned quantum physicist Anton Zeilinger at the University of Vienna. Here he participated in an experiment in which an almost macroscopically sized carbon-60 molecule exhibited wave behaviour (*Nature* **401** 680). He then studied at the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon. "Quantum Man" goes on display in the city of Moses Lake in Washington state this month.