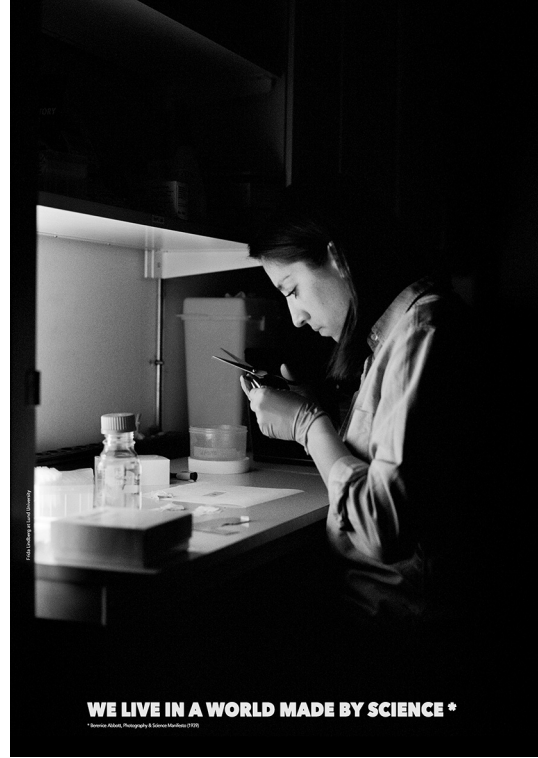
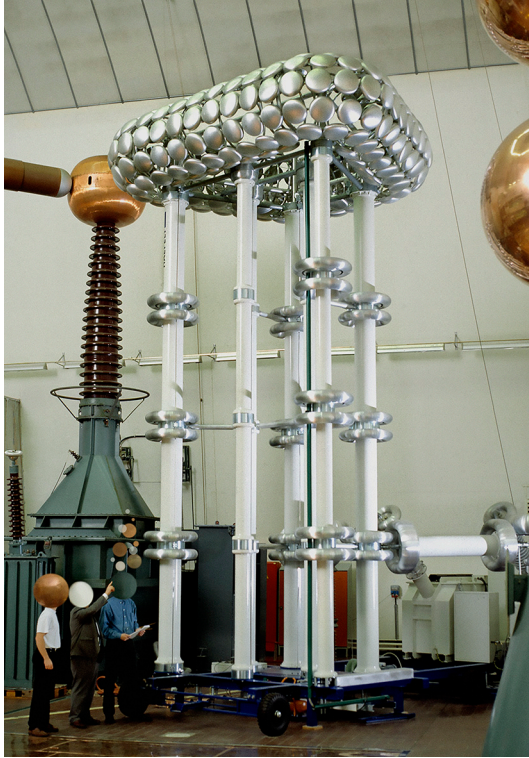


**A World Made by Science**  
Kerstin Hamilton

Series of photos mounted on aluminium, dimensions 70 x 100 cm each. Commissioned work for The Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (RIBOCA).



**WE LIVE IN A WORLD MADE BY SCIENCE \***

\*Science Museum, Photography & Science Exhibition 2008



We live in a world made by science. But we – the millions of laymen – do not understand or appreciate the knowledge which this controls daily life.

To obtain wide popular support for science, to that end that we may explore this vast subject even further and bring as yet unexplored areas under control, there needs to be a friendly intergrowth between science and the layman.

I believe that photography can be this spokesman, as no other form of expression can be; for photography, the art of our time, the mechanical, scientific medium which matches the pace and character of our era, is attuned to the function. There is an essential unity between photography, science's child, and science, the parent.

Yet so far the task of photographing scientific subjects and endowing them with popular appeal and scientific correctness has not been mastered. The function of the artist is needed here, as well as the function of the recorder. The artist through history has been the spokesman and conservator of human and spiritual energies and ideas. Today science needs its voice. It needs the vivification of the visual image, the warm human quality of imagination added to its austere and stern disciplines. It needs to speak to the people in terms they will understand. They can understand photography presentmentally.

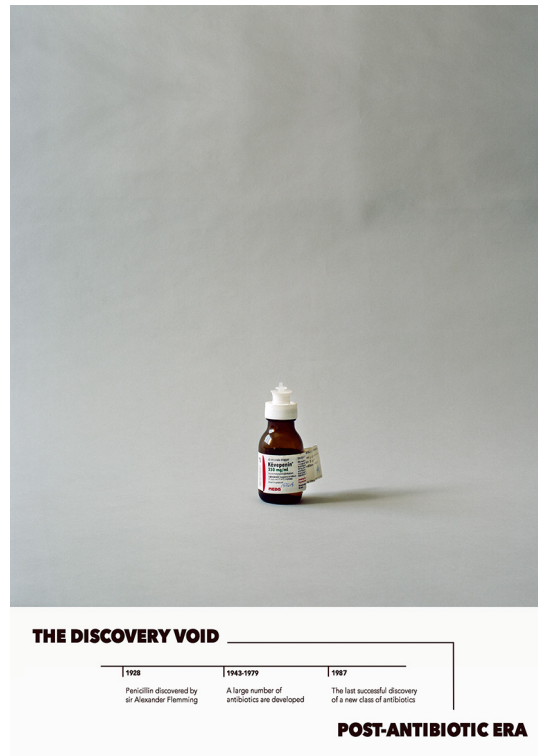
To me, this function of photography seems extraordinarily urgent and exciting. Scientific subject matter may well be the most thrilling of today. My hope of moving into this new field comes logically in my own evolution as a photographer.

...

The problem of documenting science, of presenting its realistic subject matter with the same integrity as one portrays the culture morphology of our civilization, and yet of endowing this material so strange and unfamiliar to the public with the poetry of its own vast implications, would seem to me to lead logically from my previous experience.

...

Hereslice Abbott  
New York City, April 24, 1939



**THE DISCOVERY VOID**

1928

Penicillin discovered by Dr. Alexander Fleming

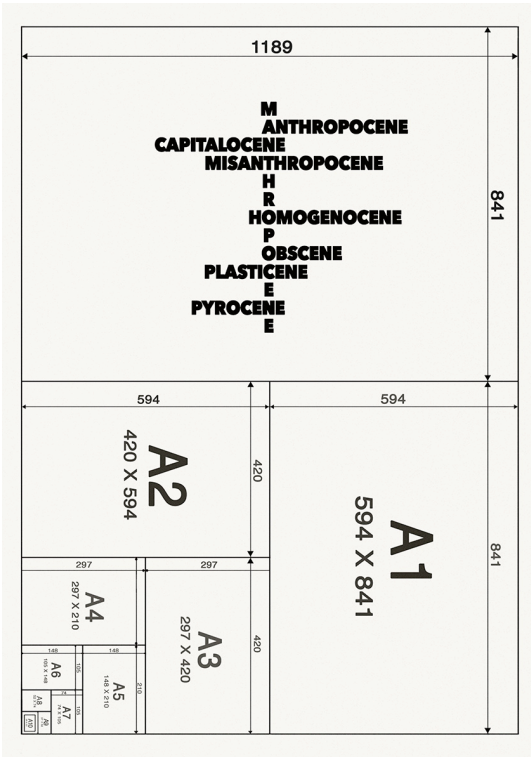
1943-1979

A large number of antibiotics are developed

1987

The last successful discovery of a new class of antibiotics

**POST-ANTIBIOTIC ERA**





*A World Made by Science* (installation). Photo: Vladimir Svetlov. Courtesy of the Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art.



Photo: Ivan Erofeev. Courtesy of the Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art.



Photo: Vladimir Svetlov. Courtesy of the Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art.