

Making Sense of Quantum: Aesthetic and Moral Explorations

Massimo LEONE - *Bruno Kessler Foundation, University of Turin*

While the influence of Einsteinian relativity on 20th-century visual and conceptual art is well documented, the cultural and imaginative consequences of quantum theory—and now of quantum technologies—remain comparatively underexplored. This presentation investigates how contemporary artistic practices engage with quantum paradigms not merely as metaphors, but as speculative frameworks that challenge classical notions of space, time, identity, and causality.

Taking as a starting point the awarded installation *Sensing Quantum* (2023), which seeks to make quantum superposition and entanglement sensorially perceptible, we explore how art functions as a conceptual and affective laboratory for quantum society. Artistic imagination has long played with the idea of multiple realities, indeterminacy, and the expansion of existential possibility—features central to the quantum worldview.

This tendency reaches a broader public resonance in works such as *Everything Everywhere All at Once* (2022), a film that translates the quantum multiverse into an emotional and moral exploration of fragmented identity, relationality, and choice. Such artistic engagements not only visualize quantum concepts, but also dramatize the ethical and existential dilemmas posed by a plural universe: what does responsibility mean when multiple versions of oneself coexist? How does one choose when all possibilities are equally real?

The presentation thus calls for a bi-directional dialogue: not only how quantum theory inspires artistic creation, but also how artistic research can contribute to quantum science. Artists help foreground the moral, perceptual, and societal challenges that emerge from quantum technologies, opening novel paths in the collective quest for meaning, coherence, and orientation in a world increasingly shaped by indeterminacy and entanglement.