The Science of Painting
Bay Area Science Festival
A Wonder Dialogue

Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts
Office of Science Outreach
Stanford University
November 5, 2011
The Cast

• Curtis Frank
  – W.M. Keck, Sr. Professor of Chemical Engineering
  – Chemistry Dept
  – Materials Science and Engineering Dept
  – Director of the Center for Polymer Interfaces and Macromolecular Assemblies

• Michael Marmor
  – Professor of Ophthalmology
  – Eye Institute at Stanford
  – Stanford Hospital and Clinics
  – Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

• Piero Scaruffi
  – A History of Silicon Valley (2011)
  – A History of Rock and Dance Music (2008)
The Debate

• A painting is a material object. It is made of materials using some technologies.
• A painting is created by the painter based on what the painter sees.
• The science of materials and the science of vision help explain what a painting is.