



## ENTANGLED STRINGS: *Scientific Method Meets Artistic License*

### BLACKBOARD TALK

**SPEAKER | Gary Smaby**

KITP Artist-in-Residence

**Monday March 19, 2012 – 12:15P – Auditorium**

A self-described *liberal artist*, Gary Smaby characterizes his eclectic three-decade career as “grazing through a Renaissance”. Fittingly, as an undergraduate at St. Olaf College, he pursued dual majors in East Asian Studies and Art. During his early twenties, Gary’s right brain led him on “random meanderings for creative nourishment”; from spiritual studies with a yoga guru in India and a Zen Master in Japan, to stints as a [rock concert photographer](#) and a fledgling Madison Avenue graphics designer.



Eventually, his left hemispheric impulses drew him along a circuitous career path which included stops as serial entrepreneur, Wall Street high-tech analyst, Fortune 500 strategic consigliere, start-up venture capitalist and more recently, as Director for Collaborative Innovation at the University of Minnesota. Smaby is currently a Senior Fellow at the University’s Technological Leadership Institute as well as a Senior Advisor to the UoM’s renowned Center for Spirituality and Healing, the Weisman Art Museum, and the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. He is an emeritus trustee at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

During the decades of the 80s and 90s, Smaby had a catbird seat from which to observe the expanding frontiers of technology. From 1982-1988 he was internationally known and oft-quoted Wall Street analyst for his coverage of the emerging fields of supercomputing, computer graphics, scientific visualization and computer animation.

From 1988- 2000, he was a strategist advisor to leading technology corporations including IBM, Intel, Hewlett Packard and Oracle. He served for five years on the External Advisory Board for the Deep Computing Institute at IBM TJ Watson Research Laboratory. Smaby was invited in 1997 by NASA to present Colloquium lectures at both the NASA Langley Research Center and the Virginia Air and Space Museum.

In 2004, Gary returned to his life-long passion in photography by mapping out a course of independent study at the University of Minnesota Art Department. Over the next two years, Smaby made the arduous but inevitable transition from film to digital; becoming proficient with cutting-edge imaging technologies. The first exhibit of his digital work, called ["Outer Spaces"](#) opened at the Douglas Baker Gallery in Minneapolis in November of 2006.

From January-March 2009, Gary was a Visiting Scholar at the California Institute for Information Technology and Telecommunications (CALIT2) at UCSD, where he conceived his next exhibit, ["Entangled Strings"](#), which was on display at the Nina Bleise Gallery in Minneapolis from November 2009- January 2010.

In April-May 2011, Gary spent five weeks in residence at UCSB's AlloSphere Lab within the California NanoSystems Institute (CNSI). Smaby has begun work on a new 3-D immersive visual and aural installation project catalyzed by his AlloSphere experience.

Commenting on his seven-week residency at KITP, Smaby said, "I'll be strolling the hallways, grazing for inspiration; immersing my 'beginner's mind' in the rarified air of theoretical physics. It's a realm that for me is both perplexing and paradoxical yet, at the same time, incredibly fascinating".

Gary will share several works from his recent exhibits and will discuss his design-thinking approach to creativity. He'll wrap up the talk by sketching out the concepts underlying [his latest project](#), ***"Grey Matter| Dark Matter: Origins of Consciousness - Brain or Brane?"***.