

Campus Diary

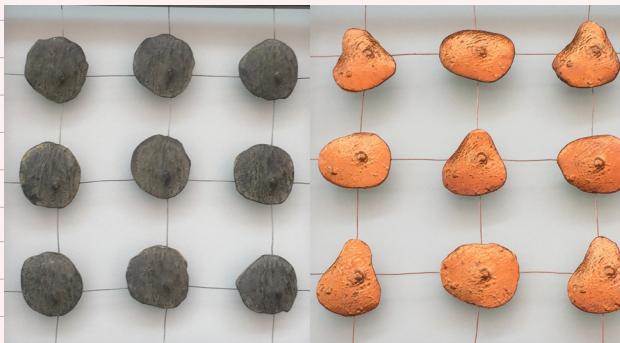
It's Nipply in Here

In mid-June I attended an opening at the Fulginiti Pavilion in the Center for Bioethics and Humanities for the "Anatomy of a Surgeon" photography exhibit, featuring photos from the University of Colorado Department of Surgery's annual report. Next to artistic close-ups of UCH surgeons' hands, eyes, faces, arms and backs was a series of metal nipples.



From this distance, you may not be able to tell that this ornate metal sculpture is a bunch of nipples.

Yes, that's a right – metal nipples. This installation, called The Nipple Quilt by artist Laura Phelps Rogers, had nothing to do with the photography show, by the way. At first, I didn't pay attention to the quilt made of bronze and iron (you don't notice they're nipples right away), until someone asked me if I'd noticed the "nipple quilt" hanging beside the surgeons' photos. Of course, I had to run over and see what this person was talking about. I do appreciate abstract art and sculpture. But I really don't know what to make of this piece. Phelps Rogers, who calls herself a "memory based artist," describes the installation on her website:



A close up of nipple quilt: Even close-up, it's not clear that these metal pieces are supposed to be nipples. But they are.

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“This large scale work demonstrates a meaningful connection to its environment and successfully generates an academic dialogue between the humanities and science in a medical research context.”

Well, that clears everything up.

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