

The Molecules series:

The Beginning of Everything 2016

Glucose 2 2016

Glucose 3 2016

Happy Molecule 2016

The Ultimate Venus 2016

The Molecule that solves every problem 2016

Molecules and atoms are sculptor Joep van Lieshout's most recent obsession. They hold his imagination because he is currently researching the origin of matter, material and form. In addition, he is working on the development of a nuclear power plant, as part of a vision on a new, ecological, high-tech society. This has inspired him to create a series of artworks which take the structure of molecules as a source of inspiration. The works, however, are a literal reference, but offer a sculptural interpretation, an artistic and contemporary version of the abstracted scientific structure.

Some of the works, like *The Beginning of Everything* (2016), represent Glucose ($C_6H_{12}O_6$), the primary source of energy for human life. It is created by plants during photosynthesis from water (H_2O) and carbon dioxide (CO_2), using energy from sunlight. A reaction in the human body, reverses the photosynthesis and transforms glucose and oxygen (O_2) into water (H_2O) and carbon dioxide (CO_2) again. During this process, the energy which powers human life is released.

The creation and combustion of glucose together form a perfect cycle, a harmony between man and nature, and demonstrate that human energy is, in fact, nothing more and nothing less than solar power. Glucose is a key element for human life. Without glucose, nothing would function: neither the brain, intelligence, thought, muscles, movement or sports.

Without energy, not only our lives but also our machines and our cities would come to a standstill - with great, empty, eternal stillness as the result. Energy is the vital force which drives our world, brings it its color, its joy, its vibrancy, its life. It is literally 'the beginning of everything'.

On the other hand, works like *Happy Molecule* (2016), *The Ultimate Venus* (2016) and *The Molecule that solves every problem* (2016) pay homage to the Ethanol molecule (C_2H_6O), which has both a destructive and redeeming effect on human life and the world. It is the vital ingredient in all alcoholic beverage, making it a source of problems, due to its addictive nature. On the other hand, it also offers a relief from these problems, an escape from reality.