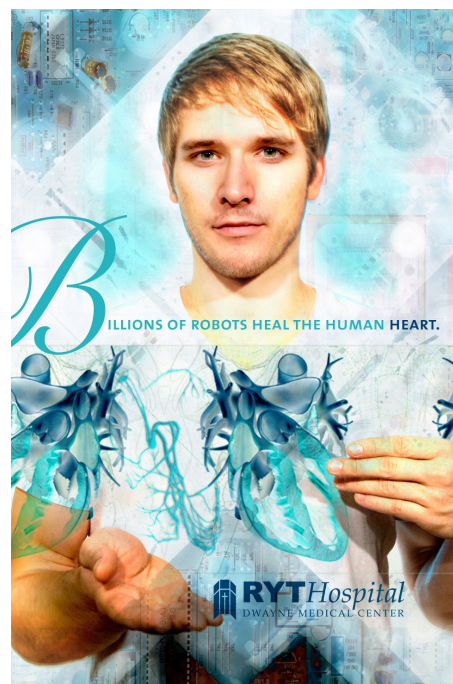


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joan Smith, 215-235-3405
joan@inliquid.com www.inliquid.com

InLiquid at International House presents
Billions of Robots Heal the Human Heart
a video installation by Virgil Wong
January 21 - March 6, 2009

International House Video Lounge
3701 Chestnut Street, first floor, Philadelphia, PA
Opening reception: January 21, 6 - 8 pm
Artist talk: Saturday, February 14, 5 pm



(Philadelphia, January 2009) This winter InLiquid presents *Billions of Robots Heal the Human Heart*, a video installation by Virgil Wong at the International House Video Lounge. Ice hockey player Philip Brouette was stabbed through the heart by a jealous ex-lover. Witness how innovative doctors at RYT Hospital-Dwayne Medical Center saved Brouette's life with an experimental medical nanotechnology procedure called "cardionanoroboplasty." This exhibition includes a video about Brouette's story, a medical display of digital images detailing his operation, and videos of past RYT Hospital projects.

The narrative and visual content of *Billions of Robots Heal the Human Heart* and RYT Hospital-Dwayne Medical Center are invented fictions of new media artist Virgil Wong. Wong combines video art, digital imagery, and documentary film techniques to create medical "mocku-mentaries" that explore themes of advanced biotechnology and human reproduction and blur the lines between reality and science fiction. Investigating questions arising from contemporary medicine, Wong creates new media art influenced by medical documentaries, reality television, as well as the traditions of European figurative painting and anatomical illustrations.

Virgil Wong explains how he incorporates medical and biotechnological theories into his art practice: "The human body is undergoing a radical evolution through advancements in genomics, robotics, nanotechnology and information technology (IT). As an IT director at a large academic medical center, I am participating in these efforts to improve the quality of patient care, basic science research, and medical education. As an artist, I am working to visualize, narrate, and dissect this fundamental remapping of being human. In my studio practice, I use both traditional media like drawing and painting as well as digital media technologies, including 3-D medical modeling and radiographic neuroimaging."

Continued...

Virgil Wong earned his BFA in illustration at the Rhode Island School of Design and his MFA in new media art at Transart Institute, Donau University in Linz, Austria. Wong also studied painting and drawing at the Pont-Aven School of Art in France and at University of Rome Medical School, Institute of Human Anatomy in Rome, Italy. Wong recently had a solo exhibition at John Jay College gallery in New York City and has shown art at numerous galleries and museums around the United States and Europe. Since 1996 he has worked as Head of Web and Multimedia Services at New York - Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College. In 2006 Wong was featured in *ARTSTAR: Deitch Projects*, a group exhibition featuring eight artists selected for the first unscripted reality television series set in the New York art world. Wong lives in New York City and is a faculty member for the Master of Arts in Media Studies program at the New School.

Admission is FREE to International House art gallery exhibitions.

(Image: *Billions of Robots Heal the Human Heart*, digital concept photo, 2008)

###

About InLiquid

InLiquid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization dedicated to expanding opportunities and exposure for visual artists while serving as a freely-accessible hub for arts information. By providing the public with immediate access to view the portfolios of over 260 artists via the internet, through "real world" activities and exhibitions, and through an extensive online body of timely art information – including gallery listings, articles, reviews, artist resources, links, and discussions -- InLiquid hopes to bring to light the richness of our region's art activity and broaden audiences for all forms of visual art.

www.inliquid.com