



In June 2011, I produced The Heartbeat Drawing Installation by Japanese artist SASAKI for Dwell on Design at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Slipping an electronic pulse monitor over the subject's finger, SASAKI runs device's cord into an amplifier and plugs the output into a speaker. As the sound fills the room, he begins to draw. Dressed in reflective silver pleather jumpsuit and using an oversized airbrush gun, he renders the hills and valleys of the beat – the diastole rise and the systole fall conventionally seen in a medical setting – in bright blood red lacquer. A minute's worth of beats are corralled into a hexagon, conjuring up the minute cells that are make up the fundamental building blocks of life.

The unique experience partners subject and artist in the act of creation, blurring the lines between performer and observer as they embark on the redefining the idea of what it means to be drawn from life. With the heartbeat amplified to dance floor level decibels, the initial feelings of insignificance are soon replaced by awe. The power of the life force which pulses through the human body morphs into something primal, in synch with the rhythm of the universe, with the fundamental beat of human existence, the pulse of life and, ultimately, our connection to the universe.

