The Los Angeles Museum of Art
NANO
December 14 – September 6, 2004
NANO is a tremendously innovative exhibition that explores the intersection between art and the highly specialized science of nanotechnology through pieces of art that have been influenced both visually and conceptually by science. Nanotechnology is the study of molecules so small that they can no longer be seen but must be experienced through other means — such as the sense of touch. Although science is the foundation of this exhibit, it is not the overt focus, but rather the means for investigating the many influences and implications of science on contemporary culture. NANO is comprised of multiple installations: At the entrance, images of arriving visitors will be immediately embedded into a virtual structure creating the “Los Angeles Genome.” Just beyond this entry installation is a space where touch, smell, hearing, and an unconscious sense of movement take priority — because these are the senses needed in nanotechnology. As the journey continues, the visitor heads into the “Cell Space,” an immersive installation at the exhibit’s center, where visitors, projected graphics, and robot avatars together create a spatial “chemistry.” Here, the visitor is in a “molecular” space of ambiguous scale and is allowed to form relationships with various visual, aural, and physical elements. The intermix of art and science in this hands-on exhibit makes it a mustsee for all ages.