

2012

Bio-art and transdisciplinary practices: Developing
education for a bio-tech future. CREATEC
Research Week Colloquium 19th September 2012

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Bio-art and transdisciplinary practices: Developing education for a bio-tech future

- Aim of study
- Context
- Theoretical Frameworks
- Projects

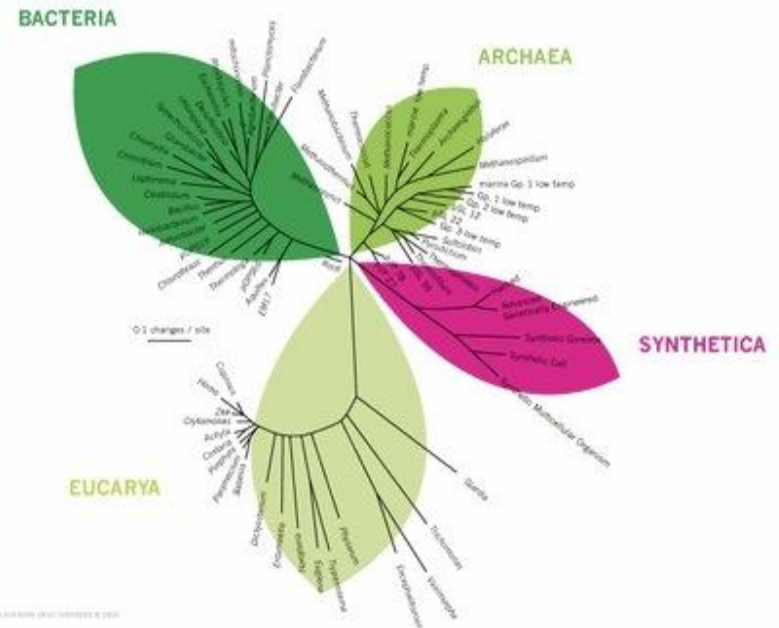
Tissue Engineering Research (mouse with polymer scaffold ear)
Dr Charles Vacanti 1997 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9252594>

Image: <http://www.smashinglists.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/mouse-ear.jpg>

Aim of study

Research Question

How do we interact with the non-human world in a contemporary biotechnological context and how does a transdisciplinary bio-arts practice re-set a way to engage with such life?



Contemporary Context

Biotechnology: Since the first patent was passed on bacteria there has been an unprecedented scale of manufacturing, controlling, standardisation and abstracting non-human life

Hegemonic institutions such as science, mass media, and corporations, frame how we engage with non-human life

Environmental generational amnesia (Jones, 2011)

Media representation of Steve Kurtz 2004 Photograph: Don Heupel

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/artblog/2008/apr/21/week>

http://www.artscatalyst.org/experiencelearning/detail/research_is_not_terrorism_steve_kurtz/

Theoretical Frameworks

Bio-art draws directly from biotechnologies already operating in the lifeworld (Husserl, 1954; Habermas, 1987).

Transdisciplinary models (Nicholescu, 2005)

‘one way of bridging the gaps between a compartmentalised educational system, allowing future students to become more interdisciplinary with a broader knowledge base’ (Cass, 2011; Robinson, 2010).

Generate gallery spaces that have multiple uses; conservation, wilderness, education and communication (Gessert, 2008)

Project: School program



Yvonne Sitko *WA Birds of Prey*

‘opportunity [for students] to gain an understanding of how their art-making fits into the larger community’ (GATE, 2010).



Direct *real-time* engagement with non-human life

Project: *Creatures of the Future Garden* Exhibition



Diaspora Monopoly 2012



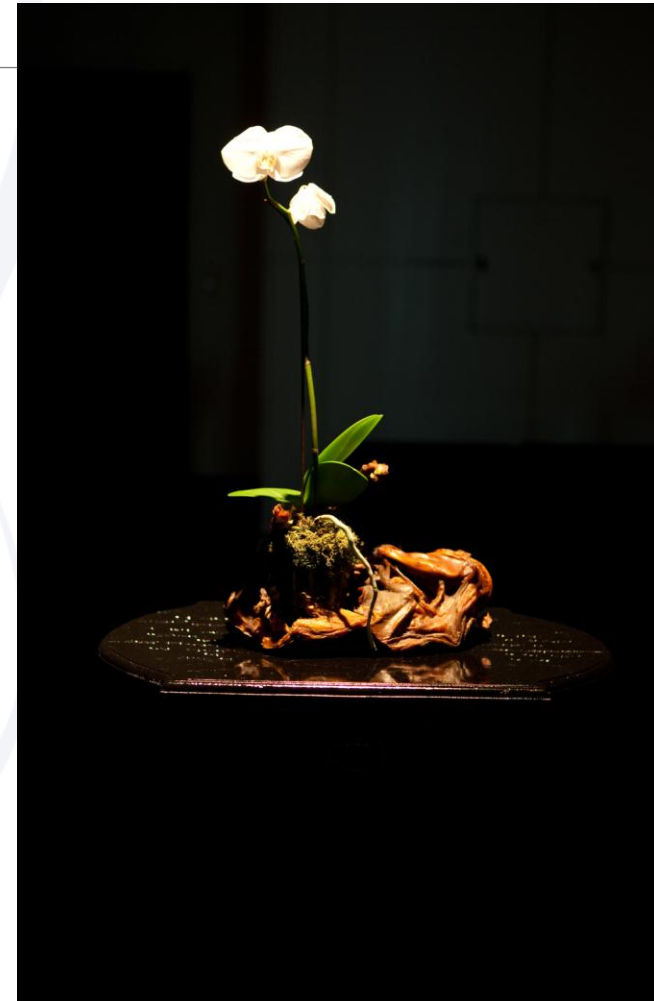
Humanatis 2011 Donna Franklin

In vitro node (Drosophila melanogaster)
2011 Tarsh Bates

Photos: D. Franklin 2012



*Life and Death Vessels:
A Collection of Curiosities, 2012*
Svenja Kratz, Photos: Dan Cole

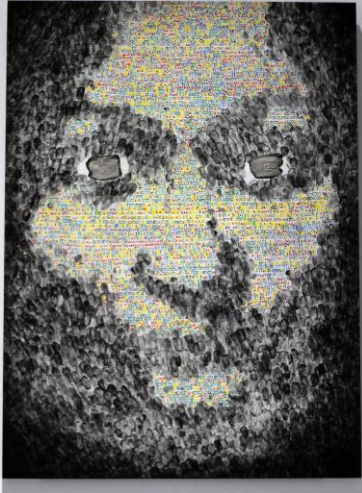


*The Remains of Algernon
and the Poetry Orchids*

2011 Svenja Kratz

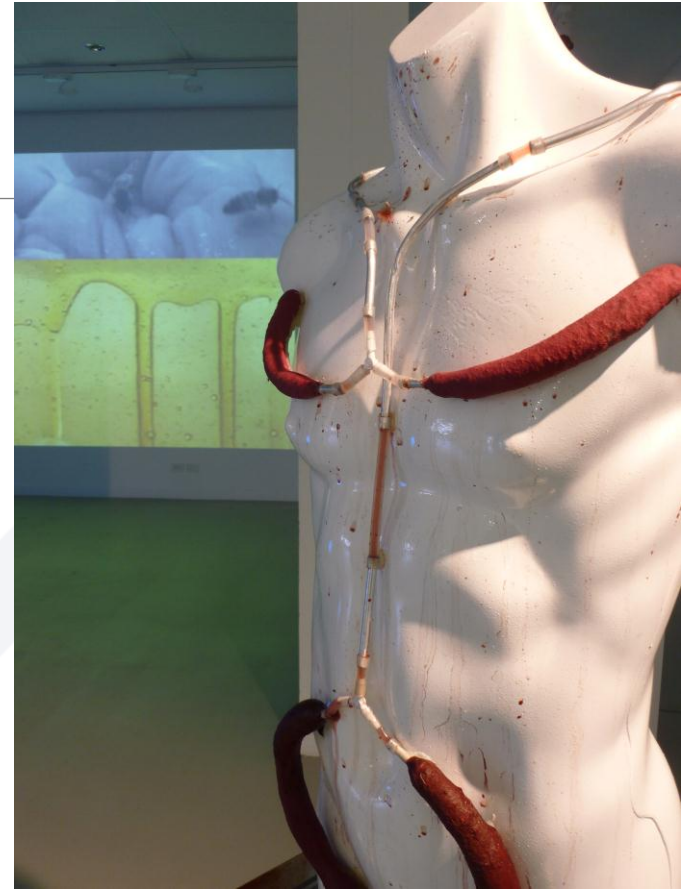
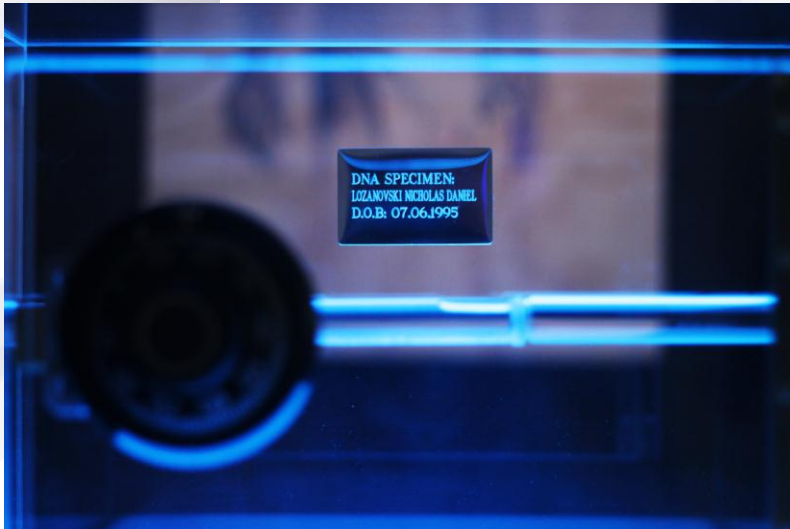
Photos: D. Franklin and Dan Cole





Definition, 2012,
Sasha Whittle

Keep Safe Your Identity, 2011-12,
Nicholas Lozanovski



Foreground: Imperfections of Immortality,
2012, Jesse Brown

Background: HOST, Trish Adams, 2011
Photos: Kelsey Diamond and D. Franklin

WA Birds of Prey Workshop

Yvonne Sitko



Photos: Alexandra Engels

Conclusion

“Contributions to science from beyond the ivory tower are forcing a rethinking of traditional models of knowledge generation, evaluation and communication” (Levins, 2008, p. 35).

Transdisciplinary acts “[b]eyond the field of the exact sciences and demands their dialogue and their reconciliation with the humanities and the social sciences” (Nicolescu, 2005)



Angela Singer *Hedge Row Vulpes vulpes* (Red Fox), 2010
Image courtesy of the artist

Image Resources

Slide 1. Tissue Engineering Research (mouse with polymer scaffold ear)

Dr Charles Vacanti 1997 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9252594>

Image: <http://www.smashinglists.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/mouse-ear.jpg>

Slide 2. <http://www.daisyginsberg.com/>

Slide 3. Media representation of Steve Kurtz 2004 Photograph: Don Heupel

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Slide 5. Photographs: Donna Franklin, 2011

Slide 6. Photographs: Donna Franklin, 2012 “Creatures of the Future Garden”, curated by Donna Franklin, Spectrum Project Space, School of Communications and Arts, Edith Cowan University.

Slide 7. Svenja Kratz. Images courtesy of the artist. Photos: Dan Cole. Detail of *Algernon*: D. Franklin “Creatures of the Future Garden”, curated by Donna Franklin, Spectrum Project Space, School of Communications and Arts, 2012, © all rights reserved by the artist: svenjakratz.com

Slide 8. *Definition*: Sasha Whittle, 2012, Photo: Kelsey Diamond. *Keep Safe Your Identity*, Nicholas Lozanovski, 2012, Photo: Kelsey Diamond. *Imperfections of Immortality*, Jesse Brown, 2012, Photo: Donna Franklin. “Creatures of the Future Garden”, curated by Donna Franklin, Spectrum Project Space, School of Communications and Arts, 2012

Slide 9. L: Oskar the barking owl, Centre: Yvonne Sitko and Phoenix the sooty owl, R: Micro the wedge-tailed eagle

Photos: Alexandra Engels, WA Birds of Prey

Workshop, “Creatures of the Future Garden”, curated by Donna Franklin, Spectrum Project Space, School of Communications and Arts, 2012

Slide 10. *Hedge Row, Vulpes vulpes (Red Fox)*, Angela Singer, 2010. angelasinger.com/