



EXPERIMENTAL ART FOUNDATION

Lion Arts Centre North Tce [West End] Adelaide South Australia
+61-(0)8-82117505 info@eaf.asn.au www.eaf.asn.au
Gallery Hours 11-5pm Tues-Fri. 2-5 Sat

Media Release

BIOTECH ART – Revisited

Exhibition * Symposium * Workshop

eaf.asn.au/2009/biotech09.html

In his final exhibition project as director of the EAF Melentje Pandilovski revisits a signature theme – art and biotechnology. *Biotech Art – Revisited* includes an exhibition (of the same name), a workshop – *Vital micro-ecologies: splice, dice, duplicate*, and a free public symposium – *Life, death & biotechnia*. The project plans to tease out connections between art, culture, biotechnology & genomics, with leading Australian and international artists and theorists set to install & present their recent works.

EXHIBITION — BIOTECH ART – Revisited

9 April – 2 May 2009

CURATOR **Melentje Pandilovski**

ARTISTS/SCIENTISTS **Trish Adams, Bio-Kino (Guy Ben-Ary & Tanja Visosevic), BioHome (Catherine Fargher & Terumi Narushima), André Brodyk, Gary Cass & Donna Franklin, FOaM (Maja Kuzmanovic & Nik Gaffney), Niki Sperou, Paul Thomas in collaboration with Kevin Raxworthy, Tissue Culture & Art Project (Oron Catts & Ionat Zurr)**



The works in the exhibition will present an array of approaches – from the humorous and playful to the deadly serious – from the way we think about the ‘origins’ of life, the scale and dimensions of living matter, to relationships with nourishment, death, fashion and appearance. Australia’s leading international artists in the field – Tissue Culture & Art Project – will exhibit mark II of their award winning *NoArk*, a bioreactor that houses a ‘chimerical blob’ or a ‘sub-life neo-organism’. What to call these semi-living cells is called to question, – how to think about them at all? BioHome will exhibit/perform *The Chromosome Knitting Project*, an event that blurs the distinction between home and laboratory, between expert and novice. Guy Ben-Ary & Tanja Visosevic have invented what they call the ‘bio-cinematic’ which presents ‘Bio-Art as a Freak Show’ with *The Living Screen*, whilst Donna Franklin & Gary Cass will display living cloth/skin in *Micro ‘be’ Fermented Fashion*. Nanoessense is a foray into nanotechnology by Paul Thomas and Kevin Raxworthy, whilst André Brodyk works with representation at a minuscule scale by developing his own strain of bacteria in the installation *Proto-animate*¹⁹. Niki Sperou is enamoured of the aesthetic and cultural poetics of vegetal micro bacterial chimera in *Man a Plant*; whilst still in the vegetal world but at a human-scale FOaM takes a political stance in their multi-nodal *groWorld*, initiating actions using the forces of design, permaculture and technology.

FOaM’s mantra is: ‘For more serendipity and cross-fertilisation – minimise borders and maximise edges!’



Images from top: André Brodyk, ‘John Doe’ *Proto-animate*¹⁹ Transgenic BL strain *Escherichia coli* bacteria (2008); Donna Franklin & Gary Cass, ‘Decay’ (detail) *Micro ‘be’ Fermented Fashion*. Photo by Bewley Shaylor (2008)



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SYMPOSIUM ~ Life, death & biotechnia

Wednesday 8th April. 10am – 5pm

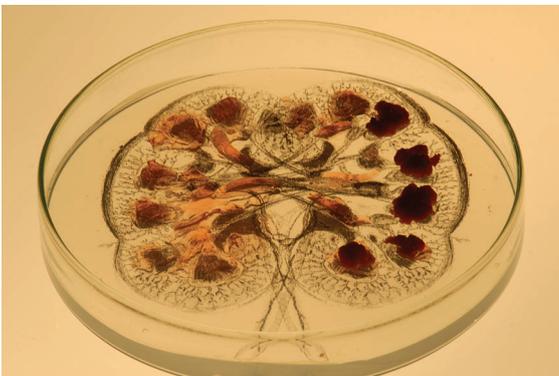
Venue: Mercury Cinema. Admission is free

CONVENORS **Melentie Pandilovski & Linda Cooper**

SPEAKERS **Marcello Costa FAA, Professor of Neurophysiology, Flinders University; Linda Cooper, Director of the Bragg Initiative in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet South Aust; Niki Sperou, Dr Catherine Fargher & Terumi Narushima, Oron Catts, Dr Paul Thomas, Tania Visosevic, Vicki Sowry, André Brodyk, Dr Trish Adams**

Life, death & biotechnia is a one-day symposium that brings together the artists & scientists participating in the *Biotech Art – Revisited* project, along with others involved in the discourses surrounding art/science collaborations. The speakers will present their most recent questions, understandings and misreadings relating to ethical relationships to partial life, the endless limitations and opportunities for artists and scientists to (mis)understand the others disciplines, challenges for all kinds of taxonomies, the methods and manners of the ubiquitous 'infiltration' of biotechnicity into everyday life. Bookings can be made by emailing info@eaf.asn.au. Include your name and those of any others attending with you.

→ more detail at eaf.asn.au/2009/biotech09-symposium.html



Images from top: Niki Sperou *Man a Plant*, giclee print (installation detail), Flinders Medical Centre. Glass, plant tissue culture, gel nutrient medium, drawing (2007); *BIOHOME: The Chromosome Knitting Project* by Catherine Fargher and Terumi Narushima. Video stills from live performance (2008)

WORKSHOP ~ Splice, dice, duplicate

Tuesday 14 – Friday 17 April

Applications close 12 March 5pm c.o.b

CONVENOR **Niki Sperou**

As a part of the *Biotech Art – Revisited* project the Experimental Art Foundation has organized a workshop titled *Vital micro-ecologies: splice, dice, duplicate*. The workshop – led by the South Australian biotech artist Niki Sperou and hosted by the Department of Medical Biotechnology at Flinders University – will serve as a theoretical and practical introduction to the creation of biotech art. Participation in the workshop is free. Applications are now invited from artists, curators, writers & others interested in participating. In an email addressed to info@eaf.asn.au with the subject line Biotech Art Workshop, tell us in no more than 200 words why you want to attend the workshop, what you hope to get from it etc. Attach a 1 page CV.

→ more detail at eaf.asn.au/2009/biotech09-workshop.html

For images or interviews contact eaf Program Office for design & publicity Teri Hoskin: info@eaf.asn.au or [08] 82117505

The EAF is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body, and by the South Australian Government through Arts SA. The EAF is also supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments. The EAF is a member of Contemporary Arts Organisations of Australia (CAOS).

