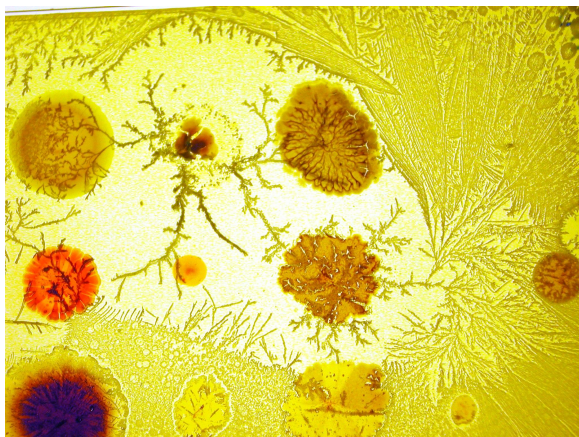


MENAGERIE OF MICROBES

Featuring work by Heather Barnett, Anna Dumitriu, ecoLogicStudio, Patrick Hickey, Simon Park, Sarah Roberts, Urban Morphogenesis Lab and the ASCUS Lab.



Crystallised Bacteria © Simon Park

The Laboratory Gallery, Summerhall, Edinburgh

Opening 19:00-21:00, 25th March 2016

26th March – 13th May 2016

Part of Edinburgh International Science Festival's *Bio and Beyond* 2016 visual arts programme
Co-curated by Edinburgh International Science Festival, Summerhall and ASCUS Art and Science

As we go about our daily business we are surrounded by vast colonies of microorganisms, thriving communities existing largely out of sight. They may be small, yet in terms of impact and numbers, they represent the predominate form of life on earth. *Menagerie of Microbes* brings together the work of artists, designers and scientists who share a passion for these complex organisms, which exist in and around us. Exploring the talents, behaviours and inherent beauty of bacteria, fungi and amoebae, the exhibition celebrates biological form and function, and explores the future microbial possibilities for design, ecology and health.

Combining works from different disciplinary perspectives, the exhibition also reveals different modes of creative inquiry - how we observe and interact with the natural world, and how we work with biological materials and systems in order to create, question or communicate. *Menagerie of Microbes* includes such delights as the experimental remains of bacterial warfare, artworks imbued with strains of Tuberculosis, explorations into biological communication, and designs for a new form of power station driven by slime mould.

Menagerie of Microbes is curated by Heather Barnett and James Howie (ASCUS Lab).

The exhibition is accompanied by a series of talks and workshops encouraging hands-on creative activity with microbial materials...

For full event info visit: www.sciencefestival.co.uk

For further details and/or images please email: Holly Knox Yeoman, Summerhall Exhibitions Programmer - holly@summerhall.co.uk, Summerhall, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL, T: 0131 560 1580

EVENTS

Opening Event, 25th March 2016, 19:30-20:00 (drop in)

For the opening of *Menagerie of Microbes* exhibition, the exhibitors will be on hand to talk about their work and demonstrate some elements.

Menagerie of Microbes Exhibitor Talk

Join the *Menagerie of Microbes* team of artists, designers and scientists for an hour of talks and discussion exploring the mechanisms, histories and future potential of simple yet complex life forms.

11.00-12.00, Saturday 26th March, Anatomy Lecture Theatre (free)

Menagerie of Microbes Workshop 1

The Romantic Disease: Infective Textiles Practical Bioart Workshop with Anna Dumitriu

1.00- 2.30, Saturday 26th March, ASCUS Lab

Menagerie of Microbes Workshop 2

Microgeography Field Study with Dr Simon Park

3.00- 4.30, Saturday 26th March, ASCUS Lab

Menagerie of Microbes Workshop 3

The Physarum Experiments: Creative Slime Mould with Heather Barnett and ecoLogicStudio

5.00- 6.30, Saturday 26th March, ASCUS Lab

Menagerie of Microbes Workshop 4

We love Lichens! with Sarah Roberts, Kristine Bogomazova and Frances Stoakley

2.00- 3.30, Sunday 27th March, ASCUS Lab

Menagerie of Microbes Workshop 5

Glow in the dark bugs: Bioluminescence (living light) explored with Dr. Patrick Hickey

2.00- 3.30, Tuesday 5th April, ASCUS Lab

NOTES TO EDITORS

Exhibitor Biographies: **Heather Barnett** is an interdisciplinary artist, researcher and educator interested in collective behaviour and living systems, often working in collaboration with scientists, artists, participants and organisms. **Anna Dumitriu** is a British artist whose work fuses craft, technology and bioscience to explore our relationship to the microbial world. **ecoLogicStudio** is an architectural and urban design studio co-founded in London by Claudia Pasquero and Marco Poletto, with a reputation for innovative 'systemic' design. **Dr Patrick Hickey** specialises in a diverse range of disciplines including biology, electronics and art, having developed pioneering techniques for microscopic time lapse imaging of fungal growth. **Dr Simon Park** has been involved in many innovative art and science microbiology projects and is a pioneer of Kitchen Microbiology. **Sarah Roberts** is a visual artist with a practice centred around using pigments suspended in watery fluids to make sense of the world. The **Urban Morphogenesis Lab** (The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London) engages urban design as a computational practice to prefigure alternative models of the city. The **ASCUS Lab** is the UK's largest publicly accessible laboratory for experimentation in art and science, and it's based at Summerhall in Edinburgh.

For further details on the programme: www.sciencefestival.co.uk/event-details/bio-and-beyond and www.summerhall.co.uk

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