



New Media – Microbiology and Art Workshop

This document was written to guide you during the NEW MEDIA – MICROBIOLOGY AND ART WORKSHOP, aiming to provide resources for you to further and explore multiple possibilities driven by the relationship between art and biology, in a DIY context.

Alongside this document you will find 4 activity video files (hyperlinked to each one of the activities).

Each one approach a different experiment, with different materials and procedures, that are complemented by a list of materials, readings (websites or open access download documents) and questions, that intend to introduce a conversation about the theoretical, artistic and ethical issues that can arise from the from artistic practices that use the biological sciences as a medium.

DECOMPOSITION ACTIVITY



Materials

Glass Flask with lid

Soil

Fruit/ Vegetable peels

Water

Readings

Barbosa, Catarina; Silveira, Célia M.; Silva, Diogo; Brissos, Vânia; Hildebrandt, Peter; Martins, Lígia O.; Todorovic, Smilja. [“Immobilized dye-decolorizing peroxidase \(DyP\) and directed evolution variants for hydrogen peroxide biosensing”](#) Biosensors and Bioelectronics 153, 112055

[Decon](#) by Marta de Menezes

[Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica António Xavier](#)

Nicholson, Daniel J. and Dupre, John. [“Everything Flows Towards a Processual Philosophy of Biology”](#). Oxford University Press

Ask yourself

While performing the activity and having in mind some of the readings, let your mind wonder on the implications and crossings of meaning for the hands-on experience. Wait and observe the results. What does it mean to have life and death as a cycle? What does remediation mean in such a context? Must live always come from decomposition?

WHAT ARE WE? (INSIDE OUT) ACTIVITY



Materials

Gelatin powder or Agar-agar

Functional Portraits color printed file

Scissors

Cucumber or courgette or eggplant

Glass flask with lid

Bowl

Whisker or a fork

Readings

[Functional Portraits](#) by Marta de Menezes

[Hybrid Bodies](#) by Andrew Carnie

Sperber, Dan. [“Anthropology and psychology: towards an epidemiology of representations”](#). C. N. R. S. & Université de Paris.

Ask yourself

While performing the activity and having in mind some of the readings, let your mind wonder on the implications and crossings of meaning for the hands-on experience. Wait and observe the results. What does it mean to have layered views of our body become visible? How does the inside structure the outside? What are we made of, metaphorically and literally?

WHAT ARE WE? (MICROBIOME) ACTIVITY



Materials

Plastic Wrap
Gelatin Powder or Agar-agar
Vegetable Broth
Glass plate
Bowl
Whisker or a fork

Readings

[The origin of species/Post Evolution - Drosophila+Wolbakia](#) by Marta de Menezes and María Antonia González Valerio

[The Hypersymbiont dress](#) by Anna Dumitriu

Kathy High in "[Tactical Biopolitics: Art, Activism and Technoscience](#)", edited by Beatriz da Costa and Kavita Philips, MIT Press, Boston, MA, 2008.

Anna Dumitriu in [Microbiologist Magazine](#) Controlled Commodities: An Artists Obsession with Microbiology, Vol 18, No. 2, (UK), June 2017.

Ferreira ÁG, Naylor H, Esteves SS, Pais IS, Martins NE, Teixeira L (2014) [The Toll-Dorsal Pathway Is Required for Resistance to Viral Oral Infection in Drosophila](#). PLoS Pathog 10(12): e1004507.

Ask yourself

While performing the activity and having in mind some of the readings, let your mind wonder on the implications and crossings of meaning for the hands-on experience. Wait

and observe the results. What does it mean to be more than one species? How does the co-existence change your sense of self? What makes us, US?

WHAT ARE WE? (ROCKS) ACTIVITY



Materials

Container

Toothpick

Readings

[Proteic Portrait](#) by Marta de Menezes

[HUMANFUEL](#) by Hege Tapio

[Black Gold](#) by Mark Lipton, Hege Tapio & Marta de Menezes

[Salt Mine](#) by Tarah Rhoda

[Fern](#) by Renata Rosado

Ask yourself

While performing the activity and having in mind some of the readings, let your mind wonder on the implications and crossings of meaning for the hands-on experience. Wait and observe the results. What does it mean to be reduced to an inanimate object? How do we understand our mineral selves? Can this be looked at as a reductionist perspective?

