

ALEXANDRA  
DAISY  
GINSBERG

M15, Somerset House Studios  
Somerset House, Strand  
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## Biography

Born in 1982  
Lives and works in London, UK

## Education

- 2013-2017 PhD, Design Interactions, Royal College of Art, London, UK  
'Better: Navigating Imaginaries in Design and Synthetic Biology to Question "Better"'
- 2007-2009 MA, Design Interactions, Royal College of Art, London, UK
- 2005-2006 Special Student, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA
- 2001-2004 MA (Cantab), Architecture, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 'Pollinator Commission', Eden Project, Boldeva, UK (forthcoming)
- 2019 'Better Nature', Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Netherlands  
'Resurrecting the Sublime', Biennale Internationale Design Saint-Étienne, Saint-Étienne, France

## Group exhibitions

- 2021 'Beyond Reality – Biennale Némó', Centquatre-Paris, Paris, France  
'Kinderbiennale – Embracing Nature', Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Dresden, Germany  
'Nothing Makes Itself', Arko Art Center, Seoul, South Korea  
'You and AI: Through the Algorithmic Lens', Onassis Stegi, Athens, Greece  
'UnNatural History', Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry, UK  
'How Will We Live Together?', Venice Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy  
'The Normal', Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK  
'Interspecies Futures', Centre for Book Arts, New York, USA  
'Moving to Mars', Tekniska Museet, Stockholm, Sweden  
'Nature of Robotics: An Expanded Field', EPFL ArtLab, Lausanne, Switzerland

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'AI: More than Human', World Museum, Liverpool, UK

- 2020
- 'Hypertopia', State Studio, Berlin, Germany
  - 'Victor Papanek: The Politics of Design', Design Museum Den Bosch, Den Bosch, Netherlands
  - 'Starts Prize '20: Speculating on the Future through Art and Science', IMAL/Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
  - 'Cyberarts 2020 - Prix Ars Electronica Exhibition', Offenes Kulturhaus, Linz, Austria
  - 'And Say the Animal Responded?', FACT, Liverpool, UK
  - 'What If... On Utopia in Art, Architecture and Design', Neues Museum, Nürnberg, Germany
  - 'Victor Papanek: The Politics of Design', C-Mine, Genk, Belgium
  - 'Survival of the Fittest', Kunstpalais, Erlangen, Germany
  - 'Apocalypse - End Without End', Natural History Museum, Bern, Switzerland
  - 'Radical Botany', Eden Project, Boldeva, UK
  - 'Design + Science', Esther Klein Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- 2019
- 'AI: More than Human', Groningen Forum, Groningen, Netherlands
  - 'Polarities: Psychology and Politics of Being Ecological', MU, Eindhoven, Netherlands
  - 'Eco-Visionaries', Royal Academy, London, UK
  - 'Tentacular', Matadero, Madrid, Spain
  - '24/7', Somerset House, London, UK
  - 'Victor Papanek: The Politics of Design', Museu del Disseny de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
  - 'Designs for Different Futures', Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA, USA
  - 'Moving to Mars', Design Museum, London, UK
  - 'Design + Science', University Gallery, University of East Michigan, Ypsilanti, MI, USA
  - 'OK CyberArts 2019 - Prix Ars Electronica Exhibition', Offenes Kulturhaus, Linz, Austria
  - 'Being Human', Wellcome Collection, London, UK
  - 'Eco-Visionaries: Art for a Planet in a State of Emergency', Matadero, Madrid, Spain
  - 'MAK Design Lab', MAK Museum, Vienna, Austria
  - 'AI: More Than Human', Barbican Art Centre, London, UK
  - 'Nature - Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial', Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York, USA
  - 'Nature - Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial', Cube Design Museum, Kerkrade, Netherlands
  - 'Broken Nature: Design Takes on Human Survival', The XXII Triennale di

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- Milano, Milan, Italy  
'La Fabrique du Vivant', Centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
'Black Box', Institute of Genetic Medecine, Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK
- 2018 'HyperPrometheus', Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Perth, Australia  
'Victor Papanek: The Politics of Design', Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany  
'Eco-Visionaries', MAAT, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2017 '7th Moscow International Biennale of Contemporary Art', New Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia  
'4IR Bio Lab', World Economic Forum: Annual Meeting of the New Champions, Dalian, China  
'Splice: Re\_examining nature', Oulu Art Museum, Oulu, Finland
- 2016 'Top Cienca Syn Bio', CosmoCaixa, Barcelona, Spain  
'Beauty, Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial', San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA, USA  
'Manufactuur 3.0', Z33, Hasselt, Belgium  
'The Life Fair', Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam, Netherlands  
'Beauty, Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial', Cooper Hewitt Museum, New York City, USA
- 2015 'Globale: Exo-Evolution', ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany  
'Przemiany Festival', Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw, Poland  
'What Design Can Do', Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
'Designs of the Year 2015', Design Museum, London, UK  
'Envelope', Peninsula Arts Gallery, Plymouth University, Plymouth, UK
- 2014 'The Future Is Not What It Used To Be', Istanbul Design Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey  
'MINI Space Festival', BMW World, Munich, Germany  
'Sense Nonsense', Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands  
'360 IV International Festival of Contemporary Scientific Cinema', Polytechnic Museum, Moscow, Russia  
'Brave Fixed World', Lodz Design Festival, Lodz, Poland  
'Dezeen and MINI Frontiers', Design Junction, London, UK
- 2013 'Grow Your Own...', Science Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
'Bunny Smash: Design to Touch the World', Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan  
'Biodesign', Netherlands Architecture Institute, Rotterdam, Netherlands

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- 'eConsciousness', The Central House of Artists, Moscow, Russia  
'New Atlantis', KM Temporaer, Berlin, Germany  
'Project Genesis', Ars Electronica, Linz, Austria
- 'En Vie/Alive: New Design Frontiers', Espace Fondation EDF, Paris, France  
'Of a Technical Nature', AMOA-Arthouse, The Jones Center, Austin, TX, USA  
'Abstrakte Welten Realisieren', LEAP, Transmediale & CTM Festival, Berlin, Germany
- 2012 'Cartographies of Hope: Change Narrative', DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Prague, Czech Republic  
'Material Matters: Future Furniture Fair', Droog Lab, Dutch Design Week, Eindhoven, Netherlands  
'The 37th Krakow Theatrical Reminiscences Festival', Krakow, Poland  
'Creatures of the Future Garden', Spetrum, Perth, Australia  
'Micro Impact', Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2011 'Curious Minds: New Approaches in Design', The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel  
'Long Short', The Long Short Now Foundation, San Francisco, CA, USA  
'Design Faction', Lodz Design Festival, Lodz, Poland  
'Imagine Science Film Festival', The Bell House, New York, USA  
'What If?', Beijing International Design Triennial, National Museum of China, Beijing, China  
'Q.E.D: Quod Erat Demonstrandum', LJMU Art & Design Academy, Liverpool, UK  
'INDEX Awards', Copenhagen Design Week, Copenhagen, Denmark  
'Talk to Me', Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA  
'Variable Future', Bòlit Contemporary Art Centre, Girona, Spain  
'Bio: Fiction Science, Art & Film Festival', Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria  
'Life 2.0: Artifice to Synthesis', Science Exchange, Royal Institute of Australia, Adelaide, Australia  
'Becoming TransNatural', Trouw, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
'Brit Insurance Designs of the Year', Design Museum, London, UK
- 2010 'Hyperlinks: Architecture & Design', The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA  
'Haip 10/ New Nature Festival', Kiberpipa, Ljubljana, Slovenia  
'Alter Nature: We Can', Z33, Hasselt, Belgium  
'Demain C'est Aujourd'hui', Biennale Internationale Design Saint-Étienne, Saint-Étienne, France  
'Nano Supermarket by Next Nature', Dutch Design Week, Eindhoven, Netherlands

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- 'Museum of the Future', Ars Electronica Center, Linz, Austria  
'Repair', Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Austria  
'They Go Round and Round', 0047, Oslo, Norway  
'The Art and Science of Systems Biology', Santa Fe Complex, Santa Fe, USA  
'Wellcome Trust Windows', Wellcome Trust HQ, London, UK
- 2009 'What If?', Science Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
'Sustain', Royall College of Art (online), London, UK  
'Royal College of Art Show 2009', Royal College of Art, London, UK  
'Boom! Work in Progress Show', Royal College of Art, London, UK
- 2008 'Designing Debate: Biomedical Futures' Royal College of Art, London, UK  
'BioSysBio Showcase', Imperial College, London, UK  
'The Revolution is Set: Bring it to the Table', Spring Gallery, New York, USA  
'Design Interations Work in Progress Show', Royal College of Art, London, UK
- 2006 'Touching the City', Westbourne Grove Church Art Space, London, UK  
'City Animation', Harvard University Film Archive, Bristol, UK; Cambridge, USA  
'Antimaps Animation', Harvard University, Ann Arbor, USA; Bristol, UK; Cambridge, USA  
'Compendium: The Work of the University of Cambridge Department of Architecture', RIBA, London, UK

### **Residencies, Fellowships, Commissions, Projects**

- 2021 Commission, The Eden Project, Cornwall, UK
- 2019 Commission, Somerset House & A/D/O, London, UK  
Commission, Vitra Design Museum & Design Museum, London, UK  
Commission, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum and Cube Design Museum, New York, USA
- 2018 Residency, Somerset House Studios, London, UK (ongoing)  
Guest Co-Editor, Journal of Design and Science, MIT Press, Cambridge, USA
- 2017 Commission, Engineering Life, University of Edinburgh, UK
- 2014 Commission, Dezeen and MINI Frontiers, London, UK  
Commission, SynbiCITE, Imperial College, London, UK

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Programme Curator, 'V&A Late: Synthetic Aesthetics', Victoria & Albert  
Museum, London, UK

2013 Lead Curator, 'Grow Your Own... Life After Nature', Science Gallery, Dublin,  
Ireland

Commission, Science Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

Commission, EDF Foundation, Paris, France

2010 Design Fellow, Synthetic Aesthetics, Stanford University, USA, University of  
Edinburgh, UK (until 2013)

Visiting Fellow, ESRC Genomics Forum, University of Edinburgh, UK

Workshop Curator & Co-Leader, Synthesis, Arts Catalyst, UCL, University of  
Edinburgh, Wellcome Trust Award, London, UK

Visiting Tutor, ArtScience Bangalore iGEM Team, Srishti College of Art &  
Design, Bangalore, India

2009 Design Advisor, University of Cambridge iGEM Team, Cambridge, UK (until  
2010)

Residency, SymbioticA, School of Anatomy and Human Biology, University of  
Western Australia, Perth, Australia

Co-founder, AlterFutures, London, UK

Co-organiser, The Long Now London, London, UK

2005 Architectural Assistant, Architecture + Urbanism Unit, Greater London  
Authority, London, UK

### **Awards & Nominations**

2020 CyberArts 2020 – Interactive Art + (Honorary Mention), Prix Ars  
Electronica, Linz, Austria

2019 Changemaker Award, Dezeen Awards, London, UK

The Rapoport Award for Women in Art & Tech, The Lumen Prize, London, UK  
Artificial Intelligence and Life Art (Honorary Mention), Prix Ars Electronica,  
Linz, Austria

2018 COAL Art and Environment Prize (Finalist), Paris, France

Hublot Design Prize (Nomination), London, UK

2015 Designs of the Year (Nomination), Design Museum, London, UK

World Technology Award - Design, New York, USA

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- 2014 Ones to Watch, Financial Times, London, UK
- 2013 Rector's Award, PhD Scholarship, Royal College of Art, London, UK  
The Select Ten, Metropolis Magazine, New York, USA  
Future 50, Icon Magazine, London, UK
- 2012 Emerging Talent, London Design Medal, London, UK
- 2011 Design, World Technology Awards, New York, USA  
Best Documentary, Bio:Fiction Science, Art & Film Festival, Vienna, Austria  
Index: Design to Improve Life Awards (Finalist), Copenhagen, Denmark  
Brit Insurance Designs of the Year Award (Nomination), Design Museum, London, UK  
20 Designers who will influence design in the next decade, Domus Magazine, Milan, Italy  
EPSRC Knowledge Transfer Award, University of Southampton, UK
- 2010 VIDA Art & Artificial Life International Awards 12.0 (Special Mention), Spain  
FutureEverything Award (Nomination), Manchester, UK
- 2009 Australian Bicentennial Fellowship for Research at SymbioticA, University of Western Australia, Kings College, London, UK
- 2005 Herchel Smith Scholarship to Harvard University, Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge, UK
- 2004 Purcell Miller Tritton Prize, University of Cambridge, UK  
RIBA President's Medal Awards (Nomination), London, UK

### **Selected Publications**

Ginsberg, A. D., 2021. 'Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg', in 140 Artists' Ideas for Planet Earth, ed. Hans Ulrich Hobrist and Kostas Stasinopoulos. London: Penguin.

Ginsberg, A.D., 2020. "Resurrecting the Sublime", in Nature Remade: Engineering Life, Envisioning Worlds, ed. Luis A. Campos et al. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Ginsberg, A.D. and Pestana, M., 2019. "Interview", in Eco-Visionaries: Confronting a planet in a state of emergency', ed. Gonzalo Herrero Delicado and Rosa Thompson. London: Royal Academy of Arts.

Ginsberg, A.D., 2019. In Search of Better Worlds. Urban-X Zine: 03: Better.

Ginsberg, A.D., 2019. "The Wilding of Mars", in Moving to Mars: Design for the Red Planet [Exhibition catalogue]. London: Design Museum.

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Ginsberg, A.D., 2019. Better Nature [Exhibition catalogue]. Weil am Rhein: Vitra Design Museum.

Ginsberg, A.D., 2019. "Naturing/Renaturing", in Nature: Collaborations in Design, ed. Andrea Lipps et al. New York: Cooper Hewitt Design Museum.

Ginsberg, A.D., 2019. "Critical Imaginaries", in Studio Time: Future Thinking in Art and Design, ed. Jan Boelen et al. Hasselt: Z33.

Ginsberg, A.D., 2019. "Better Nature", in Broken Nature, ed. Paola Antonelli and Ala Tannir. Verona: Elcograf S.p.A.

Ginsberg, A.D., 2018-19. Other Biological Futures. Journal of Design and Science (Issue 4).

Ginsberg, A.D. and Chieza, N.A, 2018. Editorial. Journal of Design and Science (4).

Ginsberg, A.D., 2018. "Reading the Small Print", in The Future Starts Here, ed. Rory Hyde et al. London: Victoria and Albert Museum.

Ginsberg, A.D., 2014. Robocrop. Icon Magazine (October).

Ginsberg, A.D., 2015. Synthetic biology could use some questions from humans. WIRED, UK (February).

Ginsberg, A.D., et al., 2014. Synthetic Aesthetics: Investigating Synthetic Biology's Designs on Nature. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Ginsberg, A.D. et al., 2013. Grow Your Own... Life After Nature. Dublin: Science Gallery.

Ginsberg, A.D., 2013. The Prefuture of Synthetic Biology. Volume (35).

Ginsberg, A.D., 2012. Sensation: Editorial Overview. Current Opinion in Chemical Biology, Vol. 16 (5-6).

Ginsberg, A.D., 2012. Molecular Gastronomy of the Future. DAMn Magazine (35).

Ginsberg, A.D., 2011. Designs on Nature. RSA Journal (Winter).

Ginsberg, A.D., 2011. The Irrational Genome Design Contest. Thresholds (38).

Ginsberg, A.D., 2010. The Biological Turk, in The Last Newspaper. New York: New Museum.

Ginsberg, A.D., 2010. To Form and Multiply. Design Indaba, Q2 (2010).

Ginsberg, A.D., & Catts, O., 2010. The Well-Oiled Machine. Icon Magazine, (February).

Ginsberg, A.D., 2009. Building New Life Forms at the iGEM Jamboree. WIRED UK (online).

### **Selected Talks**

- 2021 'Cross-Challenge: Caring Co-Existence', Academy of Fine Arts, Munich, Germany  
'Art & Nature', Art Fund, London, UK



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- 'Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg: On Media and Extinction Viewfinder: Women's',  
Smithsonian, Washington DC, USA
- 'We Need to Talk About Extinction', Natural History Museum, London, UK
- 'Cultivating Common Ground – Art and Botany from Tucson to Jerusalem',  
the VOV, London, UK
- 'Of Public Interest', Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm, Sweden
- 'Rewilding the Future', Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh,  
Edinburgh, UK
- 'Back to Earth', Serpentine Gallery, London, UK
- 'Paola Antonelli interviews Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg on Designing for  
Nature', Design Emergency
- 2020 'Hypertopia: Digital Field Trip', State Studio, Berlin, Germany
- 'Science and the Arts Winners Q&A', Falling Walls, Berlin, Germany
- 'Creative Questions Challenge: Ecology – Technology', Ars Electronica  
Festival, Linz, Austria
- '#FindingBeauty in Quarantine Times: Conversation with Ben Vickers and  
Jakob Kudsk Steensen', Yound Global Leaders, World Economic Forum
- 'Eco-Visionaries Symposium', Royal Academy, London, UK
- 2019 'Conversation: COP25 as Fieldwork', Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza,  
Madrid, Spain
- 'Dezeen Day', BFI Southbank, London, UK
- 'Dean's Lecture Series', GSAPP, Columbia University, New York, USA
- 'Artist's Talk, Better Nature', Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany
- 'Forum Vertigo', Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 'Terrains D'Entente', Biennale Design Internationale, Saint-Étienne, France
- 2018 'Keynote, Minds100', Swiss Innovation Forum, Basel, Switzerland
- 'V&A Future Series: Design For Change', V&A Museum, London, UK
- 'Perspective Tour with Dr Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg', Wellcome Collection,  
London, UK
- 'History of Biology Seminar: A Century of Engineering Life: Populations and  
Ecosystems', Marine Biology Laboratory, Wood's Hole, MA, USA
- 'Better', Architectural Association, London, UK
- 'Zooetics', MIT Art, Culture and Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA
- 'Panel: Artificial Life: Could We, Should We, Will We?', Science Museum,  
London, UK
- 'Speculative Futures', Parsons School of Design, New York, USA
- 'Symposium: The Risk Society', Design Museum, London, UK
- 2017 'The New Yorker Tech Fest', Cedar Lake, New York, USA
- 'The John W. Kluge Center Astrobiology Symposium', Library of Congress,

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- Washington DC, USA  
'Papenek Symposium: Design and Ethics', Austrian Embassy, London, UK  
'SB7.0, The Seventh International meeting on Synthetic Biology', National University of Singapore, Singapore  
'Criteria, Critical Design Conference', Beirut Design Week, Beirut, Lebanon  
'The Science of Design and Biology in Robotics', Royal Institution, London, UK  
'Design & Politics Seminar Series: The Dream of Better', University of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria
- 2016 'Imagination for the Future, Global Design Forum', Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
'DLD 16: Design and the Life Sciences', Munich, Germany
- 2015 'What Design Can Do São Paulo', FAAP, São Paulo, Brazil  
'British Council Design Connections 10 x 10', Somerset House, London, UK  
'Future Luxury Symposium: Future Materials', Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
'Knotty Objects MIT Media Lab Summit', MIT, Boston, USA  
'Tomorrow Today: Design Fiction and Social Responsibility', ICA, London, UK  
'Strelka: Future Settlements', Strelka Institute, Moscow, Russia
- 2014 'Synthetic Aesthetics: New Frontiers in Contemporary Design', Museum of Modern Art, New York City, USA  
'In Conversation: AHRC Arts and Science Workshop, UCL, London, UK  
'Longitude Prize Lounge', Science Museum, London, UK  
'V&A Late: Synthetic Aesthetic', Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK  
'National Affairs Series', Iowa State University, Ames, IA, USA
- 2013 'Science Meets Design – Technology Strategy Board', Design Museum/Science Museum, London, UK  
'Grow Your Own...Curators Talk', Science Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
'Improving Reality', Lighthouse, Brighton, UK  
'SB6.0: The Sixth International Meeting on Synthetic Biology', Imperial College, London, UK  
'ArtScience Prize UK', Wellcome Trust HQ, London, UK  
'Synthetic Biology & Aesthetics', Thematic Research School, Nice, France  
'Global Challenges Summit', The Royal Academy of Engineering, U.S. National Academy of Engineering & Chinese Academy of Engineering, The Institution of Engineering and Technology, London, UK  
'Design Indaba Conference 2013', Cape Town, South Africa

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- 2012 'Chemistry for Tomorrow's World 2012', Royal Society of Chemistry, London, UK  
'Picnic: Design Column #1 Micro Impact', Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
'London Design Medal Winners Talk', London, UK  
'Alterfutures: Alternative Future Scenarios Southern Africa: 1964 – 2050', Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, UK  
'Six Academies Symposia: Synthetic Biology for the Next Generation', National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC, USA  
'Designing Geopolitics 2', The Center for Design and Geopolitics, University of California, San Diego, CA, USA
- 2011 'The Battle of Ideas', Royal College of Art, London, UK  
TEDGlobal, Edinburgh, UK  
'Interacting with Society', Stanford University, Stanford, USA  
'Science and the Future – The Future of Life', Oxford Literary Festival, Oxford, UK
- 2010 'Synthetic Aesthetics Seminar', MIT Media Lab, Cambridge, USA  
'Field Reports on Design and Synthetic Biology, Part 2', Columbia School of Architecture, New York, USA  
'Tsinghua University Art Science Media Lab Symposium', Tsinghua University, Beijing, China  
'Man Made Nature', Natural History Museum, London, UK
- 2009 'Super Human: Revolution of the Species', Melbourne, Australia  
'Plant Energy Biology Centre' and 'Art & Life Manipulation Course', University of Western Australia, Crawley, Australia  
'Near Future Laboratory', Los Angeles, USA
- 2008 'SymbioticA Biotech & Art Workshop', Sandnes Science Museum, Norway

### **Collections**

Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York, USA  
Fiorucci Art Foundation, London, UK  
Ginkgo Bioworks, Boston, MA, USA  
Museo Delle Scienze, Trento, Italy  
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA  
ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany