

Hybrid Labs Symposium
31 May 2018, 11.00–13.00

Hybrid Storytelling, Performance, Intangible

Otakeari 1X, room A2, 2nd Floor

Session chair: **Mamdooh Afdile**

Ellen Pearlman:

The World's First Co-Lab On Developing Cyborg Arts – Interdisciplinary Collaboration Using Art-A- Hack™ Practice Methodology

This paper outlines methods of creative collaborations based on the practices of Art-A- Hack™, which privileges art, or creative speculation and process over the hack, or technical exactitude, in order to create something new. It has been deployed for over four years through a series of open calls and sponsorships, and over the span of one month has managed participation of up to fifty people split into nine teams. Its underpinnings derive from Bruno Latour's Actor Network Theory (Latour 2005) on how to facilitate and manage creative collaboration solutions. It describes this how this methodology was used in the world's first co-lab in Cyborg Art, conducted in 2017 at Parsons/New School University in New York City, and repeated at Cyberfest 2018 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Keywords: cyborg, cyborg arts, co-lab, cybernetics, practice based, actor network theory, creative group dynamics

Ulla Taipale:

To the Other Side – A Walk with Bees and Angels

Contemporary honeybee makes headlines. Her economic value is immeasurable, and the connections to the world food system are evident. The cultural or academic value of the bee is not so apparent, even though this social insect has inspired philosophical thought during many centuries and in various cultures. Many similarities are seen in the fate and destiny of humans and bees. In Antiquity they situated between the wild and the civilised, order and chaos.

Keeping, observation and study of the *Apis Mellifera* has happened in natural, rural and urban environments and remarkable non-scientific thinkers have been interested in her genius and extraordinary capacities. Since always, she has been associated with immortality and with psychic skills to communicate between universes.

The Other Side is a site-specific artwork, based in artistic research and exhibited in the historical cemetery of Poblenou in Barcelona. Seven angel sculptures are paired with fragments from literary works, selected to illustrate the role played by the bee in the words written by great thinkers over the course of history. The text fragments can be listened by using augmented reality application at visitors smart device.

The research and the artwork are inspired by a science fiction novel *Blood of Angels* (2011) by Johanna Sinisalo. A family tragedy and the decline of the bees intertwine in the novel in a fascinating manner, offering a great amount of knowledge of bees by telling a story, in which the protagonist is able to shift between two parallel worlds assisted by a dead queen bee.

While the tendency of our society is to categorise honeybee as a production animal and highlight solely the utilitarian values of these insects, many authors express in their writings the philosophically and spiritually rich connotations of Bee Life.

The following paper takes a peek into bees in the occidental literature from Aristotle until today, and guides the audience for an augmented audio walk with Bees and Angels at the historical cemetery of Poblenou in Barcelona, Spain. The artwork will be exhibited in Barcelona until the end of 2018.

Keywords: honeybee, world literature, angels, hybrid storytelling, Melliferopolis

Maija Tammi:

Case study of science and art collaboration: Volunteer 4

The artistic presentation describes, shows and reflects on an ongoing collaboration between a professor of biology and a Doctor of Arts. The collaboration focuses on a never-aging, biologically immortal hydra (*chlorohydra viridissima* and *hydra littoralis*).

The presentation questions and reflects on the transformative process of scientific imagery into vessels of artistic meaning. It also describes the practical aspects and limits of combining science and art. The presentation looks at what kind of layers of meaning-making are essential when combining science and art, so that the outcome is not an advertisement for scientific practices or mere documentation but art.

The presentation includes photographs and videos.

Keywords: art and science collaboration, art photography, scientific imaging
