

[micro]biologies II: πρωτεο / proteo - Joanna Hoffmann

Opening: 23 January, 2015, 7PM

Press Preview: 23 January, 6PM

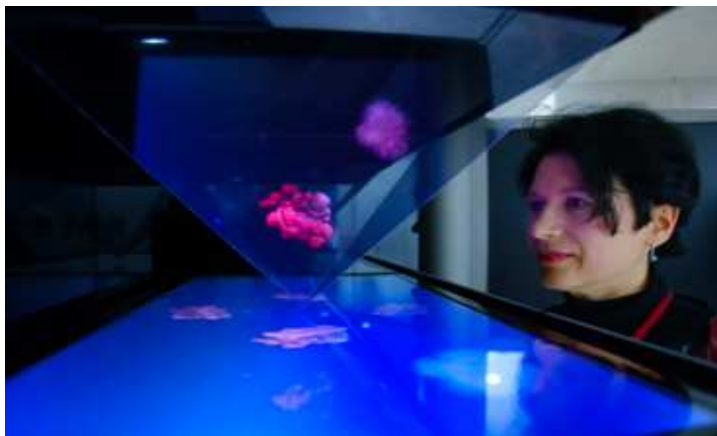
Exhibition runs: 24 January – 29 March 2015

Opening hours: Fri-Sun, 2-6PM and by appointment

Curators' talk: 1 March 2015, 3 pm

Artist Talk: 29 March 2015, 3 pm

Curators: Christian de Lutz & Regine Rapp



The non-commercial project space Art Laboratory Berlin is currently showing of *[macro]biologies & [micro]biologies*, a series of exhibitions accompanied by a programme of talks with artists, scientists and scholars. The series moves from vast to minute: from the biosphere and landscape - systems, structures, creation and devastation in *[macro]biologies I: the biosphere* to the level of non-human, multi-cellular 'being' in *[macro]biologies II: organisms* and also explores micro-organisms in the exhibition *[micro]biologies I: the bacterial sublime*.

[micro]biologies II: πρωτεο / proteo with works by **Joanna Hoffmann** will be the fourth and final exhibition of this series exploring the minute biomolecules that form a basis for the phenomena of life.

Joanna Hoffmann, a renowned Polish artist based in Berlin, has thrice been awarded the artist stipend of the Polish Minister of Culture and in 2007 won the 1st prize in the Polish competition organized by Europlanet and Polish Academy of Sciences. She has been Professor (Dr.hab) of the University of Arts in Poznan since 2009, as well as head of the Studio for Transdisciplinary Projects and Research: Art, Science & Technology, and is Chair of Art & Science Node in Berlin.

Joanna Hoffmann's transdisciplinary works combine art, microbiology, physics and technology. Her use of multimedia installations, 3d stereoscopy, experimental video animation and other media explore the visualization of sub-atomic and molecular as well as cosmic space. Her work relates to advanced scientific research on the phenomenon of life and to the interplay between scientific and cultural, sensual and illusive, digital and biological, natural and synthetic.

[micro]biologies II: πρωτεο / proteo is intended as a laboratory of imagination. It brings together a few threads of artistic research being developed within the frame of the long-term

project „Hidden Topologies of Being” inspired by the atomic structure of protein molecules, named "basic bricks of life". Their complex geometries are in turn compared to Calabi-Yau spaces, in which, according to superstring theory, successive dimensions of our world are "curled up" at the subatomic level. If the scientific hypothesis about multi-dimensional nature of the world is true, then these hidden spaces are everywhere, in each "point" of the space outside as well as inside us.

As Joanna Hoffmann notes: *"proteins are associated mostly with cellular robots. For me however, as an 'assembly of proteins' (using David Deamler's term), a protein molecule became a key to explore relations between micro and macro scales of my existence. (...) One day, maybe, our brain will be able to perceive how we exist in the multidimensional universe. For the time being, we have only our imagination in command and enormous diversity of protein globules, each of them suggesting, in another scale, a blister of some world."*

The exhibition space at Art Laboratory Berlin will be transformed into a multimedia installation. The central part of the exhibition will be the work *πρωτεο / Proteo*, whose title refers to Greek root of the name protein (Gr. πρωτεῖος *the first, in the lead*) as well as to the philosophical tradition of searching for *arche* – the essence of the physical world (Anaximander) and the principle of knowledge (Aristotle). "*πρωτεο / Proteo* is an animation in which a cloud of particles creates a mini-universe folded in the form of Calabi-Yau space. It gives birth to a convoluted protein molecule and its dynamic molecular 'dance of life', in a poetic way brings to mind a question about the relations between the energy, matter and form. The animation creates an effect of a hologram inside a transparent pyramid. It is a kind of virtual incubator, in which the process continues to develop and repeat itself.

By using technologies as diverse as Pepper's ghost (a forerunner of holography) and 3D video, Hoffmann's work presents the viewer with a set of structures for scientific, philosophical, and aesthetic wonder and analysis. Merging interpretations of scientific data, image, sound and poetry, *πρωτεο / Proteo* poses questions about the challenges and boundaries of our cognition, creating an emotional bridge between our daily experiences and the abstractness of contemporary science.

For this exhibition Joanna Hoffmann will be working in collaboration with sound artist and composer Andre Bartetzki.

Press: Olga Shmakova

Part of the 2015 Vorspiel programme of the transmediale and CTM

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