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## BioCamp: Gardens as ‘Biotechnik’

Organized by The Japan Foundation Asia Center & TodaysArt JAPAN/AACTOKYO

Produced by BioClub

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The Japan Foundation Asia Center and TodaysArt JAPAN/AACTOKYO will organize the open-call workshop “BioCamp: Gardens as Biotechnik,” bringing together participants from Japan and all over the world on the theme of art, biotechnology and culture. The workshop will examine biotechnology that is strongly related to human ecology and social lifestyle, interpreting them critically and then applying them actively and creatively. Georg Tremmel and Chiaki Ishizuka from the Tokyo-based BioClub will act as program directors. The workshop will feature a wide range of guests such as leading BioArt practitioners and researchers alongside participants from Asia and the rest of the world. In this way, the workshop will lay the foundations for an international network of communities and biology laboratories engaged in do-it-yourself biology (DIY bio), a practice that is now unfolding across the globe.

Biotechnology is today regarded as a field with immense potential to impact our lives, and research into how its technology can be developed and applied is advancing rapidly. At the same time, alongside the increasing simplification and reduction in cost of laboratory equipment and genetic testing, we can also see the spread of DIY bio (sometimes called biohacking) in workshops and biology labs among individuals and community groups. Moreover, in the creative fields of art and design, a variety of endeavors are reinterpreting and critically examining biotechnology and how it relates to our lives as well as its legal and moral implications.

The workshop will bring together artists, researchers, hackers, designers, theorists, and DIY bio practitioners from around the world to consider the future social environments that will encompass biotechnology. The theme “Gardens of Biotechnik” refers to the idea of gardens, gardening, the cultivation of nature, and the naturalization of culture, while also echoing Raoul France’s concept of “Biotechnik,” which can be seen as a precursor of contemporary bionics. France’s Biotechnik encompasses a wider, natural-philosophical understanding of the relationships between humans and nature.

Through an approximately one-week intensive curriculum, the workshop will encourage extensive exchange, dialogue and encounters as well as share understanding and issue awareness while searching for organic biotechnology design methods that can facilitate new ways of living.

## 1. Outline

Workshop Duration: February 10 (Sat) – 17 (Sat), 2018 (8 days)

Venue: Red Bull Studios Tokyo <http://www.redbullstudios.com/tokyo/>

BioLab Tokyo/FabCafe MTRL <https://mtrl.net/shibuya/en/>

Participation Fee: Free

Organized by the Japan Foundation Asia Center, TodaysArt JAPAN/AACTOKYO

Produced by BioClub, The Japan Foundation Asia Center, TodaysArt JAPAN/AACTOKYO

Supported by Austrian Cultural Forum Tokyo

Grants from Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), U.S.

Embassy, Tokyo

This event is part of MeCA | Media Culture in Asia: A Transnational Conference, which takes place in 2018 in Tokyo.

## 2. Participant Numbers

Capacity: 20

As part of its goals to advance platforms for sustained exchange and build new networks, the Japan Foundation Asia Center and the organizers supports the development of future cultural leaders in Southeast Asia and all over the world. (See “3. Subsidy and Support” on p.6.)

### Examples of Expected Participants:

- Artists, designers, architects, performers, programmers, etc.
- Scientists, engineers, ethics researchers
- Representatives from industries such as agriculture, forestry, biomass, urban greenery, medical care, etc.

## 3. Program Summary

### **Theme: Gardens of Biotechnik**

In the same way that a garden in Japan encompasses specific aspects of Japanese nature, climate, geography and aesthetics, a “garden” in other parts of the world such as English-speaking countries or Indonesia integrates the characteristics and functions reflecting their respective social and cultural backgrounds. This workshop encourages mutual understanding through the context of gardens in different regions, construing the garden as an interactive environment for mankind to encounter and associate with other life forms. When we regard the garden as something that designs organic relationships with space, landscape, environment, and the life forms arranged there, what kind of garden then becomes possible through biotechnology? Attending lectures related to arts and BioArt, participants will acquire fundamental techniques in

DIY lab equipment, bioink, CRISPR kits, and plant tissue cultures, and then use these to attempt new garden designs based on organic functionality.

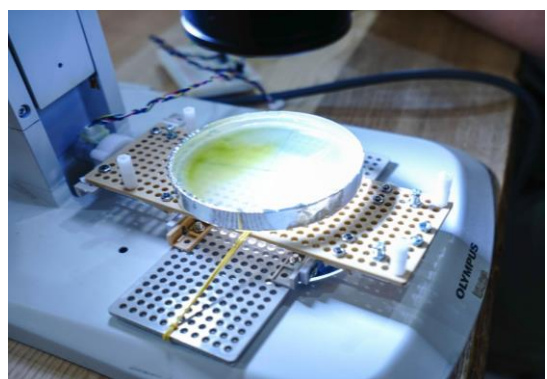
Examples of Activities:

- Lectures and workshops led by guest instructors
- Excursions and visits to specialist organizations and facilities
- Group work on the theme of gardens, producing texts, programs, raw data, and prototypes that use DIY hardware
- Presentations of work and review sessions

#### 4. Program Directors

##### BioClub

BioClub is an open bio lab and community platform for practicing and discussing the societal implications of biotechnology. It was initiated by Georg Tremmel and launched in March 2016 in partnership with Loftwork Inc. BioClub is co-located with FabCafe Tokyo, taking advantage of the crossover between digital fabrication and biotechnology. Alongside holding regular events such as talks and workshops, BioClub provides opportunities to interact with biology and biotechnology for a wide range of individuals and organizations, including researchers, creatives, corporations, and anyone interested in the challenges of biotechnology. It has also established an experimentation and research bio lab that meets the standards of biosafety level of P1, allowing it to engage in genetic recombination projects. It functions as a hub for activities with the potential to affect society, including hosting biotech start-ups conducting research into incurable diseases and BioArt exhibits where artists recombine genes. Bringing together specialists and leading figures from a range of fields, BioClub is a space for deepening the debate about biosafety measures, ethics, and the importance of interdisciplinary innovation in the bio sector that is predicted to rapidly expand in the



future.

<http://www.bioclub.org/>

**Georg Tremmel** (Artist / BCL/ BioClub)

Georg Tremmel has a background in Biology, Informatics and Media Art, He is working on the intersection of Art & Biology since 2001, intertwining biological, cultural, ethical and societal codes, and creating objects, installations and situations for contestable discussions. With Shiho Fukuhara, he founded BCL - an Artistic Research Framework for critically exploring Art & Biotech that aims to explore the relations, congruences and differences of biological and cultural codes through artistic interventions, social hacking and basic research. Georg is also a researcher in the Laboratory for DNA Information Analysis at the University of Tokyo and a Visiting Researcher at the metaPhorest Art/Science Group at Waseda University. Born in Austria and lives in Tokyo, Japan.



<http://www.bcl.io>

**Chiaki Ishizuka** (Artist / Bioclub/ Loftwork)

A graduate of the Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences (IAMAS), Chiaki Ishizuka joined Loftwork in December 2016, following experience as a project manager for industry-academia partnerships. As director of BioClub, she runs a space for open debate and experimentation exploring possibilities in the bio field. As an artist, she creates work with a focus on interaction and borders between humans and other life forms. Lives in Tokyo, Japan.



<http://chiakiishizuka.tumblr.com/>

**Andreas Siagian** (Artist, Engineer / Lifepatch)

Andreas Siagian lives and works in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He received his formal education in civil engineering from Atma Jaya University in Yogyakarta. A dedicated autodidact, he independently studied programming languages during his college years, which sparked his interest in interdisciplinary practices. This soon evolved to encompass audiovisual creative programming, DIY electronics, sound sculpture, installations, and instrument-building. His collaborative activities with local creative communities led him to be a co-founder of several initiatives, including: breakcore\_LABS, a platform for experimental audiovisual performances; urbancult.net, an online site for visual documentation and mapping of street art in Indonesia; and Lifepatch.



<http://lifepatch.org/>

## 6. Guest Lecturers

**Ionat Zurr** (artsits, researcher/SymbioticA/University of Western Australia)

Ionat Zurr lives in Perth, Australia. She developed the biological arts initiative, the Tissue Culture and Art Project since 1996 together with Oron Catts. She is considered a leader in the growing field of Biological Art, both as a practitioner and a theoretician. Her research was instrumental to the development of SymbioticA in 2000, an artistic research centre housed within the School of Human Sciences, The University of Western Australia. Her main interests concerned with our shifting perceptions of life and the evolving relationships we have with the different gradients of life through the use of biotechnology. Zurr runs the academic program in SymbioticA and is a faculty in the School of Design at the University of Western Australia. She is also a Visiting Professor, Aalto University, Biofilia, School of Art, Design and Architecture 2015-2020.  
<http://www.symbiotica.uwa.edu.au/>



**Günter Seyfried** (Artist / pavillon\_35 / the New Design University (St. Pölten) / University of applied Arts Vienna)

Günter Seyfried lives and works in Vienna. He has a background in medicine and psychology, which he studied at the University of Vienna, and has strong links to the fine arts, digital art, and media art, having graduated from the University of Applied Arts Vienna, department of Digital Art. He is teaching at the New Design University in St. Pölten, department of manual and material culture and at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, department of media theory. He combines science and art education and develops projects as an independent artist, participating in national and international exhibitions and publications. He is a founding member of pavillon\_35 — Gesellschaft für wissenschaftsbasierte Kunst.

<http://polycinease.com/>

<http://pavillon35.polycinease.com/>



Photo: Enzo Addi

**Tomoki Yamauchi** (Gardener / Kyoto University of Education)

Tomoki Yamaguchi is carrying out research about the way of thinking and practice contemporary European garden and landscape architecture through the analysis of Gilles Clément's theories. His main works: 'Deer and Children Garden' (Otsu, 2013-14) and 'Eight Herbs Garden' (Kyoto, 2012-16) and exhibitions: 'Micro Landscape in Movement' (Yebisu International Festival for Art and Alternative Visions, 2016). He translated Clément's *Le jardin en mouvement* (MISUZU shobo, Ltd., 2015) into Japanese. Lives in Kyoto, Japan.



<http://researchmap.jp/yamauchitomoki/?lang=english>

Lectures by other specialists, such as **Joe Davis** (artist, philosopher, scientist), are also planned.

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## **Application Instructions for BioCamp: Gardens as ‘Biotechnik’**

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### **1. Participant Requirements**

- Able to attend all days of the workshop program
- Possesses a past record in research, creative activities or direction
- Adequate English language ability for working collaboratively
- Planning to continue working in this field

Examples of Participants:

- Artists, designers, architects, performers, programmers, etc.
- Scientists, engineers, ethics researchers
- Representatives from industries such as agriculture, forestry, biomass, urban greenery, medical care, etc.

### **2. Application Process**

Please send your application form, along with a CV and portfolio, to the following email address:  
**camp@meca.tokyo**

**Deadline: November 10 (Fri), 2017**

Items to Submit:

- ① Application form (use the designated format)
- ② CV (free format)
- ③ Portfolio (free format; in case of video materials, include viewing link)

### **3. Subsidy and Support**

Subsidy is provided for applicants as either Asia Center Invitees or Special Support Invitees, as detailed below. Applicants wishing to receive this support should please select their choice of category and indicate their reason on the application form.

#### **3-1. Asia Center Invitees (8 participants)**

As part of its goals to advance platforms for sustained exchange and build new networks in Southeast Asia, the Japan Foundation Asia Center supports the development of future cultural leaders in Asia. The organizers will provide the following special allowance for 8 participants as Asia Center Invitees:

Candidates

- Nationality/citizenship/permanent residency of an ASEAN country

#### Allowance

- Return air fare (economy class) from a major city in the country of residence to an international airport in Tokyo
- Domestic transportation fees from an international airport in Tokyo to the venue
- Overseas travel insurance
- Per Diem (covering lunch, dinner, and transportation in Tokyo)
- Accommodation at facility adjoining workshop venue from February 9 to February 17, 2018

Please note: Accommodation is limited to the facility adjoining the workshop venue as specified by the organizers. Successful applicants will be contacted after their selection regarding the procedure for air ticket reservations and accommodation.

### **3-2. Special Support Invitee (approx. 12 participants)**

The organizer will provide the following allowance for about 12 participants as Special Support Invitees: ① transportation or ② accommodation.

#### Allowance (one of the below):

- ① Travel Support : Return air fare or transportation from the applicant's closest airport or station to an international airport in Tokyo (Haneda or Narita) or Tokyo Station
- ② Accommodation Support : Accommodation at facility adjoining workshop venue from February 9 to February 17, 2018

Please note: Accommodation is limited to the facility adjoining the workshop venue as specified by the organizers. Successful applicants will be contacted after their selection regarding the procedure for air ticket reservations and accommodation.

### **4. Criteria for Selection**

Applicants will be assessed according to certain criteria as to whether their previous record and future planned activities make them a suitable candidate for participating in the workshop. The following aspects will be taken into consideration when selecting applicants:

- The research activities and experiences of the applicant in related fields
- The past activities and achievements of the applicant

### **5. Notification of Application Results**

Applicants will be informed of the result of their application by December 15 (Fri), 2017, via the email address included on their application.

### **6. Contact**

BioCamp office e-mail: [camp@meca.tokyo](mailto:camp@meca.tokyo)



## 7. Handling of Personal Information

- (1) The Japan Foundation and TodaysArt JAPAN/AACTOKYO handle personal information appropriately in accordance with the Law Concerning Access to Personal Information Held by Independent Administrative Institutions (Law No. 59 of 2003) or Tokyo Metropolitan Ordinance on Personal Information Protection (Ordinance No. 113, December 21, 1990). The Japan Foundation's privacy policy can be referred to on the following website:  
<http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/privacy/index.html>
- (2) The Japan Foundation and TodaysArt JAPAN/AACTOKYO uses personal information on the application materials for screening, implementation, and evaluation procedures of the project. They may also be used for the following purposes:
  - Details of the participants, such as name, job and position, and affiliation, etc., are published in the Kokusai Koryu Kikin Jigyo Jisseki (Detailed Annual Reports of the Japan Foundation) and Annual Reports of the TodaysArt JAPAN/AACTOKYO. They are also used in compiling statistics and released to the press for publicity purposes.
  - There may be cases in which this information is released to Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, embassies or consulates, etc., at the place where the participant resides as part of a related visa application, etc.
  - There may be cases in which this information is released to an insurance company or their representatives, etc., in order to provide cover for participant's activities during the period, such as overseas traveler's personal accident insurance, etc.