

PHOTO REPOSITORY  
BIOFRICTION 2019-21

# TALKS & CONFERENCES

Hangar.org Zavod Kersnikova Bioart Society Cultivamos Cultura



#BIOART#BIOHCKING#TRANSHACKFEMINISM#SELF-EXPLORATION#TRANSGENDER

# FREAKTION BAR #12

## I WILL GROW MY BURGER

On December 17th 2019 in Kersnikova, the artist Theresa Schubert discussed the ethical questions that emerge as a result of biotechnological food production and self-cannibalism, as she, with the help of experts and scientists, produces laboratory meat from her own muscle tissue in her art project. In a relaxed debate that took place in the so-called science café, the artist was joined by Stephen Minger, expert advisor in the field of regenerative cell technologies, and Ariana Barlič, the head of development in the partner company Educell, which deals with stem cells, and an expert co-worker in Theresa Schubert's project.

Venue: Kapelica Gallery

[Article](#)





# HEALTH AND CARE BY POWER MAKE US SICK

On January 10th 2020 in Hangar, Power Makes Us Sick discussed the impact of health autonomy, outlined some of PMS' theory and approaches as well as some of the collective's ongoing research and work. They also played around with the accountability model to understand how it works and how it can be used. Attendees were invited to read the text of the model in advance, but the discussion did not assume any prior knowledge.

Venue: Hangar

[Article](#)





# What is the Accountability Model?

## WHAT IS ACCOUNTABILITY?

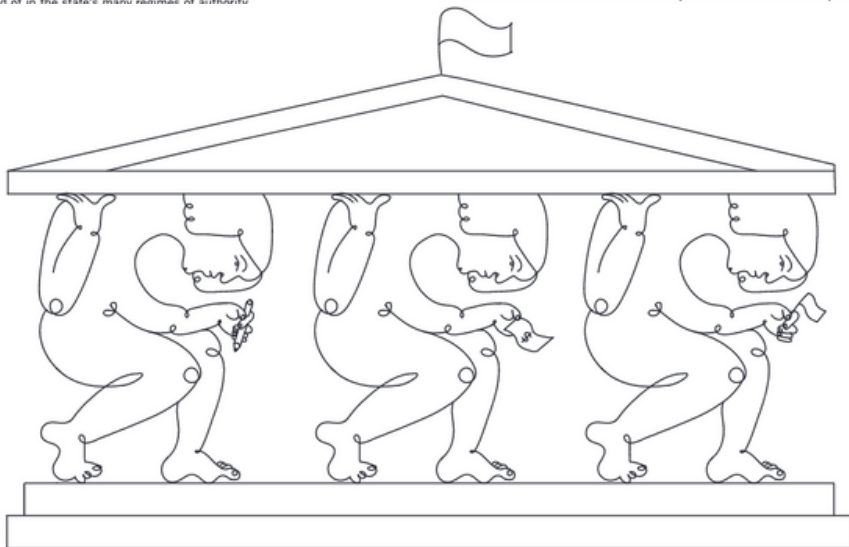
Relationships are a moving landscape, as is each person's history with health and illness. In the context of our social bonds, our health, and wellbeing, accountability reminds us of the potentials within our social embeddedness. We describe this as an ability to be called upon, an 'answerability', or a mutual responsibility that is held between friends and comrades.



## WHAT IS THE MODEL?

The accountability model can function multi-locally, without place-based fixity or institutional support. This model for health assessment - mental, physical, and social - is a tool that can be used by anyone, anywhere. It is informed by the integrated model of health implemented by the clinic at Vio-me in Thessaloniki; the 'mind maps' developed by the Icarus Project in NYC, and other formal and informal moments of mutual care, custodianship, and entanglement that we've witnessed in our lives, in our work, and in our communities. This model is structured like a triage system helping participants develop a wide picture of health, first through a long-form interview, followed by periodic 'check-ins' or urgent calls with the team. Here, 'health practitioners' are understood as those who share the responsibility of a person's health.

Following a thorough interview amongst the four participants, a health card can be generated that serves as an evolving health record, moving with the care seeker. Through long-term support and awareness of individual and social patterns, the team connects with local resources, reproduces health-based consultation practices, and builds solidarity through processes of mutual exposure. By making the notion of the term 'health practitioner' more inclusive, we validate and recognize the various forms of unwaged carework already offered to the care seeker, and present within communities. We believe that validating and supporting this form of health care is the crux of our future-in-common: it is through these therapeutic and supportive ties that we discover incentive to invest in one another, ourselves, and our ecologies, instead of in the state's manumission of authority.



INTRODUCING THE ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL

# HOW CAN THIS DOCUMENT BE USED?

Take this document as a practice guide.

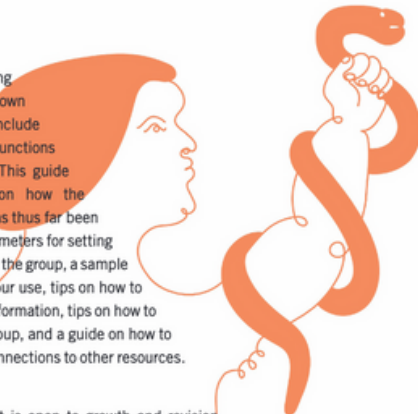
Throughout this sheet, we will be describing ways to set up your own care group, and include discussions of the functions of this kind of group. This guide contains information on how the accountability model has thus far been organized by PMS, parameters for setting up accountability within the group, a sample of our intake form for your use, tips on how to be safe with personal information, tips on how to follow up with a care group, and a guide on how to create long-standing connections to other resources.

This guide is a draft; it is open to growth and revision.

PMS believes that accountability around community health care can take many forms, and have many elements.

We would love to see offshoots and experimentation with these guides, and, more than anything, we would like to hear about how the model is being applied in different communities.

As the use of this comprehensive community based approach to health and care expands, we hope to continue to update this text. We would love it if groups shared their use of the model, and checked back with us for future updates as well as to provide feedback.



# ROUND TABLE ORON CATTS & ANDY GRACIE

On the 27th of February, 2020, Hangar hosted a presentation by Oron Catts in conversation with Andy Gracie and Laura Benítez Valero, as part of the European Biofriction project.

Oron Catts gave a presentation of his artistic projects, including an introduction to Symbiotica, a pioneering research laboratory that allows artists to carry out wet biology practices in a university department of biological sciences. After the presentation, a round table was proposed on some topics discussed, with the participation of the artist and researcher Andie Gracie and Laura Benítez Valero.

Venue: Hangar

[Article](#)





# BRAIDING FRICTION

During May, June and July 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and postponed activities, Biofriction has set up a series of Working Groups and online events to instigate an informed discussion on the current situation and possible scenarios.

## CALENDAR/PRESENTATIONS:

- General presentation: Tuesday, 2, June 18h
- Non Living Queerings: Wednesday, 17, June 18h
- Phageologies: Friday, 10, July 20h
- Aero-Sol-Nauts: Wednesday, 15, July 18h
- Arts Shows and Public Health : Thursday, 23, July 18h [

[Article](#)





# braiding friction

# ON BIO\_SONIC \_AGENCIES

On the 9th of September 2020, a panel discussion which proposed a conversation between Brandon LaBelle, author of *Sonic Agency*, and artists who work with biomaterials, sound and critically listening as an encounter[s] where other possibilities of relations with what we call nature or to non-human agents can be articulated. In a world dominated by the visual, could contemporary resistances be auditory? In *Sonic Agency*, Brandon LaBelle highlights sound's invisible, disruptive, and affective qualities and asks whether the unseen nature of sound can support a political transformation.

Venue: Disseny Hub Barcelona

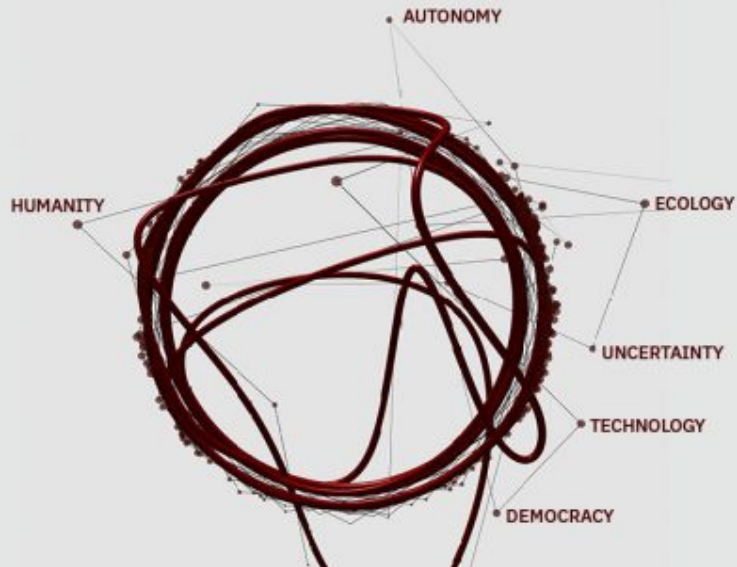
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**ARS ELECTRONICA 2020**

Festival for Art, Technology & Society

**Garden BARCELONA**

9.–13. September

# GROUNDING SYMBIOSIS, SONIFYING CARE

On the 18th of September 2020, Biofriction collaborated with Sónar+D in a lecture by researcher and biohacker Saša Spačal. She explores how fungi, bacteria and other organisms can be creative collaborators, creating technological interfaces and connections between species.

Venue: CCCB

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# GENERATION—OF— WORLD(S)

On the 15th of October 2020, Biofriction organized the activity Generation—of—world(s) in the framework of the Biennial of Thought of Barcelona. Connections and interferences between the thinking of Donna Haraway and Martin Heidegger, a proposal that is part of the Biennial of Thought 2020. The activity generated a meeting space where to approach the thought of Martin Heidegger and Donna Haraway in relation to the generation of possible worlds. The meeting had two interventions that introduced the attendees to specific questions of the thinking of Heidegger and Haraway around the notion of world generation. Afterwards, there was a debate between the participants and the public.

Venue: Hangar

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The content of this painting  
is invisible; the character  
and dimension of the content  
are to be kept permanently  
secret, known only to the  
artist.



# PHOTOSONIC

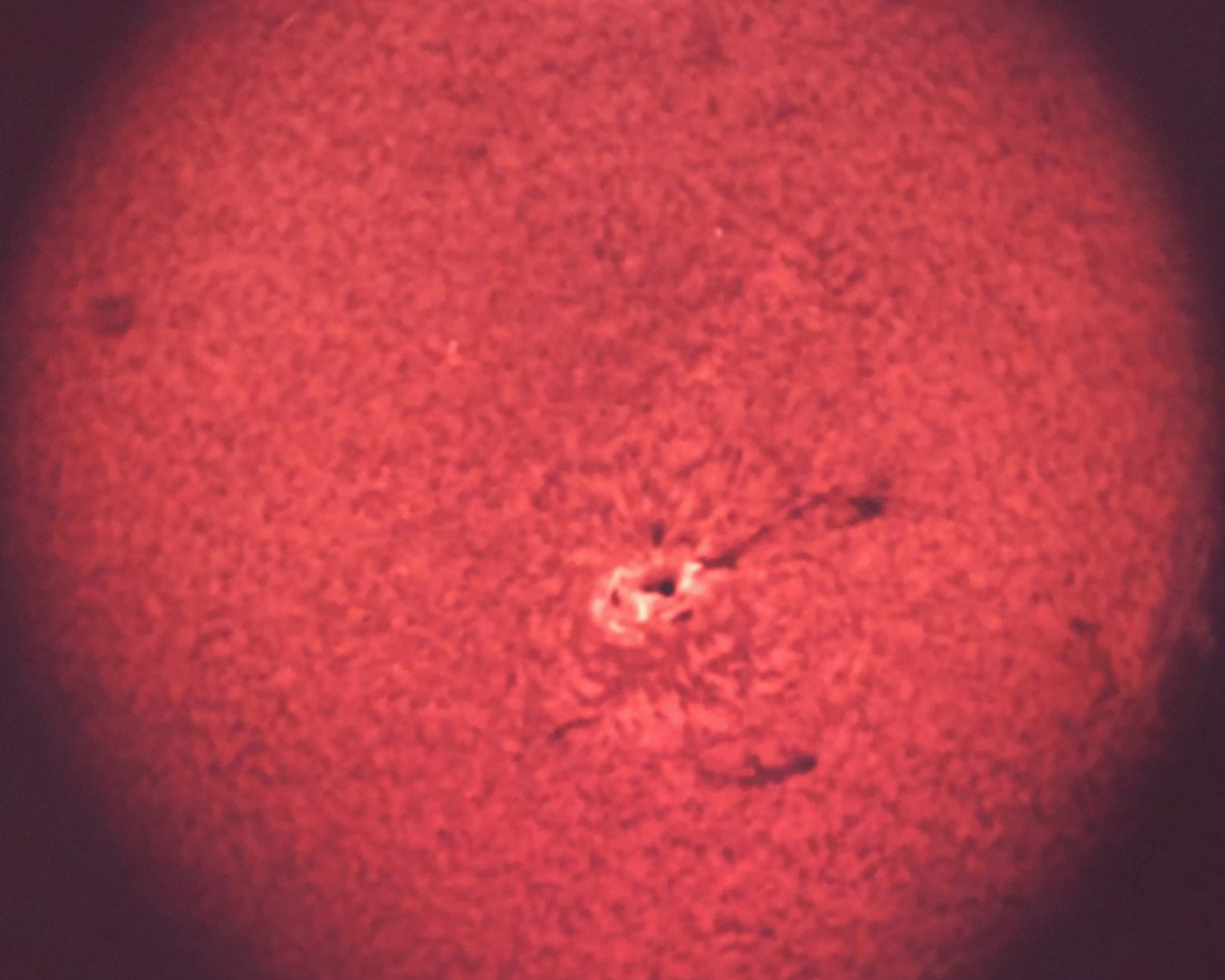
## Landscapes Panel

On the 16th of October, 2020 an online panel discussion between the artists Minna Långström, Leah Beeferman, and Mika Taanila discussed with solar astronomer Sara Martin the poetic and pragmatic uses of scientific images. The discussed imagery extends from astronomy to arctic landscapes and underwater visions. The panel discussion is moderated by Tytti Rantanen, program coordinator from AV-arkki.

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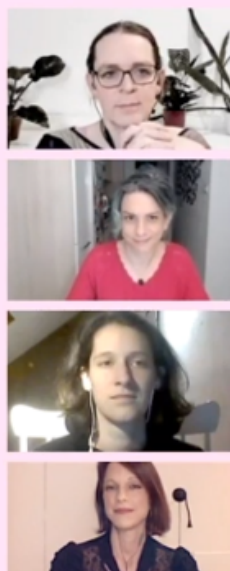


# FREAKTION BAR#14 'INTOXICATED BY ESTROGEN'

On the 3rd of December 2020, a discussion began with resident artist Adriana Knouf's experiences on HRT and delve into the early stages of her project 'Xenological Entanglements. 001: Eromatase', which aims in part to engineer testicular cells that would produce estrogen rather than testosterone, thereby highlighting the potential for the mutability of sex from within. Other guest speakers include transgender activist and camera operator Lea Rymard, expert advisor in steroid hormones Neža Grgurevič, and theorist and teatrologist Pia Brezavšček, while philosopher Domen Ograjenšek moderated the conversation. The discussion considered the ways in which biological, personal, and cultural processes intertwine to produce new forms of sex—gender.

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# FREAKTION BAR #14

## 'Intoxicated by estrogen'

Speakers: dr. Adriana Knouf, Lea Agmard, dr. Neža Grgurevič, Pia Brezavšček  
Moderator: Domen Ograjenšek



# BIOLAB CONFERENCE

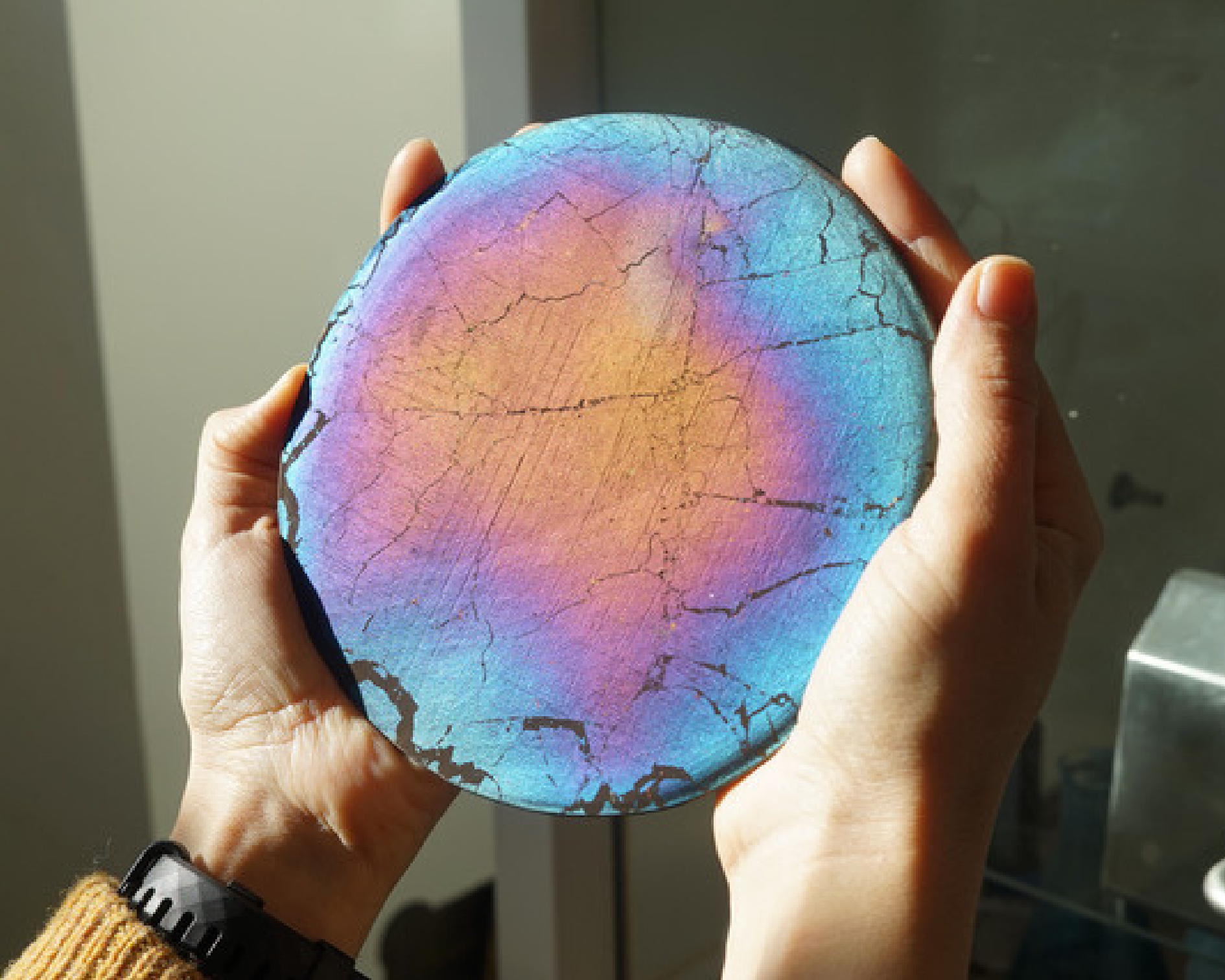
On Monday, March 15 2021 at 6 pm, Elisava Research and the European project Biofriction present the Biolab Conference, a lecture organized within the framework of Elisava's BioLab Week and the Master in Design through New Materials. Maria Boto [The Colour Biolab, UGhent]; Juan Crespo [Elisava Research BioLab] and Laura Benítez [director of the Biofriction project, led by Hangar] will address topics such as: 'Ecology of color. A research journey from nature to materiality', 'Growing Engineering & Design (and thus, bio)', and 'Bio-disruptions. On scale, care(s) and interdependence'. There will be a final debate hosted by Laura Cléries from Elisava Research. The event was broadcasted in streaming format from Hangar.

Venue: Hangar

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# TICK TALKS

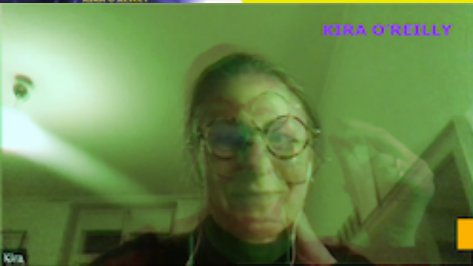
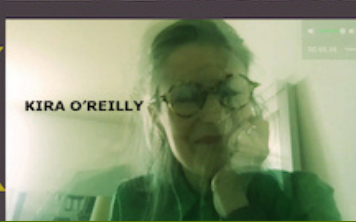
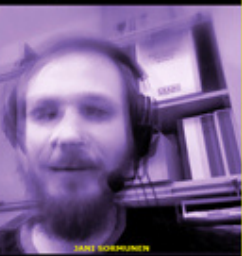
TICK TALKs is a series of conversations by artists Laura Beloff and Kira O'Reilly, Biofriction resident artist, with experts from the biosciences and the humanities concerning ticks, the pathogens they carry and the implications for humans and non—humans within changing environments.

This short series of conversations functions both as a collection of reflections and as an archive in which Beloff and O'Reilly pause and reflect on some of the most pressing and intriguing research and areas of enquiry they have encountered.

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# BIO—FICTION PANEL

On the 8th of April 2021, Bio Art Society and the European project Biofriction present the online BIO—FICTION Panel, a conversation on neurotechnology and its current/potential impact on society. The panel is included in the program of the Biofiction Science Art Film Festival. To moderate the discussion will be the researcher Kasper Mäki-Reinikka, the festival director Markus Schmidt, the neuroscientist Riitta Hari and the artist Pia Tikka.

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# ARTECH HUB

## ART IN TIME OF PANDEMICS

On the 27th of April 2021, Hangar presented an initiative linked to Hac Te project, oriented to disseminate, promote and emphasize interrelationships between different artistic, philosophical, scientific or technologic communities. The speakers Lluís Nacenta, Erich Berger, Laura Benítez and Anouchka Skoudy shared experiences and thoughts about the practices of art and science in times of a pandemic. On this occasion, the Mexican artist Mayra Citlalli Rojo showed the result of her online artistic residency through a video performance.

Venue: Hangar

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# BIOFRICTION RADIO

From March till September, Hangar and Biofriction project partners will continue the Biofriction Radio project, a collection of podcasts with artists in residence and professionals from the bio-sciences and the humanities concerning evolutionary biology, artistic practices, and thoughts from experimental research with biotech.

During the conversations, artists, researchers, scientists and biologists will explore how bioart and biohacking practices open possible changes in the relationship between arts, sciences, technologies and societies.

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# Biofriction Radio



# ADRIANA KNOUF

## BIOFRICTION RADIO#1

In the podcast, Adriana Knouf, Biofriction artist in residence at Kersnikova, talks about her project Xenological Entanglements. 001: Eromatase, which she began developing during her Biofriction residency at Kapelica Gallery / Kersnikova Institute. She touches upon several aspects of the project, ranging from her childhood desire to go to space, xenology, self-experimentation, hormones, relationships between art, science and technology, to cell cultivation, thin-layer chromatography, open-source clinostat construction, and transhackfeminism.

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# VANESSA LORENZO

## BIOFRICTION RADIO#2

In the podcast, Vanessa Lorenzo, Biofriction artist in residence at Hangar, talks about her project Mari Mutare, an open-transdisciplinary experiment with biocompatible prosthesis inspired by the proto-Christian ornament of the Greenman: a pagan hybrid figure half-plant, half-human. Influenced by biohacking philosophy, feminist theory and speculative design methodology, this project examines the potentiality of biopractices (biomedia practices) as knowledge-making tools in order to transcend human exceptionalism.

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MARI MUTARE



# KINLAB

## BIOFRICTION RADIO#3

In the podcast, Maddalena Fragnito and Zoe Romano, Biofriction artists in residence at Hangar, talk about the development of their project OBOT. (an acronym for Our Bodies, Our Tech). Through their research, the artists aim to implement a citizen science approach into the investigation of the women's body around three conditions of life: teenagehood, fertility, and menopause. The project wants to identify a toolbox of processes and practices to design a replicable blueprint for a neighbourhood-based wet-lab by gathering collective intelligence through DIT analysis.

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# BLOT

## BIOFRICTION RADIO#4

In the podcast, Simona Deaconescu and Vanessa Goodman, Biofriction artists in residence at Cultivamos Cultura, discuss their project BLOT (an acronym for Body Line of Thought).

The work shows a series of performance situations. It explores the idea of contamination seen as collaboration and a way of communication, focusing on humans' movements and their relation with their bacterias. The project uses the body to analyze how human existence is translated by language through processes of dependence and control, focusing on the fine line between what is useful and what is toxic.

[Article](#)

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# MAYRA CITLALLI ROJO

## BIOFRICTION RADIO#5

In the podcast, Mayra Citlalli Rojo, a disembodied artist in residence at Bioart Society, discusses her research project about domestication in the history of the evolution of anatomy—botany. The main objective of the research is to locate the performative space where historical research on plants and evolution have a binding character with language as "textus", tissue, link of imagination on vegetative—human mutations.

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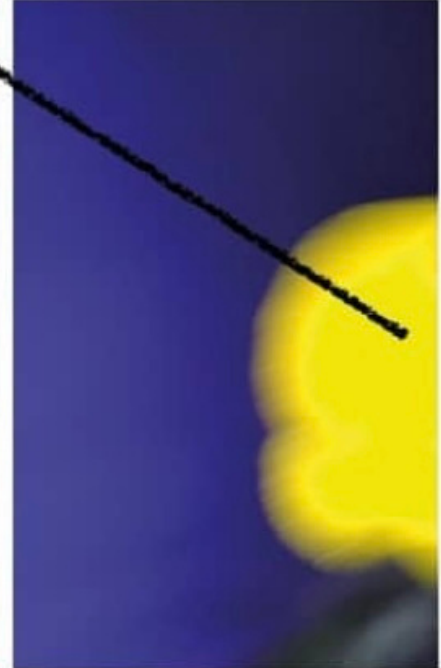
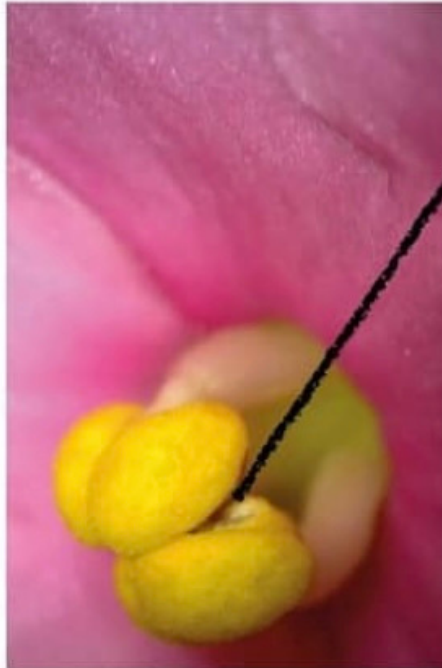
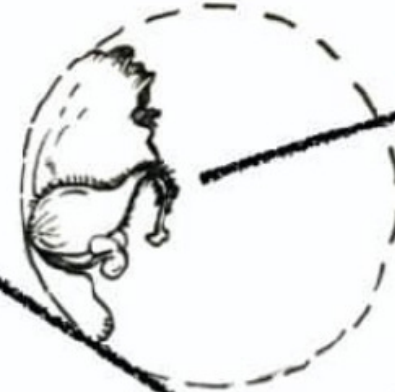
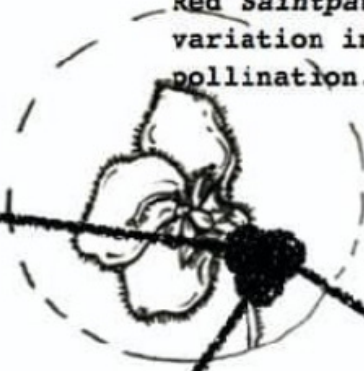
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Notes *Saintpaulia* hybridization: Red + Pink

Red *Saintpaulia* Observation of a morphological variation in reproductive organs after pollination.



# ANOUCHKA SKOUDY

## BIOFRICTION RADIO#6

In the the podcast, Anouchka Skoudy, a biologist who took part in the Biofriction explored and discusses her experience within the project. Anouchka's interest is to explore, imagine and model molecular biology. To make "visible" the invisible, she realised that the connection with art is indispensable to discover the unknown and go beyond the traditional way of doing. Her role within the Biofriction framework was to advise and assist the Biofriction artists Vanessa Lorenzo and Kinlab. In the podcast, Anouchka mentions what she learned and the challenges she faced during the process.

[Article](#)

[Link](#)



BAÑOS

VIRGEN DEL CARMEN



# KIRA O'REILLY CHRISTINA GRUBER BIOFRICTION RADIO#7

In the podcast, we listen to Kira O'Reilly and Christina Gruber, artists in residence at Cultivamos Cultura. The two artists explain how during the residence their projects crossed over time and their research projects. Christina Gruber explores "HOUSTON CAN YOU HEAR ME?", a project focus on bioacoustics.

Kira O'Reilly will explain her project "Menopause batteries and endocrine piracy". The artist reformulates menopause in a utopian vision and enactment, an extant, celebratory articulating that revels in recognizing the energetic potentialities of the marvellous shift.

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# FISH / WOMAN

Presentation by  
Kira and  
Christina



How to care for the fish  
Homing behaviour - living conditions  
ECOLOGY

How to use the river - gain back the knowledge

Not being extractive but observing and studying the environment  
of the fish

How to make  
them feel at  
home



# JOEL ONG

## BIOFRICTION RADIO#8

In the podcast, we listen to Joel Ong, artist in residence at Cultivamos Cultura. In the first part of the podcast, the artist presented himself and his different areas of study in relation to the pandemic era. Within this context, Joel describes and discussed his projects during his online residence at Cultivamos Cultura. During the residence, he continued to work on his project Frozen sound: Bioart and the atmospheric microbiome which explores how emerging processes of computational creativity can be an alternative resource for scientific understanding of the environment.

[Article](#)

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# EMILIA TIKKA

## BIOFRICTION RADIO#9

In the podcast, Emilia Tikka, artist in residence at Bioart Society, discusses her research project Xeno-Optimizations for Arctic Survival. The main objective of the project is to take critical storytelling, mixing science facts with science fiction as an approach to rethink concepts beyond green utopias or apocalyptic dystopias, reimagining new forms of living and co-existing in technoscientific environments.

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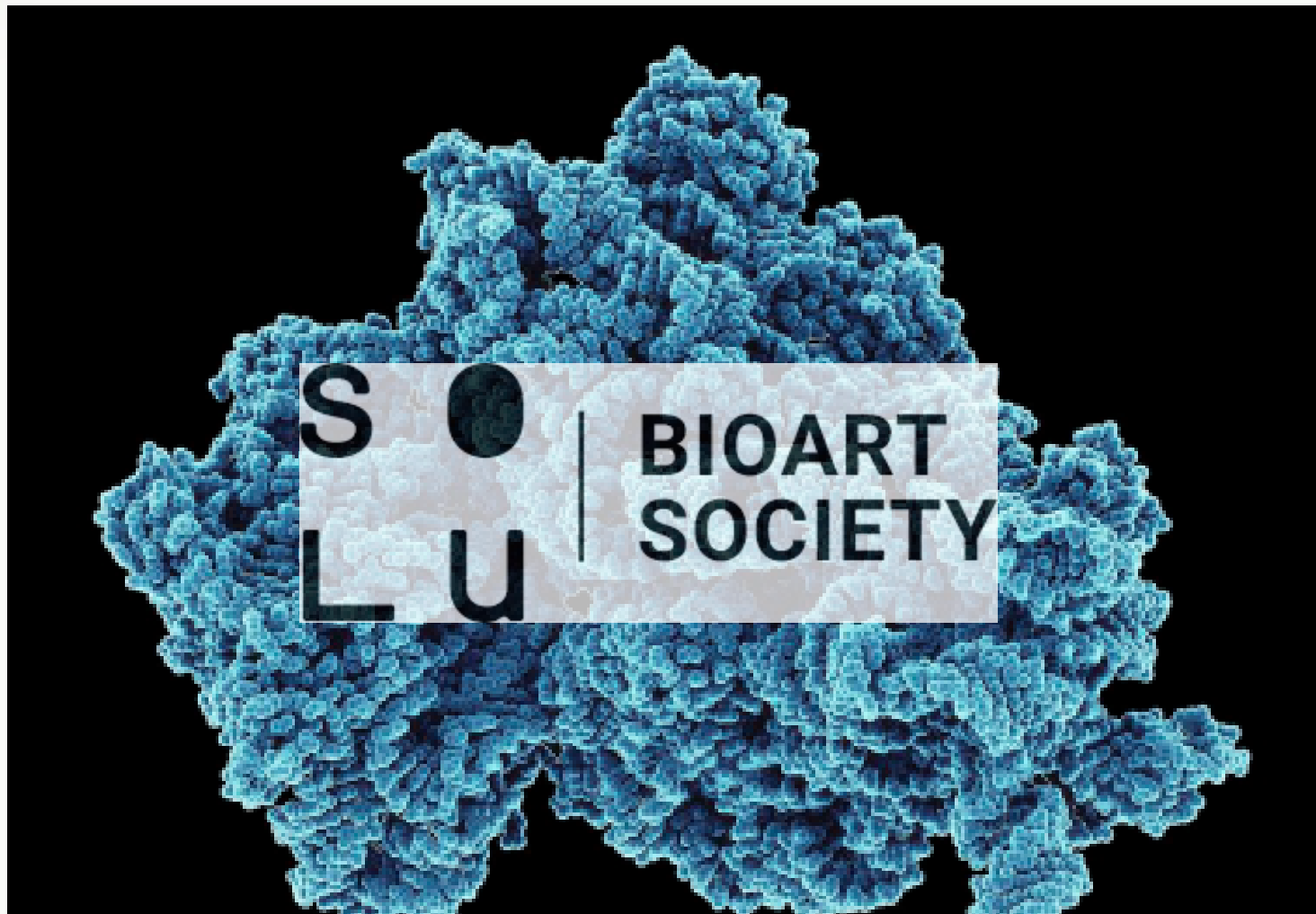


**GALERIJA  
KAPELICA**

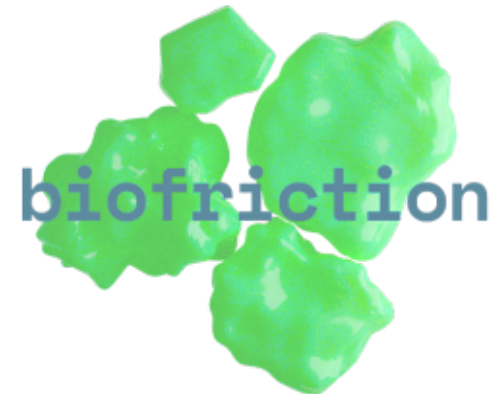




**CULTIVAMOS  
CULTURA /**



Biofriction is a research project with the goal of generating and facilitating spaces for exchange where artists, curators, theoreticians and different social collectives, such as activists and educational projects, can collaborate in transdisciplinary experimental proposals that offer practical alternatives to existing problems in contemporary Europe, such as the rise of essentialist discourses that launch not only a worrying discourse but also policies of marginalisation and exclusion.



Co-funded by the  
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