

Data sheet

Interdisciplinary Projects - Events (e.g. festivals)
„Pixelache Festival 2016: Interphases for Empathy“
Ref. No. R2016-MYPH-101947

Sent to Pro Helvetia on 7/24/2016

Applicant

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General information

Title and brief description

Pixelache Festival 2016 will take place from 22-25th Sept. in Helsinki. It explores possibilities of the shift towards the understanding of human species as a balanced part of the ecosystem we live within.

'Empathetic Taxidermia workshop'

Through a collaborative and explorative lab/workshop setting on taxidermia with Marc Dusseiller (Hackteria) we want to investigate artistic practices and traditional craft with living/non-living media to reconnect us with our ecosystem and ourselves.

Project description

Pixelache Festival 2016 'Interfaces for Empathy' will take place from September 22nd to 25th in Helsinki. The festival explores possibilities of the shift towards the understanding of human species as a balanced part of the ecosystem we live within. For a long time humankind has known about the challenge of overconsumption of natural resources that eg. cause climate disruption, loss of biodiversity, pollution and extinction of species. Nevertheless, the knowledge on its own does not seem to lead to rapid and significant change in our behaviour. On an individual level, we experience constant profound technological changes that alter our perceptual experience. Many of the changes in our perceptual processes through mediated technological processes seem to push us further away from the embodied experience and alter our experience of the lived environment that supports our life.

The idea that the festival explores and seeks to connect these observed trajectories, is one of empathy. Is it possible to sense or identify, to change the narrative of the human-kind? Could empathy be one of the key elements in reconnecting us with our ecosystem and ourselves? Can we experience empathy

towards whole ecosystems? The festival wants to question and propose that maybe empathy could be learned, found or especially re-found through eg. bodily presence, experimental communication and embodied and alternate visions of perception.

Collaborative Curatorial Practice

The programme has been put together by an interdisciplinary team of artists, curators and researchers. The festival is co-directed by Mari Keski-Korsu and Petri Ruikka while the programming been supported by the festival advisory board consisting of Laura Beloff, Egle Oddo, aswell as Katri Saarikivi and Valter Wikström from the research group NEMO. Pixelache membership has also contributed in the creation of the festival programme.

Pixelache Festival is generously supported by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, the City of Helsinki Cultural Office, Kone Foundation, The Finnish Cultural Foundation and AVEK – The Promotion Center for Audiovisual Culture.

Short History of Pixelache Festival since 2002

Pixelache Festival started as a Festival of Electronic Arts and Subcultures, promoting DIY hacker and digital art-media cultures. Over almost 15 years the festival has diversified to be one of the longest running festival of its kind in the Nordic region with a broad-range of practice-led activity--including to name a few relevant practices for this application: bioarts, traditional knowledge cultures, ecological activism, and critical maker-practices-- to be truly trans-disciplinary platform for experimental arts, design, research and activism.

"Empathetic Taxidermia" with Marc Dusseiller and local Collaborators

We have invited M. Dusseiller, co-founder of the hackteria network, to research for 2 weeks a priori of the festival, and conduct a workshop during the festival week itself exploring the possibilities of the traditional craft of taxidermia, within an explorative lab/workshop-setup as an artistic practice. Taxidermia has been around for centuries in various implementations from hobbyists' anthropomorphic representations of imagined human happiness, to contemporary artists, eg. amongst others Damien Hirst's Shark (1991). Invited into the Ferment Lab project, Taxidermia is seen anew from a conservationist angle.

Earlier collaborative projects

We have already collaborated with M. Dusseiller and the hackteria network during earlier editions of the Pixelache Festival and their workshop contributions have played a key role to extend the festival activities through their participative formats of integrating the biological sciences and artistic strategies.

* BioElectronix for Artists, Pixelache 2011

* City Kani Metsästää - Urban Hunting, 2014 (co-funded via Pro Helvetia)

<http://hackteria.org/workshops/helsinki-rabbit-hunts/>

Venues

This year Pixelache Festival's main venue is the former Lapinlahti hospital area, with Lapinlahden Lähde as a partner organisation. Other festival venues are Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, MUU Gallery and Helsinki City Winter Garden.

The Ferment Lab activities of the festival will take place both at the main venue of Lapinlahti, and also Herttoniemi Talo in eastern Helsinki.

Marc Dusseiller's Empathetic Taxidermy research meetings and preparatory work will take place in advance of the festival at various locations, including the neighbourhood of Roihuvuori where several Pixelache members reside, as well as the Pixelache production office in Suvilahti district. During the festival week itself, the workshop will take place in the Lapinlahti hospital festival venue and surrounding area, although also Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art seminar serves as an option.

Participants

Hackteria | Open Source Biological Art

Hackteria is a web-platform and collection of Open Source Biological Art Projects instigated in February 2009 by Andy Gracie, Marc Dusseiller and Yashas Shetty, after collaboration during the Interactivos'09 Garage Science at Medialab Prado in Madrid. The aim of the project is to develop a rich wiki-based web resource for people interested in or developing projects that involve bioart, open source software/hardware, DIY biology, art/science collaborations and electronic experimentation. As a community platform hackteria tries to encourage the collaboration of scientists, hackers and artists to combine their expertise, write critical and theoretical reflections, share simple instructions to work with lifescience technologies, develop open source hardware for generic laboratory infrastructure and cooperate on the organization of workshops, temporary labs, hack-sprints and meetings. Throughout the years the network of initiatives, labs and people that contributed to hackteria.org has grown across the globe. The hackteria project has been supported by: Sir Ratan Tata Trust, KulturRaum SH, Pro Helvetia, Migros Kulturprozent, DOEN & Hivos Foundation and more.

<http://hackteria.org/about/>

Dr. Marc Dusseiller - Short Biography

Dr. Marc R. Dusseiller is a transdisciplinary scholar, lecturer for micro- and nanotechnology, cultural facilitator and artist. He performs DIY (do-it-yourself) workshops in lo-fi electronics and synths, hardware hacking for citizen science and DIY microscopy. He was co-organizing Dock18, Room for Mediacultures, diy* festival (Zürich, Switzerland), KIBLIX 2011 (Maribor, Slovenia), workshops for artists, schools and children as the former president (2008-12) of the Swiss Mechatronic Art Society, SGMK. He has worked as guest faculty and mentor at various school, Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IN), UCSB (USA) and in Switzerland, FHNW, HEAD, ETHZ. In collaboration with Kapelica Gallery, he has started the BioTehna Lab in Ljubljana (2012 - 2013), an open platform for interdisciplinary and artistic research on life sciences. Currently, he is developing means to perform bio- and nanotechnology research and dissemination, Hackteria | Open Source Biological Art, in a DIY / DIWO fashion in kitchens, ateliers and in the Majority World. He was the co-organizer of the different editions of HackteriaLab 2010 - 2014 Zürich, Romainmotier, Bangalore and Yogyakarta.

<http://hackteria.org/wiki/Dusjagr>

Ferment Lab - Pixelache

Ferment Lab is a participatory space for food and social fermentation. It is focused on the exploration of intertwines between energy-use and planting, bacterial and human culture to enable a discourse for social change. Ferment Lab sees culturing as the base of its activities. The meaning of culture varies according to the scope which it describes. In microscale it's an experimental growth and fermentation of microorganisms in a culture medium. It is currently coordinated by Pixelache members Agnieszka Pokrywka and Andrew Gryf Paterson, in collaboration with others.

Andrew Gryf Paterson (Scotland - Finland)

Artist-organiser', cultural producer, educator and independent researcher. Specialises in developing

and leading inter- and trans- disciplinary projects exploring connections between art, digital culture and science, cultural activism, ecological and sustainability movements, cultural heritage and collaborative networks.

Main involvements of recent years has been with Pixelache Helsinki node of Pixelache Network. From early 2011 until end of 2014, he was coordinator and facilitator of the 'Pixeliversity' around-the-year informal educational programme for Pixelache [<http://pixelache.ac>].

What is left behind as social, digital, material and ephemeral residue of 'being t/here' has been a consistent concern. More or less archived here: <http://j.mp/agryfp-archive>

Participants

Name:	Role	City	Country
Hackteria Open Source Biological Art	International Bioart Network	8004 Zürich	Switzerland
Marc Dusseiller	Workshop mentor	8004 Zürich	Switzerland
Pixelache Ferment Lab	Curatorial Team Pixelache Sideprogram	Helsinki	Finland
Andrew Gryf Paterson	artist-organiser, board member (responsibility: International Networks)	Helsinki	Finland

Events

Region	Location	Event location	Starting date	End date
Finland	Helsinki	Lapinlahti hospital, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art	7/22/2016	7/25/2016

Links

Type	Target / Name	URL
Organiser	Pixelache Festival 2016	http://festival.pixelache.ac/
Organiser	Hackteria	http://hackteria.org/
Artist	Marc Dusseiller - Bio	http://me.dusjagr.guru/

Other	Description of workshop 2014 "Helsinki City Kani Metsästää" - Foodycle / Pixelache	http://hackteria.org/workshops/helsinki-rabbit-hunts/
Organiser	Ferment Lab - Research Group of Pixelache Team	http://pixelache.ac/projects/ferment-lab
Other	Recent Interview: "Marc Dusseiller, pionnier du biohack", Makery 2016 (FR/EN)	http://www.makery.info/2016/07/19/marc-dusseiller-pionnier-du-biohack-12/
Organiser	Andrew Gryf Paterson	http://j.mp/agryfp-archive
Artist	Wiki documentation for Empathetic Taxidermy	http://hackteria.org/wiki/Taxidermia_HEL2016

Costs

Amount in CHF

Personnel costs Fees, artists' pay, wages (including social security costs)	2,500.00 CHF
Non-personnel costs Rental costs, purchases, costs for PR, copyright fees, insurance, etc.	600.00 CHF
Travel expenses	700.00 CHF
Transport costs	200.00 CHF
Total costs	4,000.00 CHF

Financing / Income

Amount in CHF

Income Admission receipts / Artists' pay	0.00 CHF
Third party contributions Public and private cultural promotion contributions	1,000.00 CHF
of which pledged	1,000.00 CHF
Amount expected from Pro Helvetia	4,000.00 CHF
Total financing / income	5,000.00 CHF
Total costs	4,000.00 CHF
Balance	1,000.00 CHF

Additional comments

Piknik Frequency (Pixelache) budget plan for 2016 is uploaded.

Attachments

short_bio_dusseiller16.pdf - Marc Dusseiller - Full Biography

pixelache_2014_portfolio_150dpi.pdf - Pixelache portfolio 2014

pixelache_2015_91-slides-org-overview_291215.pdf - Summary of Pixelache organisation at end of 2015.

Piknik_talousarvio_2016_vuosikokous 2016.pdf - Piknik Frequency (Pixelache) budget plan for 2016