

## ***[macro]biologies II: organisms***

**Suzanne Anker**

**Brandon Ballengée**

**Maja Smrekar**

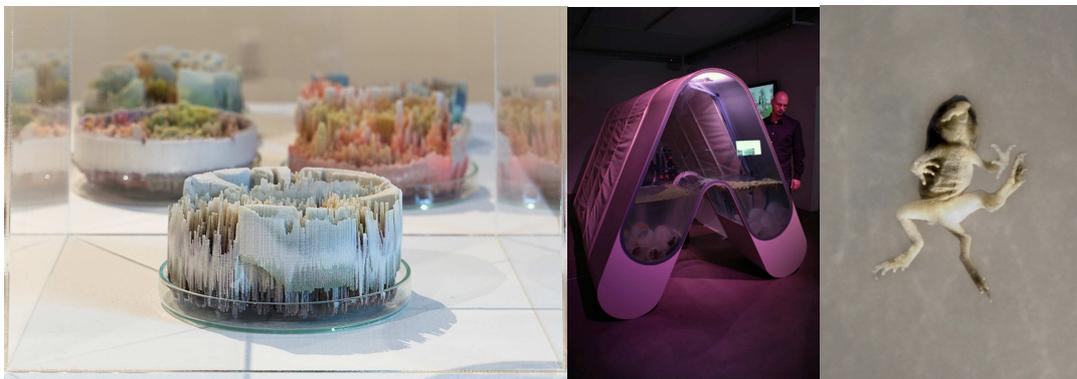
Opening: 30 May, 8 PM

Exhibition runs: 31 May – 20 July 2014

Opening hours: Fr-Sun, 14-18h (and by appointment)

**Artists and curators Talk** (all artists are present): 1 June, 3 PM

**Curators: Regine Rapp & Christian de Lutz**



From left to right: Suzanne Anker, Maja Smrekar, Brandon Ballengée

The second exhibition of the series *[macro]biologies & [micro]biologies* ***[macro]biologies II: organisms*** will highlight the works of artists dealing with multi-celled organisms. Noteworthy is both the relationship of these organisms to us, as well as their roles as independent actors. The exhibition focuses on the works of three remarkable, internationally recognized artists whose work deals with multicellular organisms: Suzanne Anker (U.S.), Brandon Ballengée (U.S.) and Maja Smrekar (SI).

### **Suzanne Anker**

The American artist and theoretician Suzanne Anker has been one of the key figures working at the border between art and biology for several decades. Her work combines inquiry into science and the newest technologies with a keen aesthetic sense.

At Art Laboratory Berlin Anker will show several series of works: The installation ***Astroculture (Shelf Life)*** was first shown in 2009. It consists of three plant chambers with installed LED panels. Surprisingly, although the grown plants appeared to be fuschia-colored, they in fact were green. The work manifests the possibility of growing herbs in any light deprived apartment. ***Remote Sensing*** is a series of work produced through rapid prototyping technology. The three dimensional working software program converts the image into an object. The resultant sculpture shares resonance with pictorial maps and landscapes employed by remote sensing. In the series ***Vanitas (in a Petri dish)*** Suzanne Anker reflects the concept of Vanitas by employing a Petri dish as the site of laboratory life in which the Petrie dish changes from an object of science to an object saturated as art.

More information: <http://www.suzanneanker.com/>

## Brandon Ballengée

The American artist Brandon Ballengée pursues a sustainable form of artistic research in his metier as a visual artist in the field of bioart and as a biologist in the field of herpetology.

Art Laboratory Berlin will show video documentation of his ongoing project ***Malamp Reliquaries***, on which Ballengée has worked in various forms since 2001. The project's aim is to investigate the potentially unnaturally high occurrence of morphological deformities among wild amphibian populations.

The exhibition also presents two other works of Ballengée developed in the course of his artistic and scientific research: the video projection ***Requiem pour Flocon de Neige Blesses (A Requiem for Injured Snowflakes)*** and the video installation ***The Cry of Silent Forms*** made up of eight monitors of different sizes arranged horizontally on the floor.

More information: <http://brandonballengee.com>

## Maja Smrekar

Maja Smrekar is an emerging young artist from Ljubljana, Slovenia, connecting the intersections of humanities and natural sciences with her main interest in the concept of life.

In 2012, working together with researchers from the Department for Freshwater and Land Ecosystems at the National Institute of Biology in Ljubljana/Slovenia, Smrekar built the installation *Crustacea deleatur* (an Aksioma Production). This project explores the problem of invasive species, for instance the interaction of European (indigenous) and non-European (tropical, invasive) crayfish. An architectural housing contained a two part aquarium, one part containing the local Slovene crayfish, the other - the Australian *red claw crayfish (Cherax quadricarinatus)* which recently has settled in the thermal Lake Topla in Slovenia and multiplied in great numbers. The two parts were connected by a ladder allowing the crustaceans the possibility of crossing over and confronting each other.

For the exhibition at Art Laboratory Berlin Smrekar has continued to develop this project and will present the installation *Crustacea deleatur* in a different form as ***BioBase: risky ZOOgraphies*** focussing on the marble crayfish (*Procambarus fallax forma virginalis*), and its form of asexual reproduction in which growth and development of embryos occur without fertilization, called parthenogenesis. Since the spring of 2013, in this context, there has been an intensive exchange between Smrekar and Prof. Dr. Scholtz from the Institute of Biology (Humboldt University of Berlin), one of the leading specialists in the marble crayfish worldwide.

More information: <http://www.biobase.si/>  
<http://majasmrekar.org/crustacea-deleatur>  
<https://crustaceadeleatur.wordpress.com>

**Cooperation partners:** degewo, fotoscout, Genossenschaft PA58, Aksioma - Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana

**Supported By:**



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**Media partner:** art-in-berlin