

Art goes biological: Nature takes over Berlin Hauptbahnhof

The new art installation Relationscape celebrates nature and starts a conversation about how biology can help solve global problems. Explore the piece from January 22-24, 2018, at Berlin Hauptbahnhof, during International Green Week.

Carved in steel, glass and concrete, the Berlin Hauptbahnhof stands as a monument to urban living. Here it is easy to forget nature and the very ground that we are walking on. The new art installation is part of an initiative called 'Age of Biology' and is made to remind us that biology has the potential to provide many of the sustainable answers that we are looking for.

At Berlin Hauptbahnhof, the daily commuters will meet aspects of nature displayed in huge discs – from fungi growing in an oversized petri dish to a huge cast of seaweed, moss, mushrooms and other flora. The installation is called *Relationscape*, and behind the piece are Nana Francisca Schottländer and the art collective Studio ThinkingHand.

"The piece sets out to create a relation-*scape*, where curiosity and exchange around biology might arise – right in the middle of the busy Berlin Hauptbahnhof," says Nana Francisca Schottländer.

The project is supported by Novozymes, and Science Manager Mikako Sasa hopes that the 'Age of Biology' will be a first step in bringing attention to biology and its power to shape our world.

"Our civilization has achieved a lot based on fossil fuels, but it came with a high cost. Age of Biology and this installation remind us that we need to come together around biology to build a more sustainable future. There is so much left to learn and do when it comes to biology – even beyond our specialty of enzymes and microbes," says Mikako Sasa.

The art installation and 'Age of Biology' initiative are in Berlin during International Green Week.

"We are here in Berlin, during International Green Week, but look forward to taking the conversation online and into many new places. Right now, we begin as one company, but we hope to invite partners to join in and make people aware of what is possible if we learn more about the world that we inhabit," says Mikako Sasa.

You can experience *Relationscape* at Berlin Hauptbahnhof, Level 0, Main Entrance, South Area, from January 22-24.

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About Age of Biology

Age of Biology was started by Novozymes, the world leader in biological solutions, with the intention of bringing attention to biology and its power to shape our world. Biology solves problems, and nature can heal itself. But we need to better understand our world in order to protect it.

Novozymes encourages enthusiasts, scientists, institutions, other companies and organizations to join together to learn about biology. Read more about Age of Biology on www.ageofbiology.com.

About Relationscape

Relationscape is a spatial installation piece by Studio ThinkingHand and Nana Francisca Schottländer. The piece stands as a sym-bio-poietic venture into the realm of biology understood as a co-creational mode of exploring, divulging and opening a dialogue with the fundamental other-than-human entities of our world.

The piece showcases and interrelates four different approaches or perspectives onto the delicacy of the cosmos, beyond the mere human capacity and frame; cultivation, archiving, mimicking and merging.

Cultivation – Petri dish

A curated collage of various living fungi from the enzyme laboratory at Novozymes, creating their own growing, dynamic and perishable landscape of relations, struggle and co-creation inside an oversized petri dish.

Archiving – Epoxy resin cast

Archived selections of seaweed, moss, mushrooms and other flora picked from Skåne in Sweden and Sjælland in Denmark are brought together in a curated composition. Cast in eco-friendly epoxy resin, the natural elements transform in the process resulting in a preserved archive of struggle, decay and ultimately death – in a new, long-preserved life of its own.

Mimicking – Biomimicry bone structure

Taking from the study of biomimicry, the mimicking aspect of the piece utilizes the deep structure of human bone as a sculptural element. As a field, biomimicry looks into how biology can be an invaluable source of knowledge in developing new, effective and sustainable ways of life. In the meeting between technology and biology new relations might occur, and new opportunities in natural co-creation might arise, as it is sought to depict in this part of the piece.

Merging – Mirror

In the mirror, all present elements, including the audience, come together, merging momentarily in various constellations along with the larger structures, buildings and patterns of life surrounding the piece.

About the artists

Nana Francisca Schottländer (b. 1977)

Nana Francisca Schottländer works cross-disciplinary in the intersection between physical performance and spatial stagings. Her works manifest in hybrid formats and concepts revolving around dialogical creation and shared presence. Each work is a laboratory for examining different aspects of life – from solitude, intimacy, death and ugliness to co-creation, social interventions and the impact of ritualistic spaces. Originally coming from dance, her ventures into spatial art, performance and bodily presence as a mode of research have led to more recent explorations of interspecies dialogues and non-anthropocentric approaches to artistic creation.

www.nanafrancisca.com

Studio ThinkingHand – Rhoda Ting (b. 1985) & Mikkel Dahlin Bojesen (b. 1988)

Studio ThinkingHand is an art collective that moves in the intersection of spacing, timing and research. From a vision surrounding aesthetics and embodied knowledge, they work with spatial, tactile and interactive installations that seek to evoke an experience-based curiosity with everyday life and the common space at the center. With a vantage point in theatrical set design, visual arts and existential philosophy they are focusing on works that showcase a playful and stimulating simplicity of the senses. Their works prioritize detail and composition to emphasize a symbiotic relationship between material and hand, and thereby aim to expand expressions towards potential new futures.

www.studiothinkinghand.com

About Novozymes

Novozymes is the world leader in biological solutions. Together with customers, partners and the global community, we improve industrial performance while preserving the planet's resources and helping build better lives. As the world's largest provider of enzyme and microbial technologies, our bioinnovation enables higher agricultural yields, low-temperature washing, energy-efficient production, renewable fuel and many other benefits that we rely on today and in the future.

We call it Rethink Tomorrow. www.novozymes.com