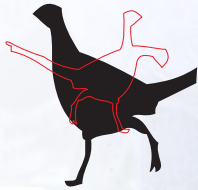


# VASTAL

VivoArts School for Transgenic Aesthetics Ltd.



vastal.eu

reservations (for labs only): info@vastal.eu



The VivoArts School for Transgenic Aesthetics Ltd. (VASTAL), is a temporary research and education institute of Adam Zaretsky and Waag Society. Zaretsky uses living organisms in his art. VASTAL organizes in September four activities.

Zaretsky: "I want to offer people knowledge, so that they can overcome their fear of complexity and take part in the debate about this technology. In the workshops I give with Vivo Arts you learn laboratory techniques such as isolating DNA, because if you're going to think about bio-ethics you need some hands-on experience. But the real goal of this experience is to think about what you're doing. It's not about learning to implant a gene in another organism, but about why we want to do that and what the consequences are."

from: 'DNA in the kitchen' by Tracy Metz,  
NRC Handelsblad, 10 July 2009.

11 September 2009 - Alt-Biology (lecture/discussion)

15 September 2009 - Growing Politics:  
Tissue Culture lab  
Tissue Culture and Parasitic Life  
(lecture/discussion)

19 September 2009 - (De)Mystified DNA:  
Sequencing lab



# 11.09.2009

**8:00-10:00 pm**

**Flamingoerre, Plantage Middenlaan  
41a, 1018 DC Amsterdam**

**Admission: free**

## *Alt-Biology*

*Solar Transgenics, Synthetic Biology, Nanotech Biomimicry, Post-Natural History and Green Biofuel (lecture/discussion)*

*Huub de Groot is a Professor of Biophysical Organic Chemistry at Leiden University. His research on producing Solar Biofuels from Micro organisms has consistently been focused on appropriate and*

*sustainable hi-tech replacement of fossil fuels. Richard Pell is professor of art at Carnegie Mellon, Pittsburg, USA and one of the founding members of the Center for PostNatural History ( www.postnatural.org ). Rich will speak about the Center's investigations into the geographic placement of transgenic plants and animals. Rich will also speak about Synthetic Biology and his role as a iGEM Judge.*

# 15.09.2009

**Lab: 1:00-5:00 pm**

**lecture: 8:00-10:00 pm**

**Theatrum Anatomicum, Nieuwmarkt 4,  
1012 CR Amsterdam**

**Admission: free**

## *Tissue Culture lab*

*What does it mean to grow disembodied cells from a former organism? This is a hands-on wet lab for public practical and experiential tissue*

## *Tissue Culture and Parasitic Life (lecture/discussion)*

*As co-founder and director of SymbioticA, The University of Western Australia, Oron Catts is involved in The Tissue Culture & Art Project .*

*Oron will speak about the politics of tissue cultured artworks also known as semi-living extended body artworks. With such challenging projects as Victimless Leather, Semi-Living Worry Dolls and Disembodied Cuisine, Oron continues to challenge conventional readings of tissue culture as well as the general culture of eating.*

*culture technique. We will isolate primary tissues (bone marrow, scar tissue, muscle and, possibly, embryonic stems cells) in a sterile hood and then incubate them separately from their original corporeal context.*

*Matteo Pasquinelli is a writer, curator and researcher at Queen Mary University of London. In Amsterdam, together with Katrien Jacobs and the Institute of Network Cultures, he organized the Art and Politics of Netporn conference (2005) and the C'Lick Me festival (2007).*

*Before the discovery of DNA, chromosomes were considered containers for an obscure fermentation activity. Today biotech hobbyists have reduced 'life' to a predictable copy-and-paste of numeric codes. Matteo Pasquinelli shows how there is more know-how in the most ancient practice of fermenting ambrosia than in contemporary bioart.*

# 19.09.2009

**1:00-5:00 pm**

**Theatrum Anatomicum, Nieuwmarkt 4,  
1012 CR Amsterdam**

**Admission: free**

## *(De)Mystified DNA - Sequencing lab*

*Join us for the random creation of a sequence of DNA. This lab is about understanding the Genetic code and the online freeware available to 'read' DNA. Our sequence is arrived at through chance. We will then creatively explore software options like BLAST for finding where the random sequence is already embedded in the genomes of sequenced*

*nature. We will also explore the online tools of plasmid design including DNA text to flesh online ordering and the anatomy of a DNA sequencing machine. As a group we will arrive at a symbolic reading of our chance strand of potential life alteration. Discussion in risk assessment in both chance based and knowledge based systems of hereditary difference production.*

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**Waag Society**

**VASTAL**  
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam School for Transgenic Aesthetics Ltd.