

FRANKLIN Donna (Aus)

Lux In vitro: A synergy of bio-illumination and textile technology - paper

This work explores the dynamics of the integration between art, science, performance and the implication of working with living organisms as an art form. It is the organic and the synthesized textiles, the pervasiveness and subsequent commodification of the natural world that will be explored.

Bio-illumination focuses on the connections between fungi, cloth, body and space, through the transfer of energy, performance and manipulation of these entities. This work reflects the impact technology has on the construction and development of the societal macrocosm.

The study of microbiology in relation to textile practices can be used as a tool to greatly expand how we approach the textile industry. Sourcing inspiration from these forms pushes the boundaries and artistic concepts to greater heights. It also creates a link with the historical context of natural cloths and dyes.

An intimate knowledge of these contemporary textiles develops by using organic based media to produce patterns, dyes and images. By exciting the bio-illumination of these microbiological entity's energy on a cellular level, the structure of a cloth containing these microbes links with the intricacy of the cellular structures of the body. The act of weaving cloth connects to the rhythms of the natural world and the growth of the organism onto cloth.

However, the environment within which these entities are created is constructed and controlled. This again is a reflection of the integrated effect technology can have on the influence on forms of nature and art, as these environments on cloth are pseudo-ecosystems.

Only when the science is fully understood and used wisely, then the combining of wet biological practices and art will be beneficial and successful as a source of new ways of approaching textile technology, fashion and performance.

the space between textile_art_design_fashion - Papers & Visual Presentations

Donna Franklin is currently studying her Masters of Arts (Visual Arts) at The School of Contemporary Arts, Edith Cowan University. She also has an artist residency with SymbioticA: The Art and Science Collaborative Research Laboratories in The School of Anatomy and Human Biology, at The University of Western Australia. She recently attended and presented a paper at The 11th International Fungi and Fibre Symposium in Denmark.

Special thank you to Oron Catts and Ionat Zurr of SymbioticA: The Art and Science Collaborative Research Laboratories in The School of Anatomy and Human Biology, Gary Cass and Elizabeth Haldalin of The Natural and Agricultural Laboratories, at The University of Western Australia, and Domenico de Clario, Rinske Carr, John Parkes and Nicola Kaye of The School of Contemporary Arts, Edith Cowan University.