STADT
WERK
STATT

PATULIN

BIENNALE TAIPEH 2018

Mycelium Network Society in Taiwan

WWW.STWST.AT

MYCELIUM NETWORK SOCIETY (MNS)

imagines an underground network situated in a post-internet mudland and powered by fungus, spores, culture, kitchen, radio, transmission, installations, workshops and performances. Departing from the pursuits of magic mushroom, MNS charts a state of hyper-hallucination to collective fungal consciousness, investigates the fungi culture, its network capacity to communicate and process information. As an after nature's network, MNS commands its own domain in human-disturbed forests - sprouting across the moisture of rich soils, expanding its colonies, sharing informations, networking co-habitants across borders. In our withered ecosphere, we seek out mycelium to lead us out of the ruins, to construct political tactics, to salvage economic meltdown, to persist in constant molecular communication a la mycelium mode.

Brief background introduction:

Mycelium Network Society was launched with an exhibition and a panel discussion at ecologies excursion at transmediale2017 in Berlin, followed by a residency and exhibition with 3 artists working with mycelium culture at Eleonore/STWST in Linz. For years 2018-2020, we propose to branch out Mycelium Network Society a la franchise mode. We are reaching out to alternative art spaces and bio(hack)labs to adopt a network, to become a node of Mycelium Network Society, to set a division that focuses on artists who work with mycelium, fungus, spores as art and network medium and with the artists to organize workshops, residencies and exhibitions. The node who cultivates own local mycelium network remains independent and autonomous in it's operation, agrees to share informations, resources and be part of larger global mycelium network. In addition, we consider analogue aspects of the inter-node communications. We ask the nodes to harvest spores from local mushrooms and make spore prints for node to node spores exchange via post, to collect spores towards a global spores release party in 2020 when we hope to publish a book that includes all nodes' activities. By Spring 2018, we have eight nodes joined.

APO - 33, Nantes, France
furtherfield, London, UK
Coalesce: Center for Bilogical Art, Buffalo, USA
Squeaky Wheel film and media art center, Buffalo, USA
The Santuary for Independent Media | Nature Lab, Troy, USA
GENSPACE, New York City, USA
DIMENSION PLUS, Taipei, Taiwan
竹圍工作室 **| Bamboo curtain studio**, Taipei, Taiwan

TAIPEI BIENNALE 2018 EDITION:

For Mycelium Network Society Taipei Biennale presentation, we propose:
GALLERY INSTALLATION:

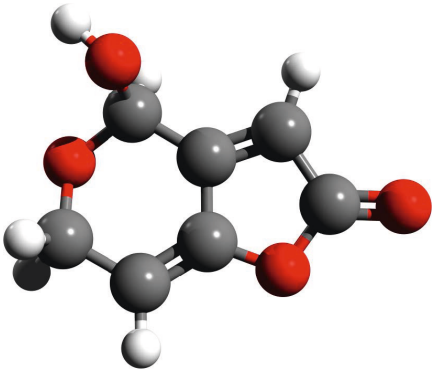
PATULIN

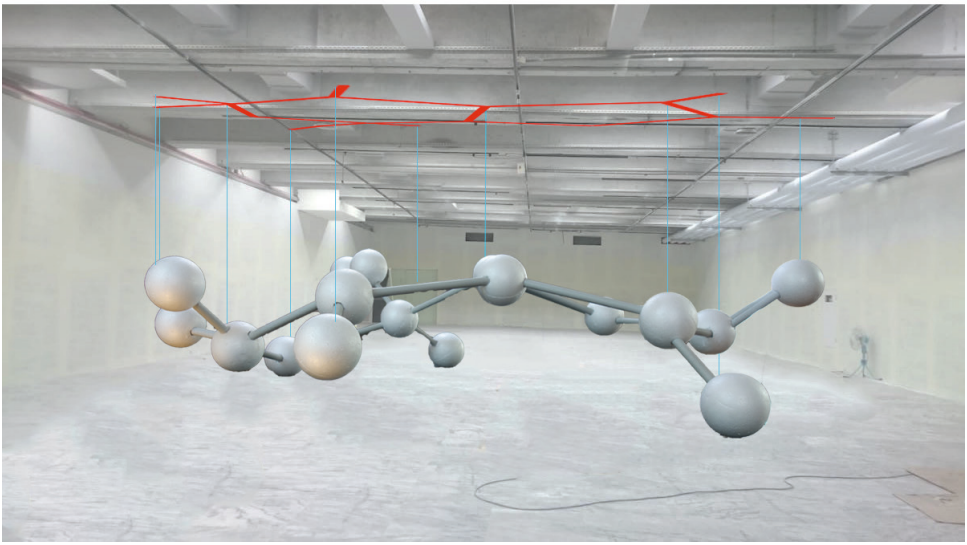
The mycelium, a fungal network of thread-like cells, represents a truly underground communications network. The concept for this installation proposes a visual representation of a living network, acting with ecosystem intelligence and as symbiotic networks that interconnects all other plants and roots. We want to construct a molecular structure of 17 atoms based on $C^7H^6O^4$ formula of Patulin. Each atom is built with transparent acrylic glass inside which we implement the living habitation to grow a bed of ganoderma lucida (LingZhi) mycelium/mushroom. In an attempt to examine cross-spore germination between two parallel wide-area networks; between radio-based communication technologies and the single organism network of the mycelium, we propose to install radio mycelium with Fungal transceivers sprouting mycelial antennas forming an imaginary underground network.

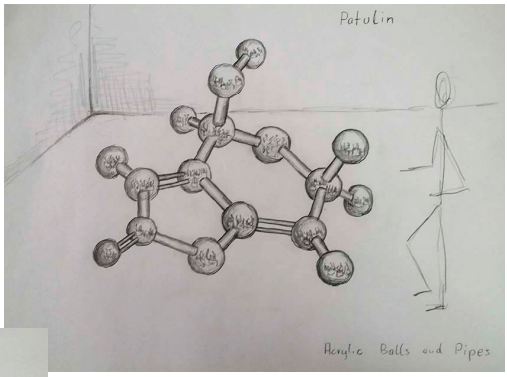
PATULIN

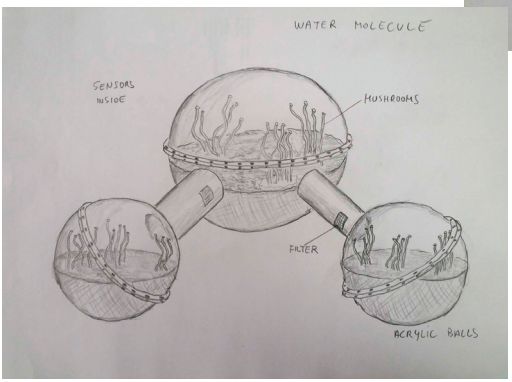
Space required for installation:
7m x 10m

Tech specs:
(1) construct Patulin with 17 acrylic glass atoms: 88cm (7), 80cm(4) 50cm (6) fabrication of each atom includes aluminum piping, rigid structure and LED lights.
(2) growing ganoderma lucida/Lingzhi mycelium/mushroom inside the atoms.
(3) radio mycelium construction:
(a) Several sensor/transmitter/jammers will be installed - one or two in each of the atoms forming the molecule. These devices (custom made electronics and circuit boards) will examine small-scale material changes within the mycelial atoms and transmit this information across wide-band radio frequencies, for later audio spatialisation as part of the installation.
(b) 8x FM radio receivers/receiver modules in the space
(c) 8x mid-range active monitors (Genelec 8040)
(d) PC and 12 channel soundcard (RME Hammerfall)
(e) Eight channel analogue audio mixer
(4) 1 display plasma screen and mediaplayer to show the Mycelium Network Society participating networknodes' activities.






Patulin
Acrylic Balls and Pipes


WATER MOLECULE
SENSORS INSIDE
MUSHROOMS
FILTER
ACRYLIC BALLS

RADIO MYCELIUM - OPENING NIGHT PERFORMANCE

We propose to hold a workshop and an opening night performance titled RADIO MYCELIUM with 17 local sound artists.

Tech specs for this performance:

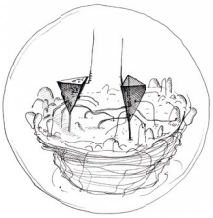
(a) 32 channel analogue audio mixer
(b) 17x FM radio receivers
(c) PA - 2xsubs and 4x mid-range D&B or L.Acoustics with all cables

PROPOSAL for Radio Mycelium workshop and opening performance:
Seventeen participants will form an inter-species, human-mycelial radio performance network, activating the molecular Mycelium Network Society installation and instantiating an active mycelial/mushroom audio networked circuit.

Within the mushroom molecule structure seventeen transmission devices are preinstalled which operate according to local mycelial conditions and transmit smallscale material change information across wide-band radio frequencies. These devices will interface with local humidity, temperature and radio signals within the growing mycelial bodies, sometimes creating rich signals, sometimes blocking or jamming signals within a very close space, parasitically riding on local space electro-magnetic emissions.

Prior to the performance, seventeen sound artists will take part in an open workshop building DIY radio receivers and sculptural antennae, testing the reception of signals and interfacing with open examples of the Lingzhi growing mushroom. Throughout the workshop a fungal dramaturgy will be developed for the opening performance, comprising acts which are dominated by certain received sets of signals.

During the performance, the seventeen artists will work with spatially defined radio signals, and moving radio receivers within the constraints of an eight channel sound system which allows for precise localisation of sound signals. Artists will also play with their own approaches to handheld Lingzhi fungi which will serve as audio and full spectrum instruments. The performance is a collaboration between electronic sensibilities and the extra human realms of radio frequency and Lingzhi.



Mycelium Network Society
http://myceliumNS.net

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Artists: Taro, Franz Xaver, Martin Howse, Shu Lea Cheang
contact: mns-tb2018@cyclex.info