

Hybrid Ecologies – The Transdisciplinary Work of the Bioartsociety Finland

Erich Berger
Bioartsociety, Finland

Abstract

Since its launch in 2008 the Bioartsociety based in Helsinki has continuously worked to develop transdisciplinary artistic practices at the intersection of art and natural sciences with a strong environmental research angle. The field of art&science is rapidly evolving and it is challenging to define it. Today the field includes: art using science or technology, artistic critiques of the role of science and technology in society, art that uses science and technology for inspiration, art that mediates science and technology to society, interdisciplinary practices that incorporate aspects of art and science like design and architecture, but also scientific analysis of the process of art making, appreciation and conservation. Art and science are both practices based on intellectual creativity, which shape our experience, perception and understanding of the world. Both can work together on how we translate factual information into actual and emotional experiences to offer new ways to understand new realities. These experiences can create public awareness and transform it into a culture of responsibility to become a cultural asset, which benefits the society at large. The paper will use the work of the Bioartsociety as case studies to an-

alyze what transdisciplinary means, what are the motivations and conditions for transdisciplinary work and how art education can contribute to transdisciplinary thinking. Notable projects will include 80+1 Kilpisjärvi (2009, about climate change), Field_Notes (2011,13,15 about artistic field work on environmental topics), Making_Life (2014-16 about synthetic biology) and HYBRID MATTERS (2015,16 about the convergence of environment and technology). <http://bioartsociety.fi>

Keywords

Transdisciplinary, Biological art, Art & science, Art & technology.