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Artist's Talk

Title: Transformation – A Psychotransgenic Workshop on Making with Life

Abstract:

This talk presents initial responses from *Transformation* - a bio-art workshop that forms part of an on going research collaboration between Northumbria University and the Institute of Genetic Medicine at Newcastle University. *Transformation* introduces the concept of psychotransgenics: the situating of oneself physically in the position of transforming a thought into a living organism and the encounter of doing so. The workshop enables participants to examine the potential of DNA as data storage device and medium for the creation of bio-assemblages, choose whether they wish to physically store information within the body of a living organism and then reflect on their decision via a video diary.

Transformation is part of *Evolution of the Subject* – a research project that explores the evolution of data within living material through fine art practice. It is in part a dissemination of the artist's research, addressing the questions: How might the agency of transgenic organisms be explored through fine art practice? In what ways can an art practice situated in the laboratory expand the discourse around our relationship with transgenic organisms?