

Press Release

MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology launches Artist in Residence - 'Home in the Service of Science'

The MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge launch their Artist in Residence project - 'Home in the Service of Science', this month as a project to engage staff and the wider public in exploring the LMB's work and the relationship between science and the home.

The MRC LMB Artist in Residence is being led by an interdisciplinary team of artists made up of a Cambridge based performance company led by Mehrdad Seyf (**30 Bird**) and a London based participatory art and architecture practice led by Torange Khonsari (**public works**). **30 Bird** and **public works** launch this residency as a collaboration of architecture, performance and science under the same roof.

Home in the Service of Science is inspired by a year of conversations with scientists, cleaners, technicians, receptionists, security guards and the catering staff at the LMB, investigating scientific research and dialogue with everyday life. The residency now launches as a programme of events and activities for staff and the wider public, based around a new imaginative architectural structure built by the artists within the vast atrium of the LMB. As a conceptual 'home' it comprises a shed of curiosities, a space under the stairs, a parlour, a corridor and a study, and will act as the 'home' of the residency through to its completion in October 2016.

Between May and October, **Home in the Service of Science** will present events and activities at the LMB through a multiple of visual works, continuously changing the architectural structure as it morphs into a space for dialogue, debate and performance.

LMB staff and invited members of the public will participate in a series of 'hostings', events of food and dialogue exploring architectural and performance ideas around the central notions of the residency: home in the service of science and the quest for knowledge.

Key public events:

DATE: Public event as part of the 2016 MRC Festival of Research:

As part of the event it will be the first chance for the public to see

October 2016 (date tbc): Final performance event as part of Cambridge Festival of Ideas:

30 Bird and public works will work with the LMB staff and students to develop an interdisciplinary performance by visualizing and animating the content produced during the hostings. The performance will be open to the public as part of the Cambridge Festival of Ideas in October 2017.

Further information:

Background information on the Medical Research Council (MRC) Laboratory of Molecular Biology

The Medical Research Council (MRC) Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB) is one of the birthplaces of modern molecular biology and one of the world's leading research institutes. LMB scientists are working to advance the understanding of biological processes at the molecular level – with the goal of using this information to understand the workings of complex systems, such as the immune system and the brain, and solve key problems in human health and disease such as cancer, asthma and Alzheimer's disease.

Discoveries and inventions developed at the LMB, for example DNA sequencing and methods to determine the structure of proteins, have revolutionised all areas of biology. LMB scientists are also encouraged to exploit their discoveries – through patents, licensing and business start-ups – helping to advance medical research and improve the UK's economic competitiveness. To date, work carried out by LMB scientists has attracted 10 Nobel prizes, dozens of Royal Society awards and numerous other scientific honours.

<http://www2.mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk>

Biographies of the artists:

An award winning performance company **30 Bird** create interdisciplinary performance projects, often designed for non-theatrical spaces and toured nationally and internationally to theatres, festivals, cinemas and sometimes across whole cities. We want our audiences to have a direct relationship with our work; to engage, to participate and to be surprised. Our roots lie in visual theatre with the company's early work presented at venues such as the Riverside Studios, Lyric Hammersmith, Birmingham Rep, The Traverse Edinburgh, Cambridge Junction and Warwick Arts Centre. 30 Bird prioritise a spatial and collaborative approach to performance exploring subjects pertinent to contemporary society. We work with practitioners from a variety of disciplines: architecture, science, dance, the visual arts, music and film. Our work has an international flavour and the company engages artists from as varied a background as the UK, Iran, Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland, India, Japan and Turkey.

<http://www.30bird.org>

public works is a critical design practice set up in 2004 that occupies the terrain in-between architecture, art, performance and activism*.

**Activism for us is not about anarchic disobedience but constructive action to bring about social and environmental change.*

Practice is interested in urban democracy. Together with our interdisciplinary network, we re-work the city's opportunities towards citizen driven development and

nurturing their rights over the city. public works' projects explore what constitutes civic in the city and how to re-design structures that restrict it.

We create long sustained relationships that build, trust and enable co-authorship in city making.

Our engagements allow knowledge production, be it informal and intimate or political and academic. - it is through the production and sharing of knowledge that we rework the city.

Our outputs include discursive events, research, campaigns, urban strategies, participatory art and incremental architecture across all scales. Its aesthetic and spatiality are determined by external collaborators involved and locality, which makes every public works project aesthetically varied.

<http://www.publicworksgroup.net/home/>

About Cambridge Biomedical Campus (CBC)

The Cambridge Biomedical Campus (CBC) is the name given to the cluster of biomedical, clinical, research and treatment organisations centred around Addenbrooke's Hospital on the Southern fringe of the city of Cambridge. By 2020 it will be one of the largest and most internationally respected centres for patient care, biomedical research and education in the world. CBC is already home to a number of internationally renowned treatment, teaching and research organisations including the University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology (MRC LMB), Cancer Research UK and Addenbrooke's and Rosie Hospitals. This concentration of clinical and biomedical expertise is now set to expand considerably with planning consent having recently been granted for up to 215,000 square metres of new biomedical research, development and clinical expansion space on a 70 acre site adjoining the existing hospital, research and development facilities. The expansion is providing new accommodation for the MRC's Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Papworth Hospital, and AstraZeneca.

About the CBC Public Art Programme

The CBC Public Art Programme is delivering two major public art projects as a fully integrated part of the CBC development. The first is a landmark art commission to design the campus' new focal point 20,000sq.m. Circus and Piazza public realm. The second is a campus wide Artist-in-Residence programme that will commission artists from a range of disciplines to work within and across campus organisations to engage patients, staff and wider public audiences in the campus' ground breaking work.

About Countryside Properties & Liberty Property Trust

The development of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus is being undertaken through a joint venture between Countryside Properties PLC, and Liberty Property Trust, in conjunction with Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

<http://www.countryside-properties.com/>

<http://www.libertyproperty.com/>

About Futurecity

Futurecity is a cultural placemaking agency. They have worked with Countryside Properties PLC, Liberty Property Trust and CBC organisations since 2009 to develop and implement the CBC Public Art Programme that includes the campus wide Artist in Residence programme. Futurecity devise cultural strategies, broker cultural partnerships and deliver art projects from inception to completion through collaborative relationships between clients, artists and other disciplines. They champion artists who are changing the way art is presented within the built environment and public realm. Current projects range from the recently unveiled 78 metre Richard Wilson sculpture 'Slipstream' for Heathrow Terminal 2: Queens Terminal, to an arts programme for the new Cancer Centre at Guys Hospital, London.

In 2010 Futurecity opened a Cambridge office to support a bespoke approach to commissioning public art and cultural projects, working with Cambridge's unique offers across the arts, culture, science and technology. Leading and emerging artists are integrating major public projects into the fabric and life of new workplace, healthcare and residential schemes, offering a range of engagement opportunities for residents, workers and visitors.

<http://cambridge.futurecity.co.uk>