

IN-GALLERY INSIGHTS TALK WITH ORON CATTS AND IONAT ZURR

Thursday 15 June | 7.30pm

About Oron Catts

Oron Catts is an artist, researcher and curator whose pioneering work with the Tissue Culture and Art Project which he established in 1996 is considered a leading biological art project. In 2000 he co-founded SymbioticA, an artistic research centre housed within the School of Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology, The University of Western Australia. Under Catts' leadership SymbioticA has gone on to win the Prix Ars Electronica Golden Nica in Hybrid Art (2007) the WA Premier Science Award (2008) and became a Centre for Excellence in 2008. In 2009 Catts was recognised by Thames & Hudson's "60 Innovators Shaping our Creative Future" book in the category "Beyond Design", and by Icon Magazine (UK) as one of the top 20 Designers, "making the future and transforming the way we work".

Catts interest is Life; more specifically the shifting relations and perceptions of life in the light of new knowledge and its applications. Often working in collaboration with other artists (mainly Dr. Ionat Zurr) and scientists, Catts have developed a body of work that speaks volumes about the need for new cultural articulation of evolving concepts of life. Catts was a Research Fellow in Harvard Medical School, a visiting Scholar at the Department of Art and Art History, Stanford University, and a Visiting Professor of Design Interaction, Royal College of Arts, London. Catts' ideas and projects reach beyond the confines of art; his work is often cited as inspiration to diverse areas such as new materials, textiles, design, architecture, ethics, fiction, and food.

About Ionat Zurr

An award winning artist and researcher, Zurr formed, together with Oron Catts, the Tissue Culture and Art Project. She has been an artist in residence in the School of Anatomy and Human Biology since 1996 and was central to the establishment of SymbioticA in 2000. Zurr, who received her PhD titled "Growing Semi-Living Art" from the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, is a core researcher and academic co-ordinator at SymbioticA. She is considered a pioneer in the field of biological arts and her work has been exhibited internationally. She is considered a leader in the growing field of Biological Art, both as a practitioner and a theoretician. Ionat's main interests concerned with our shifting perceptions of life and the evolving relationships we have with the different gradients of life through the use of biotechnology. Zurr developed and runs the academic program in SymbioticA. For example, she designed and initiated the internationally renowned program: *Master of Science (Biological Arts)*. The Master Degree is intended for people of any discipline (arts or sciences) and who wish to undertake interdisciplinary studies to engage with the crossover of art and science. This is a degree based in a science faculty with an artistic and theoretical output.