

Kat Austen *Vital|Flows*



Bio:

Dr Kat Austen a Berlin-based artist and interdisciplinary researcher with a passion for the environment, digital media and understanding the world's complex networks. In 2017 she will be 'Artist in the Arctic' for Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute. She is Artist-in-Residence at University College London's Faculty of Maths and Physical Science, and lectures on art and DIY science at University College London's Bachelor's in Arts and Sciences (BASc).

She has exhibited, among others, at SPACE, London; NYU Shanghai Gallery, Shanghai; Kulturbrauerei, Berlin; Museo Diego Rivera, Mexico City; Palazzo Ducale, Genova; Carter Road, Mumbai; The Crystal, London... Dr Austen consults on art and science, art and technology, technology in society, futures and scenarios, multiple knowledges, inter-disciplinarity, community and participatory research and design, system resilience and infrastructure design. She has held artist residencies at NYU Shanghai, ArtOxygen Mumbai, LASTheatre among others, and holds a PhD in Chemistry from the Royal Institution / UCL. She is an alumnus of the London Creative Network. (<http://katausten.com>, iam@katausten.com)

Project description:

Vital | Flows explores food as a vehicle for interrogating the ephemeral nature of boundaries between self and other(s). How do we establish these boundaries and understand our relationships across them? We exist within a set of rules about the value of knowledge - a hierarchy of knowledge that places quantified data at the top and the "lower" senses at the bottom. Post-truth answers a need within us arising from our disconnect from sensory and embodied knowledge. Vital | Flows comprises multiple facets that challenge and intervene in our present knowledge hierarchy, focussing on food as a unifying theme. It is an exploration of transdisciplinary practice as a route to more integrated relationships between the self and other.

Inspiration:

Vital | Flows draws knowledge about food from multiple sources - DIY science, phenomenology, instinct, culture, myth, aesthetics... This is an exploration in breaking down the boundaries between inside and outside "myself", redefining the concept of the individual to incorporate the reality of our permeability. By achieving this through melding knowledge from quantification, embodiment, aesthetics and more, can we reach a new understanding of the place of self and other(s)? (<http://katausten.com/vital/index.html>)

