

This October, Rome's historic Botanical Garden hosts an event for our future: **Our Bio-Tech Planet: Future of Plants and Humans**

A multimedia event combining history and the future, plants and humans, science and art, biology and technology, and a world of possibility...

From October 24th-30th artists, scientists, innovators and dreamers combine in this multimedia, international, cross-disciplinary event where the delicate and crucial questions of our ebbing present are asked in order to propose new ways to approach our future. Rome's majestic Botanical Garden, located in the central and hip area of Trastevere, will be welcoming the Berlin-based art/science/tech organization Art & Science Node (ASN) and their 16 partners at the EU Chic Innovation Consortium (CHIC) for a one-off exploration into biotechnology and its role in the future of plants and humans. [Our Bio-Tech Planet: Future of Plants and Humans \(OBTP\)](#) looks, amongst other things, at the future of agriculture, nutrition and health, Genetic Modification and New Plant Breeding Techniques, life on another planet and interspecies communication, inviting world-class chefs, top scientists and a host of multigenerational artists to open a public dialogue around these subjects. This unique, varied group will appear together for the first time for panel discussions, workshops and the OBTP art exhibition (which includes interactive human-sized tongues, micro-landscapes, AR universes and live performances), turning to plants for methods to deal with our current ecological situation and asking: how can innovation in biotechnology access the power of plants to forge a better future for us all? Join ASN, CHIC and their guests and partners for the Vernissage on October 24th from 14:30 onward, where drinks, a curator's tour of the exhibition, live performances and cooking workshops will take place alongside the announcement of the OBTP Artist's Contest. Stick around for the rest of the week for the OBTP daily activities including interactive workshops, talks, panel discussions and film screenings every day from 09:30 to 18:30.

Let's explore: **what next for plants and humans?**

WHAT: multimedia, cross-disciplinary art/science/tech event

WHEN: October 25th-30th from 09:30- 18:30

Vernissage: October 24th from 14:30 - 20:00

WHERE: Botanical Garden, Rome: Largo Cristina di Svevia, 23 A - 24, 00165 Roma RM, Italy

HOW: Open to the public upon entrance to the Botanical Garden.

HOW: Open to the public upon entrance to the Botanical Garden.

About Art & Science Node:

Art & Science Node (ASN) is a creative and innovative network aiming at and committed to the creation of the synergy between Art, Science and Technology. Based in Berlin, it has successfully established itself as a platform for sharing knowledge and experience. ASN provides a platform for the artistic, scientific and technological milieus. It develops and supports interdisciplinary projects, organizes international events with discussion panels and "artists in laboratories" residence programs and interdisciplinary workshops. ASN team members and partners are professionals – theorists and practitioners from multiple organizations and institutions found all over the world. Public engagement and education are one of the most important challenges for the art and science communities. That is why ASN develops innovative communication strategies for the benefit of the society of knowledge. With these innovative combination strategies ASN accompanies CHIC in the dissemination of the results of scientific researches.

About Chic Innovation Consortium:

CHIC is a research and innovation project supported through the EU Horizon 2020 funding programme. The €7.3 million project supports the establishment of a responsible innovation pathway for the development and application of New Plant Breeding Techniques (NPBTs) for chicory as a multipurpose crop for the production of high-value consumer products, in line with societal needs and concerns. The consortium includes SMEs, an industrial partner, non-profit organizations and research institutes from 11 European countries and one from New Zealand. CHIC explores the interactions between technological potential and societal acceptance of modern plant breeding. Chicory is a highly relevant case where new plant breeding technologies (considered in the NPBT set) can make a real difference of species.

About the Botanical Garden of Rome:

Part of the Department of Environmental Biology of the esteemed Sapienza University, the Botanic Garden was created in 1660 when Pope Alexander VII donated an area to the University on the Janiculum Hill. Its current location is the stunning Renaissance Garden of Villa Corsini which was built in the XV century and restructured in the XVIII century. The Villa was bought by the Italian state in 1883 and today hosts the "Accademia dei Lincei", one of the oldest and most important scientific academies in Italy (laying claim to such alumni as Galileo Galilei, Charles Darwin and Louis Pasteur). The garden was donated to the Sapienza University with the intention of establishing a Botanic Garden. It covers an area of 12 hectares between the Janiculum hill and the Trastevere District and is characterized by a combination of historical monuments dating back to ancient Rome, the XVI and the XIX centuries. There are 13 plant collections, some of world importance, and about 2700 species in cultivation.