

## **Oron Catts & Ionat Zurr**

Award winning Artists, researchers and Curators, Catts and Zurr formed the internationally renowned Tissue Culture & Art Project in 1996.

Catts is the Academic Lead/Director, Institute of Advanced Studies, The University of Western Australia, a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Visual Identities in Art and Design Research Centre, Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, and co-founder and Director of SymbioticA, a biological art research center at The University of Western Australia (2000-2024), now an independent lab. He was a Professor of Contestable Design at the Royal College for the Arts UK, and Australia Council of the Arts Fellow in Emerging and Experimental Arts (2020-2021)

Dr Ionat Zurr is the Chair of the Fine Arts Discipline at the School of Design UWA and SymbioticA's academic co-ordinator. She was A visiting Scholar at PennState University US 2023

Both were Visiting Professors at Biofilia – Based for Biological Arts, Aalto University, Finland, visiting scholars at The Centre of Arts and Art History at Stanford University (2007) and Research Fellows at The Tissue Engineering & Organ Fabrication Laboratory, Harvard Medical School (2000-2001).

Catts & Zurr's 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 and scientists, they have developed a body of work that speaks volumes about the need for new cultural articulations of evolving concepts of life.

They are considered pioneers in the field of Biological Arts; they publish widely and exhibit internationally. Their work was exhibited and collected by museums such as Pompidou Centre in Paris, MoMA NY, Mori art Museum, NGV, GoMA, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, Ars Electronica, National Art Museum of China and more. Their research was covered by The NY Times, Washington Post, Wired, New Scientist, Time, Newsweek, Nature, Science, and other TV, radio, print and online media.

Catts & Zurr ideas and projects reach beyond the confines of art; their work is often cited as inspiration to diverse areas such as new materials, textiles, design, architecture, ethics, fiction, and food.

## **SELECTED CAREER MILESTONES for Catts & Zurr:**

- 1996- Established The Tissue Culture and Art Project (TC&A) that was instrumental in developing the field of biological arts (bioart) and the use of contemporary biotechnologies as a medium for artistic expression.
- 1998- First solo show of TC&A in PICA
- 2000- Co-founded SymbioticA as the first lab dedicated for artistic research into the life sciences.
- 2000- Presented the first living tissue engineered sculptures (the Semi-living worry dolls) in Ars Electronica.
- 2003- Grown and eat the first lab grown meat as part of the Disembodied Cuisine performance/installation.
- 2004- Grown and exhibited the first lab grown leather that was later featured in the 2008 NY MoMA show Design and the Elastic Mind.
- 2007 – SymbioticA wins the Golden Nica in Hybrid Art Category, Prix Ars Electronica. TC&A receive Second Prize in the Telephonica VIDA10 International Competition on art and artificial Life.
- 2008- SymbioticA awarded the WA Premier Prize for Excellence in Science Communication Outside the Classroom and becomes a Centre of Excellence. TC&A Exhibits work in NY MoMA.
- 2008-2011 A jointly funded initiative between The University of Western Australia and the Western Australian Department of Culture and the Arts, to setup SymbioticA as The Centre of Excellence in

Biological Arts for 3 years.

- 2009-Thames & Hudson's 60 Innovators Shaping our Creative Future (one of five in the category "Beyond Design") and Icon Magazine (UK) Top 20 Designers making the future and transforming the way we work.
- 2011 -Curated Visceral; The Living Art Experiment, at Science Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland
- 2012- TC&A has Two retrospective exhibitions In Poland; Laznia Centre of Contemporary Arts, Gdansk, and Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw.
- 2012 Seconded from the University of Western Australia to Aalto University, Helsinki Finland to consult and set up biological art lab.
- 2014 The Technē Institute for Arts and Emerging Technologies Fellowship (Buffalo, NY)
- 2015- Curated DeMonstrable, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, The University of Western Australia.
- 2015 -SymbioticA wins The Australia Council for the Arts tender to host the National Experimental Arts Forum.
- 2016- WA Art Organisation Investment Program (OIP) for SymbioticA- Three years annual funding
- 2018- (Catts) Co-Curated FAKE, Science Gallery, Dublin and HyperPrometheus, PICA
- 2019-Future and the Arts: AI, Robotics, Cities, Life - How Humanity Will Live Tomorrow, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, curatorial Advisor.
- 2019 (Catts) Invited keynote at Singapore's A\*STAR: Leaders in Science Forum.
- 2020-2021 (Catts)Australia Council of the Arts Fellowship in Emerging and Experimental Arts
- 2023- Award of Destination, Prix Ars Electronica for 3SDC project.
- 2023 (Zurr) Invited Keynote International Society of Electronic Arts 2023, Paris
- 2024- WA Screen Culture Awards, in the category: Alternative Content for 3SDC to the Power of 4 Screens.

**Steve Berrick** is a West Australian based artist that works with code, specialising in designing highly technical interactive systems for performance and installation. His works place the audience as the centrepiece of the interaction, often facilitating a tactile creative process which is fed into a collaborative digital playground.

Steve is interested in pushing work to new and diverse audiences, presenting work in theatres, galleries, museums, public spaces and app stores. Recent works include Guardians (Perth Winter Arts Festival), Bumperball (Scitech Science Museum), Hello Future Self (Experimenta Make Sense) and Somewhere Our City (Perth International Arts Festival).

Steve has received awards for robot design, technology design and software enabling crowd sourced place activation.

#### *Recent projects include*

2024	Dust	<i>WA Museum commission</i>
	Scramble Upwards	<i>Strange Festival commission</i>
2023	3SDC	<i>with Symbiotica</i>
	Wonderbox	<i>with Sensorium Theatre</i>
2022	Invisible Outfields	<i>Strange Festival commission</i>
	My Self in that Moment	<i>with Tamara Saulwick &amp; Peter Knight</i>
2021	Bassendean Green Trail Gallery	<i>Town of Bassendean commission</i>
	HOUSE	<i>with Barking Gecko Theatre Company</i>
	Meeting Place	<i>with Tom Lucey &amp; Chris Nixon</i>