

## “Genetics & Art - A Symbiosis”

*The University of Applied Arts in Vienna and the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology (IMBA) realize a joint project*

Inspired by science topics and impressions gained in discussions with researchers from the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology, young art students from the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, including some from the Erwin Wurm master class, designed a total of eighteen projects as part of a competition. Four of these projects have now been realised at IMBA.

The competition was jointly organized by IMBA and the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, the project aiming to promote the interaction of science and art. Internationally renowned Austrian artist Erwin Wurm was also on the jury; “Science can serve as a source of inspiration, my concern is to extend perceptions and foster interest in discovery on both sides.”

The art works were created in direct response to impressions left on the artists by the topic of genetics and the IMBA institute and its researchers, an extended visit to IMBA granting students an initial insight into the work of a research institute. Individual topics were discussed and expanded in personal conversations with scientists.

Rector of the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Gerald Bast was one of the two initiators of the project; “It is my aim to bring science and art closer together, so I am pleased that private sponsors have now been found to implement some works of art.”

Roman Pfeffer, head of the transdisciplinary arts class at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and competition project supervisor adds: “It is only through the realization of the project that these works become public, whereas if they remain drafts, it’s just art for the archive.”

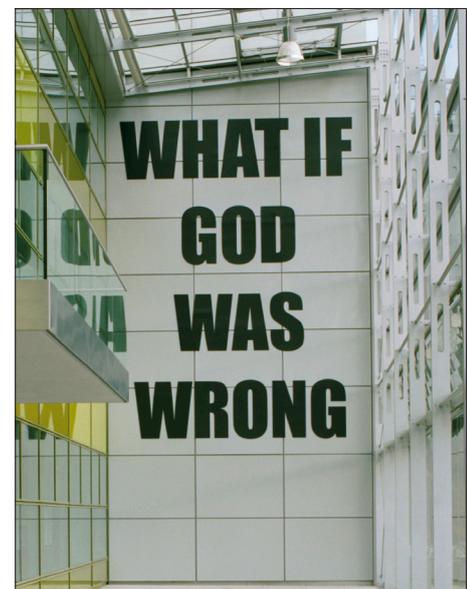
The four works of art are a twelve-meter high installation, three giant mandelas with plant and animal motifs, vector graphics developed from ‘found’ organisms and a provocative logo which can be read in the winter garden at IMBA. Implementation directly in the research building means art has become part of the daily working environment of the IMBA staff, the scientists seeing the new works as an inspiration and impetus for discussion. Josef Penninger, director of IMBA and second initiator and committed supporter of the project; “We researchers are intensively searching for meaning behind the results of our research and attempt to critically question any claims of absolute truth. I therefore believe it is important to bring art to an institute like this. I want people to occasionally stop and consider what the objectives of our actions actually are.”

As in the arts, so too in science and particularly in fundamental research; the path to knowledge is not linear and the objective can often not be reached directly. Josef Penninger thus sees a symbiosis between the two disciplines of genetics and art; “Good science is like good art, it’s about raising unexpected questions, identifying relationships beyond the obvious, and developing completely new ideas.”

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Kunstwerk: Lukas Troberg



# IMBA Press Release

## Artwork & Artists:

### **Kay Walkowiak**

*please leave quietly, 2010*

Mixed Media Installation, 1200 x 150 x 120 cm

### **Leander Schönweger**

*Mandalas, 2008/10*

Diasec

### **Ian Deschka**

*The unexpected result of an euphoric relationship, 2008/10*

36 Vektorgrafiken

### **Lukas Troberg**

*WHAT IF GOD WAS WRONG, 2008/10*



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 campus vienna  
**BIOCENTER**

The logo for Campus Vienna BioCenter features a stylized DNA double helix in blue and green, followed by the text 'campus vienna' in a lowercase sans-serif font and 'BIOCENTER' in a bold, uppercase sans-serif font.