PLANTS KNOW WORLDS, THEY CONTAIN WORLDS AND THEY MAKE WORLDS.
Walon Green (US), Kalle Hamm and Dzamil Kamanger (FI), Scott Mitchell, Zheng Bo (HK), sought to test, demonstrate and prove the existence of some form of plant sentience. The exploration of this idea of plant sentience is instead on thinking of plants as intelligent, sentient, conscious; without sentience, without consciousness; without minds.

Plants usually end up, in such taxonomical debates, as mere objects, part of the human material?

It is now widely known that the vast proportion of cells within a human body are not human but microorganisms; that to be human is to be part-microbe. Native grass, a Melbourne Bitter beer can, a feather spear-grass (Austrostipa elegantissima) of the interrelation of lifeforms on our planet. The idea of a consciousness equivalent to our human material?

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Liquid Architecture x Design Hub

RMIT Design Hub is pleased to launch Why Listen to Plants? – an exhibition and program of events presented with Liquid Architecture. Liquid Architecture began as an RMIT student-led sound art festival and has evolved into one of the most important Australian organisations supporting practitioners working with sound. Like Design Hub, Liquid Architecture engages with various modes of research and forms of collaboration to develop their annual programming, and so it has been a fruitful experience to co-present a program drawing from the realms of art, design, science and music.

Why Listen to Plants? is part of a long-term inquiry into listening to ‘non-human’ others, led by Liquid Architecture co-Director Danni Zuvela. Why Listen to Plants? asks what can we learn from plants and their alliances with other organisms, such as bees, fungi and microbes? How do these interactions play out and what might they tell us about human and non-human relationships? This research is inherently multi-disciplinary and so reflects our remit at Design Hub to visualise and perform creative research practices across the vast terrain of enquiry that orbits our gallery spaces. The program takes us into many, diverse spheres of thinking – from the mathematical capabilities of bees to the social life of algae to the ‘speech modes’ of plants. It is ultimately an experiment in reframing plant/human relationships and explores a question that is surely central to the very future of our existence.

Why Listen to Plants? is curated by Danni Zuvela, co-presented by Liquid Architecture and RMIT Design Hub

Liquid Architecture: Danni Zuvela, Joel Stern, Georgia Hutchison, Debris Facility

RMIT Design Hub: Kate Rhodes, Nella Themelios, Erik North, Timothy McLeod, Layla Cluer, Michaela Bear, Ari Sharp, Simon Maisch, Gavin Bell, Jessica Woods

Graphic Design: No Clients (Samuel Heatley, Robert Janes, Ned Shannon, Beaziyt Worcou)

Special thanks: Elena Betros Lopez, Michael Bojkowski, Timothy Coster, Bella Hone-Saunders

LIQUID ARCHITECTURE is an Australian organisation for artists working with sound. LA investigates the sounds themselves, but also the ideas communicated about, and the meaning of, sound and listening. Liquid Architecture is supported by City of Melbourne, City of Yarra, Creative Victoria, and the Australia Council for the Arts.

NO CLIENTS is a Melbourne based practice for design who take a collaborative approach, working with activists, artists, architects, curators, designers, editors, publishers, writers and those invested in engaging with a critical dialogue about their own work and its broader cultural sphere.

RMIT DESIGN HUB is a progressive educational environment. It houses a community of architects, designers, curators and students for collaborative, interdisciplinary design reasearch and education within a purpose-built, ten-story building that also includes RMIT University's School of Architecture and Urban Design and the Design Archives.

LOCATION
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SPECIAL SUMMER OPENING HOURS
Tuesday, Thursday: 12 – 6PM
Wednesday, Friday: 12 – 9PM
Saturday: 12 – 5PM
Closed Sunday and Monday

RMIT University acknowledges the people of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nations on whose unceded lands we conduct the business of the University.

CONTENT WARNING
Why Listen to Plants? contains nudity and adult themes that may cause offence and may be inappropriate for children.

DISCLAIMER
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