

About Art Laboratory Berlin

March, 2015

Art Laboratory Berlin was founded in Autumn 2006 by an international team of art historians and artists. As a non-commercial art space, it was established as a platform for inter-disciplinary exhibition projects in an international context. Our main focus is the presentation of contemporary art at the meeting point of art, science and technology.

Sustainable interdisciplinarity - Arts & Science

Art Laboratory Berlin pursues a sustainable form of inter-disciplinarity, going beyond the mere juxtaposition of art and science. We want to create constructive synergies between artists and scientists, to enable transparency and content production. Often, in our exhibition and research projects, we were able to create lasting networks, which extended beyond traditional relationships between the science and art, to create new forms of inter-disciplinary exchange.

Immersive inductive curatorial practice

It is also an important aim of Art Laboratory Berlin, in the form of a close, long-term collaboration with artists, to follow the artistic processes and make this visible in the exhibitions. Although we always base our exhibition series on a general theoretical concept, we understand our curatorial practice not as deductive, but inductive. Instead of subordinating the works on exhibition to theory, we are interested in an inductive approach - that rather places the individual artistic work at the centre of inquiry.

Individual forms of art education

Art Laboratory Berlin has achieved a model form of art education by using various formats to reach a wide international audience of all ages. Through a conscious openness to different disciplines we manage to take a variety of specialized approaches to each exhibition. Many students groups visit us. In the form of several hour **seminars**, we discuss current positions and issues in the context of ongoing exhibitions and events. Art Laboratory Berlin also offers regular **artist and curator talks** that make the artistic and curatorial processes of our projects transparent to a wide audience. **Children's workshops** are aimed specifically at young visitors and make important topics accessible in a creative way.

One part of our art education programme has been to make literature and source material available in our spaces: an example of this was the *macro/microbiologies library*, a study room which existed parallel to the last of the four exhibitions of our **[macro]biologies & [micro]biologies** series. A wide variety of specialized books and texts, relevant to the topics of the series, as well as source books about the works of the artists, allowed the public to delve deeper into the subject matter. Discursive debate is an essential part of our curatorial practice. Art Laboratory Berlin has also expanded on its exhibition programme on several occasions with international inter-disciplinary conferences highlighting current scholarly and artistic research.

Points of Focus

Since 2012 Art Laboratory Berlin has increasingly concentrated on a curatorial practice which is closely linked to current issues and phenomena of the 21st century (see below). Our initial focus point on inter-disciplinary practice, from 2007-2009, brought forth the exhibition series: **Art & Music**, **Art & Text**, **Art & Science**, **Arts & Law**. The series **Artists in Dialog** (2010-11) involved two artistic positions to which a subject, motif or an artistic strategy was the starting point for a exhibition in dialog, which also sought to transgress the traditional roles of artist and curator.

In 2011 Art Laboratory Berlin presented [Sol LeWitt: Artist's Books](#) with the entire artist books of the American conceptual artist Sol LeWitt. Visitors could take the artist books from custom built cabinets for individual study. Parallel to the exhibition Art Laboratory Berlin organised an international inter-disciplinary [Sol LeWitt Symposium](#) to support a dialog between art and scholarship as well as theory and practice.

In 2011/12 Art Laboratory Berlin presented a series of exhibitions, performances and talks, **Time and Technology**, which took as its theme the effects of the latest technology on our perception of time, and places this in the context of international artistic production. The technological developments of the last 25 years have considerably changed the way we live, work and communicate. The series presented artistic contributions that reflected the latest technologies and their effect on changing forms of work and com-

munication (such as altered senses of time and new forms of temporal perception).

From Autumn 2012 to Summer 2013 Art Laboratory Berlin presented a series of four exhibitions along with an inter-disciplinary conference on the theme of **Synaesthesia**. The increased interest in the phenomenon of synaesthesia, a diverse form of multisensory perception, has recently made itself noticeable in both science and contemporary art. A strikingly strong interest for coupled sense perception can be seen in many current artistic works. This is not surprising, since multimedia and multi-sensory experiences have become increasingly common in our daily lives. The inter-disciplinary conference [*Synaesthesia. Discussing a Phenomenon in the Arts, Humanities and \(Neuro\) Science*](#) completed the series in July 2013.

Through March 2015 Art Laboratory Berlin presented a series of exhibitions, talks and events - [\[macro\]biologies & \[micro\]biologies](#) - with the goal of creating a multi-faceted theoretical platform for artists, scientists and the public to discuss topics such as the planet, "nature" and organisms in connection within the context of art and the life sciences.

In the near future, Art Laboratory Berlin will present a programme of approaches towards transhumanism and from 2016 present a series of exhibitions, events and conferences on the theme of Nonhuman Subjectivities.

Art Laboratory Berlin is run by **Regine Rapp** and **Christian de Lutz**.



Regine Rapp is an art historian and curator. Her specific fields of research for 20th and 21st century art are installation art, image and text theory, and the artist book. Currently she is researching spatial aesthetics of contemporary installation art. She worked as Assistant Professor at the Burg Giebichenstein Art Academy Halle until Autumn 2013, where she taught Art History and curatorial practice.

She co-founded Art Laboratory Berlin in 2006 and has curated over 30 exhibitions (especially the series *Time and Technology*, *Synaesthesia* as well as *Macro/Microbiologies*) and has published several books. Concurrent to the exhibition "Sol LeWitt. Artist's Books" in 2011 she conceived and realized the international "Sol LeWitt_Symposium" at Art Laboratory Berlin. Together with Christian de Lutz she developed the international transdisciplinary conference "Synaesthesia. Discussing a phenomenon in the arts, humanities and (neuro-)science", that took place in July 2013 at Art Laboratory Berlin.

She is a member of the *International Association on Word and Image Studies* (IAWIS) and *Synapse* (Haus der Kulturen der Welt).

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co-director and curator, Art Laboratory Berlin



Christian de Lutz is a visual artist and curator, originally from New York. He works in in photography, new media, video and installation. His artworks deal with social, political and cultural themes, with an emphasis on technology, migration and cultural borderlines. He has collaborated with artists and institutions in Germany, Spain and Southeast Europe as well as exhibiting in Europe, the USA and Japan.

As a co-founder of Art Laboratory Berlin he has curated over 30 exhibitions and developed a number of series, including *Time and Technology* and *Synaesthesia* as well as *[macro]biologies & [micro]biologies*. His curatorial work concentrates on the interface of art, science and technology in the 21st century. Additionally he has published numerous articles in journals and books, and is active in a number of collaborative organisations including *transmediale/ re-Source*, *Synapse* (Haus der Kulturen der Welt) and *The Berlin Network of Free Project Spaces and Initiatives*.

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