

**[micro]biologies I: the bacterial sublime**  
- a solo retrospective of Anna Dumitriu



Images (from left to right): *Bed and Chair Flora*, *MRSA Quilt*, *Blue Henry*

**Press preview: 26 September, 2014, 6-8 PM**

**Vernissage/ Opening: 26 September, 2014, 8PM**

**Exhibition runs: 27 September – 30 November, 2014**

**Opening hours: Fri-Sun, 14-18h and by appointment. Open 31 October until 9PM**

**Sunday 28 September, 3PM - Artist talk**

**Sunday 30 November - Workshop with the artist**

The third exhibition of the series **[macro]biologies & [micro]biologies** will be a solo retrospective of British artist **Anna Dumitriu**, whose work in the field of art and science brings together historical narratives, cutting edge biomedical research and an interest in ethical concerns.

Dumitriu is well known for creating *The VRSA Dress* & and *The MRSA Quilt* which were made from so-called 'superbugs'. To create those works she grew bacteria onto textiles and used natural and clinical antibiotics to create patterns (sterilised prior to exhibition).

"Normal flora" is the study of the ubiquitous bacteria, moulds and yeasts that form a key part of the complex ecosystems around us: our bodies, our homes, and the wider planet. *Bed and Chair Flora* comprises a carved and altered chair with images of the bacteria that were originally cultured from it. The collaborative crochet is based on electron microscope images of bacteria from the artist's own bed.

Bacteria have intricate communication capabilities, which are now being investigated as a form of social intelligence. To explore this *The Communicating Bacteria Dress* combines bioart, historical textile techniques, such as whitework embroidery, and 3D mapped video projections. The work was created by staining textiles using pigmented bacteria change colour when they send and receive communication signals.

The exhibition will also include works from her series *The Romantic Disease: An Artistic Investigation of Tuberculosis* which explores the history of tuberculosis (TB) from artistic, social and scientific perspectives and covers subjects such as superstitions about the disease, TB's literary and romantic associations, the development of antibiotics and the latest research into whole-genome sequencing of mycobacteria. Dumitriu has worked with researchers from the *Modernising Medical Microbiology Project* to create a significant new body of work around this clinically and culturally significant disease.

*Anna Dumitriu is currently Artist in Residence on the Modernising Medical Microbiology Project at The University of Oxford and Visiting Research Fellow: Artist in Residence at the University of Hertfordshire.*

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