

# Bio Strike



An installation and workshop invites visitors to City Fictions to experience a future when food and DIY biomedical science collide. A kitchen-lab set up in the kitchens of an office building invites you to participate in manufacturing a three course lunch in petri dish.

Bio Strike is a project by Pieter van Boheemen, Martin Malthe Borch, Zack Denfeld, Cat Kramer & Asa Calow. It is a collaboration of Open Wetlab/Waag Society, Biologigaragen and the Center for Genomic Gastronomy that uses DIY science and antibiotics research methods in an interactive manner, mapping food controversies and prototyping alternative culinary futures.

Presented as part of City Fictions, a speculative near future city. Institution: bio-tech kitchen.

## *Festival of Germ Urbanism and Culinary Forensics*

Activities include:

### **Gluten Test Game Show: (Every Hour on the Hour)**

Visitors can bring items they want to test for gluten content. On the hour every hour a spinning wheel will randomly decide one item to be tested.

### **Open Source Fermentation library tasting: (Drop in any time)**

Come along and test, taste and borrow from our fermentation library.

## **Learn about the effects of silver nano-particles (Beginning and end of Bio Strike installation)**

### **Socks and spices (Noon & 4 PM on the first Day. Check back Day 2.)**

What antibacterial material is most effective? Pick one and compete against other bacterial colonies.

### **Sour Dough Balloon Blowing Olympics (Drop in any time)**

Feed and place bets on a Dutch, English, Irish and Danish bread starters..

### **Bio Strike (Starts at 1 PM on the first day)**

The world needs new antibiotics, now you can join the hunt at your kitchen table. Share the results and collaborate with other Do-It-Yourself biologists in this bioprospecting adventure.

As population increases, so does the struggle for survival. It's not guaranteed that humans will be the dominant species in future food webs. Today we are able to stay ahead of germs that are competing for our top spot on the food chain thanks to antibiotics. However, so called super bugs are on the rise; formerly repressed microbes that have adapted to our once powerful anti-microbial medicine. Other selection pressures include the use of anti-microbial materials and increasingly long supply chains. Our increasingly urban human societies are creating new forms of Germ Urbanism which need to be mapped and explored.

The objective of this installation is to combine citizen science and artistic methods in order to prototype new relationships between eaters, the human food system and microorganisms.

The installation investigates how our present day behaviour in farms, factories and kitchens relate to future well being. Perhaps we will need more laboratory techniques in the kitchen, and Culinary Forensic Kits, empowering citizens to discriminate between desired and unwanted microbes Do-It-Yourself style. A renaissance of amateur bioprospectors might even discover new ways to overcome our battle against foodborne disease. Other critical eaters and food cults might direct their paranoia towards developing new rituals for keeping out unwanted ingredients and micro-organisms, or engage in new sustainable human-microbe coexistence urban ecosystems.

Can we imagine what such a kitchen-lab hybrid would look like?

The BioStrike installation will explore how today's cultural preferences and consumer

behaviour has an impact on our future city habitat. With a particular interest in food manufacturing.

The artists of the Center for Genomic Gastronomy and DIY Biologists of MadLab, Biologigaragen and the Open Wetlab collaborated to transform these pressing issues and future outlooks into a compelling installation and experience as part of the European ICT & Art Connect programme.

## **Dates**

Sat 29 Mar - Sun 30 Mar

## **Times**

10:00 - 18:00

## **Venue**

New Century House, City Fictions, Corporation St, Manchester, Greater Manchester, [M60 4ES](#)

[How To Find City Fictions](#)

## **Artists**



[Cathrine Kramer](#)



[Martin Malthe Borch](#)



[Asa Calow \(Manchester Digital Laboratory\)](#)



[Zack Denfeld](#)



[Pieter van Boheemen \(Waag Society\)](#)