

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE MASTERPIECES

EVA BUBLA

***Disclaimer:** This is a short description and photo documentation of the masterpieces. A detailed argumentation about them forms the case studies of the dissertation. Please see Chapter 2 and Chapter 4 respectively.*

Designated Breathing Zone

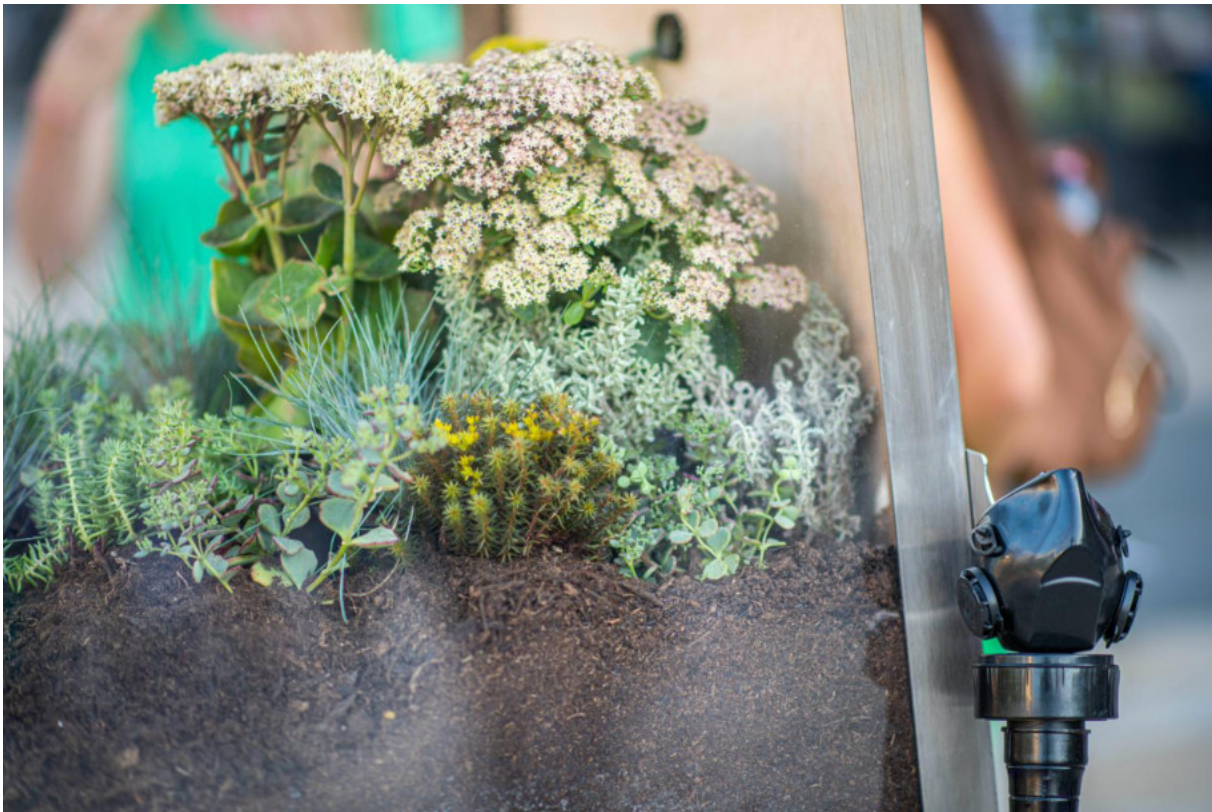
public art installation series

variable dimensions

Designated Breathing Zone is a series of installations reflecting on acute urban environmental problems. The spread of urbanisation is a global phenomenon, with the loss of green spaces, road traffic and industrial activities all contributing to the deteriorating air quality of our urban spaces. The installation, with its first version created in Indonesia in 2019, aimed to raise awareness on these tendencies as well as the importance of green areas and plants in tackling pollution levels. Inspired by a 1989 NASA Report which researched and tested plants that are the most effective in purifying indoor air, the project used the Sansevieria plant to critically reflect on the topic of air pollution. *Designated Breathing Zone 1.0* invited the audience to inhale the air ventilated from a module incubating the Sansevieria.

Air pollution is an acute problem in Hungary as well, causing the premature deaths of 13.000 people a year at national level, according to Clean Air Action Group publications, not to mention other health and environmental impacts.

Designated Breathing Zone 2.0 (2023, PLACCC Festival), the second version in the series, appeared as a portable public art installation at two locations of Budapest affected by heavy traffic: the Nyugati Square and at the QUAY. It invited passersby to inhale air from a human-sized module incubating plants of local city parks, creating a platform for sensory experiences as well as for discussion on the importance and beneficial effects of urban green spaces, or the very lack of them, and related citizen experiences. A public talk focusing on urban air quality from the perspective of regulation, measurement and research, as well as urban planning and landscape architecture was also organized (Designated Breathing Zone—The role of green areas in air quality abatement and the urban microclimate, 6 September 2023) with the participation of Judit Szegő, environmental scientist, project leader of the Clean Air Action Group on climate protection and residential burning, Sándor Bardóczi, the chief landscape architect of Budapest, and myself.





Designated Breathing Zone 2.0 (2023). PLACCC Festival. Photo: Attila Balogh

Artist: Eva Bubla

Technical design: Martin Baranyi

After the smaller-scale portable version, ***Designated Breathing Zone 3.0*** (2024) returned in a new form to the slopes of Gellért Hill during PLACCC extra. This version of the installation, a wooden cabin visitors can climb into on a metal ladder, is incubating the human itself, with the gaze directed to the opening of the structure towards the “empty” sky, closing out the view of all man-made constructions and focusing on the natural. The space is filled with a research-based, speculative narrative: the sound of the air talking and the stories of the various organisms that inhabit it. The main intention was to make people notice and listen to the various lifeforms that they share their city with, especially on one of the last large contiguous green areas in Budapest which is also slowly taken over by investments and constructions. The installation could be visited in the summers of 2024 and 2025.





Designated Breathing Zone 3.0 (2024-2025). PLACCC extra. Photo: Attila Balogh

Artistic concept and design: Eva Bubla
Architectural consultation and planning: Erzsébet Zimmerer
Production: Dániel Galambosi and Levente Kruppa, Balázs Budai

Sound installation concept and script: Eva Bubla
Sound design and editing: Marcell Mostoha
Voice: Emőke Suplicz, Kisanna Szabó

The details of the artworks are discussed in Chapter 2 of the dissertation.

Further documentation can be found at <http://evabubla.art/designated-breathing-zone-2/> and <http://evabubla.art/designated-breathing-zone-3-0/>.

Video documentation, including the sound piece:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0laqfQdEDc&t=42s>

Microbial Futures Lab

participatory art project

variable dimensions and media

Microbial Futures Lab (2023-) is a participatory art project that takes the form of a traveling laboratory exploring possible future relationships between humans, microbes, and environmental bodies through the lens of healthcare practices. Combining contemporary microbiome science, biosocial thinking, and artistic speculation, the project investigates how emerging understandings of nested ecosystems and the interdependence of multispecies networks might transform future forms of care, ecological resilience, and coexistence.

Rather than treating health as an individual human condition, Microbial Futures Lab proposes speculative futures in which the wellbeing of humans, animals, plants, soils, waters, and microbial communities is understood as fundamentally interconnected. Through collaborative world-building, participants imagine and prototype future medicines that respond to the needs of human and more-than-human patients, using a combination of science and fiction as a method for collectively rehearsing alternative ecological futures.

The project operates through three interconnected formats:

Multidisciplinary Art & Science Research

Rooted in the collaboration with the [Microbial Childhood Collaboratory](#), the project translates interdisciplinary research and understanding on microbes into artistic inquiry, generating biosocial imaginaries that connect scientific knowledge and relational ontologies with ecological futures.

Participatory Artistic Workshops

The *Future Medicine Workshop* combines visual, bio, performative, multisensory, and speculative artistic methods to collectively imagine human-microbial relations and futures through the lens of healthcare practices. Participants take on the role of planetary healthcare advisors, diagnosing disruptions in human-microbial-environmental relations and practices, and designing speculative medicines that cultivate symbiosis, ecological resilience, and the wellbeing of interconnected living systems.

Travelling Laboratory and Exhibition

The project as a traveling laboratory—and pop-up pharmacy—presents speculative medicines, artistic artefacts, installations, and workshop outcomes, inviting audiences to explore future ecologies through participation and collective imagination.

Exhibitions:

- 2024 KAIR / Šopa Gallery, Kosice, Slovakia
- FAROUT Festival / BASE, Milan, Italy
- PLACCC Festival, Budapest, Hungary
- HAPUfest / Teatri ODA, Pristina, Kosovo
- Provinciaal Domein Dommelhof, Pelt, Belgium
- Átkelő Galéria, Budapest, Hungary
- 2023 1111 Galéria, Budapest, Hungary

Workshops:

- 2026 Lehetőségek tere, Budapest, Hungary
- 2025 Hope and Resilience Conference, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
- 2024 Šopa Gallery, Kosice, Slovakia
- METU Budapest, Hungary
- PLACCC Festival, Budapest, Hungary
- HAPUfest, Pristina, Kosovo
- BASE Milano, Italy
- Tampere University, Finland
- Childhood and Communities. The X Conference on Childhood Studies, Helsinki, Finland
- IN SITU Open Day, Provinciaal Domein Dommelhof, Pelt, Belgium
- 2023 Onsite meeting of the Microbial Childhood Collaboratory, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1111 Galéria, Budapest, Hungary



Microbial Futures Lab (2024). BENU Pharmacy Budapest Astoria / PLACCC Festival, Hungary. Photo: Attila Balogh





Microbial Futures Lab (2023) Gallery 1111, Budapest, Hungary. Photo: Julianna Nyíri / MKE

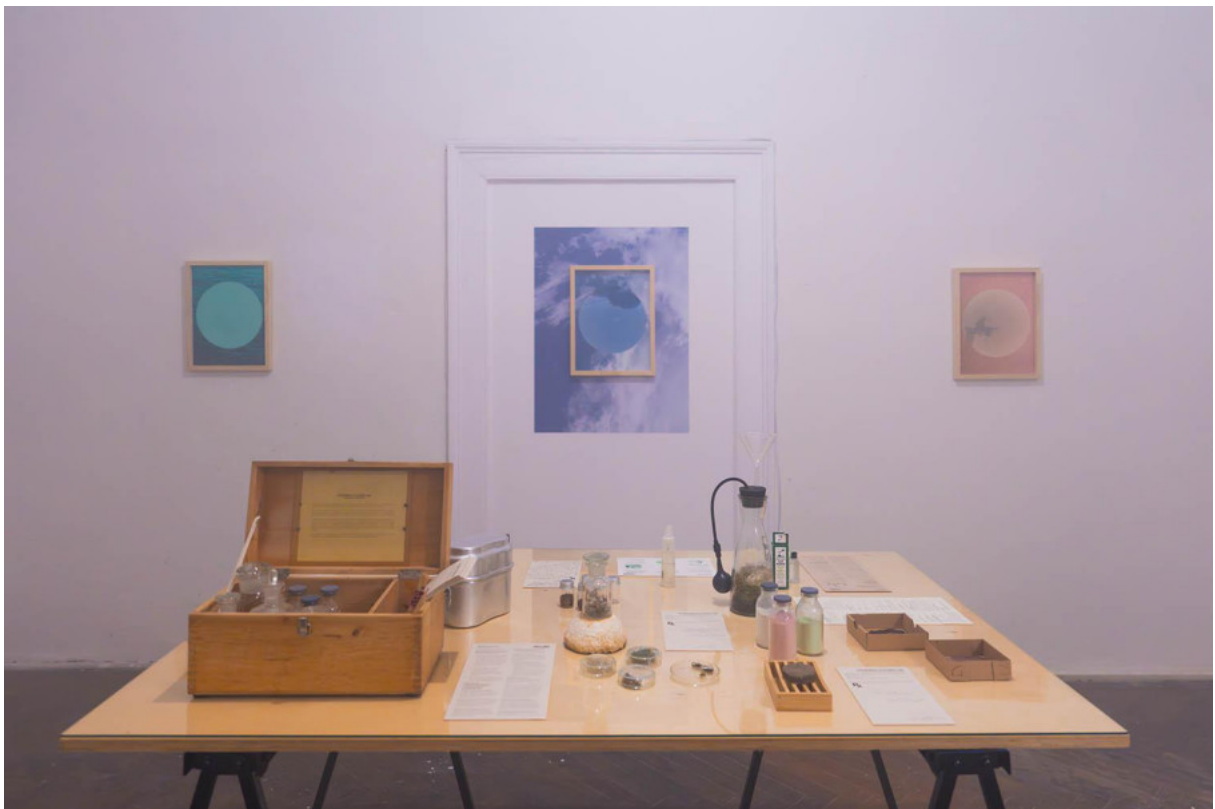


Microbial Futures Lab (2024) HAPUfest 2024, Prishtina, Kosovo. Photo: Arben Llapashtica / Teatri ODA





Microbial Futures Lab (2024) IN SITU Open Day 2024, Pelt, Belgium. Photo: Pedro Morato Gabao & Bryan Lassudry





Microbial Futures Lab (2024) Sopa Gallery, Kosice, Slovakia. Photo: petomich



Future Medicine workshop (2026). Lehetőségek tere, Budapest, Hungary. Photo: Viktor Kádár



Membership cards of planetary healthcare advisors. Photo: Lilli Lumera

The details of the project is discussed in Chapter 4 of the dissertation.

Further documentation can be found at <http://evabubla.art/microbial-futures-lab/>.