

Biological Art Assignment

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Select an existing artwork that involves a living organism. Search for "bio art", look in the Kac book, browse the works on the organism website: <http://music.columbia.edu/organism>

Prepare a short presentation on the artwork:

- * narrate the piece from the artist's perspective
- * narrate the piece from the viewer's perspective
- * narrate the piece from the organism's perspective
- * what claims are made that you and/or the artist want to be true but probably aren't
- * what claims are made that you and/or the artist want to be true and probably are
- * what claims are made that you and/or the artist don't want to be true and probably aren't
- * what claims are made that you and/or the artist don't want to be true but probably are

Pick an organism and do a little research on it. List some tropisms, automatic behaviors, dependably evocable reactions. Imagine a "collaboration" with the organism. What does the organism bring to the collaboration? What does it add that you couldn't get otherwise? How would the piece change if you used another organism?

What's the scientist's narration of your piece? What's the mystic's version? The science fiction version? The art-historical version?