



Watermans is pleased to present **ISOCULTURE** by Michael Burton and Michiko Nitta, our major gallery project for 2013 that redesigns the city as a closed system where humans are entirely self-sustaining.

Watermans Gallery

6 March - 26 May 2013, daily 12 noon – 9pm

Isoculture is looking at a city of the future isolated from the wider environment where humans become self-efficient. Food, energy, medicine, for example, is derived from human origin and man-made biological systems. Outside of the Isoculture city, the environment becomes a 'no-mans' land.

The creative investigation prepares inhabitants of the city to live in isolation from the wider environment. The artists will create an Isoculture laboratory in the gallery to consider how new science and technology might prepare us to live in hostile environments or travel on long space missions. These two scenarios predict the future application of an Isoculture lifestyle besides the current need to limit human impact on Earth.

Underpinning all of the work are the questions: can we truly live in isolation from our environment? If we were to trial an Isoculture city, what would the experience of living in this city-scale experiment be like? How will the city, the societal systems and human inhabitants be transformed?

Burton Nitta's work to address these questions begins to value our current relationship with the environment on profound new levels. Their speculative Isoculture proposals foresee the challenges ahead with our human limits when considering long distance space travel or mass biodiversity loss.

The Isoculture gallery programme will include open studio sessions and discussions, as well as talks by experts in isolated environments, geoengineering, nano and biotechnology, social science, environmental issues and more.

If you are an academic institution or organisation interested in the project, please get in touch to discuss collaborative events or exchange opportunities.

Please visit the Isoculture website for updates about the project: <http://www.burtonnitta.co.uk/isoculture>

Isoculture is a collaborative project by Michael Burton and Michiko Nitta as part of their ongoing investigation called After Agri: <http://www.burtonnitta.co.uk/afteragri.html>

About the artists

Michael Burton

Michael works on the edge of speculative design, arts, and as a researcher. He creates objects, images and films as insights into richly imagined scenarios exploring the choices we face in our evolution as a species and in redesigning life itself. Michael exhibits and presents internationally, most notably including work shown at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, on tour at various galleries in Australia and the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art. He leads a collaborative practice, working with organisations and individuals including scientists, performers, choreographers, designers and architects.

www.michaelburton.co.uk

Michiko Nitta

Michiko is a multimedia designer graduated from the Royal College of Art and Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design. She has subsequently exhibited her work in the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York, Haus Der Kulturen Der Welt in Berlin and the V&A in London. Michiko has a number of publications to her name, spoken at conferences in the UK, US and China, currently working as a designer for artistic & commercial projects. A key theme that underlies her work is the relationship between nature and humans, often taking extreme vantage on how humans can change their perception to live symbiotically with the nature.

www.michikonitta.co.uk

Project Participation

During the project, we are going to transform the Watermans gallery into the Isoculture laboratory where the artists with a group of professionals will meet to conduct experiments and plan the future of the culture.

The Isoculture lab will include a series of discussions with experts leading research that creates new possibilities for an Isoculture future. Please visit the exhibition as it evolves over the coming months and imagine with us what it might be like to live in an Isoculture.

Discussion dates: Wednesday 20 March, Wednesday 3 April, and Wednesday 10 April - please visit the website for updates.

If you would like to hear more about Isoculture or how to get involved, please contact Irini Papadimitriou, irini (at) watermans.org.uk

<http://www.watermans.org.uk/exhibitions/exhibitions.aspx>

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Supported using public funding by
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