

## CATHERINE OSTRAYA

I use video or performance as my preferred medium, usually installed with additions of relevant physical objects. Technology plays a part in my work as catalyst or a container for experiences, although it is the personal stories which I prioritize. This approach makes my practice broad, however in my most recent projects I have been looking at the phenomena of time, disintegration, memory and identity. In the process of creating the work I tend to conduct longer investigations on the topic in question, for example my ongoing collection of outdated media containing other people's memories, and my ongoing experiments with mycelium. I believe that the most important role of the artist is to be receptive to the less visible undercurrents of life, which I try to tap into using curiosity and honesty as my compass.

### EDUCATION

- 2015 - Artscience Den Haag, Koninklijke
- 2019 Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma
- 2014 - FAD+ plus foundation program Central
- 2015 Saint Martins diploma

### EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Natural Dependencies Trixie The Hague The Hague, Netherlands Natural Dependencies is a multimedia exhibition about the connectivity of all living things, using mycelium as a metaphor. In the exhibition, we highlight the apparent fragility of relationships around us, both social as well as natural relationships, and also question this apparent division. Many creatures in nature depend on one another – and this has become painfully visible in recent ecological destruction. Oftentimes fungi confuse us and break our definitions of what an individual is. A lot of the time we tend to focus on boundaries rather than our connections, in research as well as in culture. It is socially encouraged to become as independent as possible throughout your lifetime, dependency on another person or object can be seen as a weakness. We think that by acknowledging these moments of connection and how valuable they are, we can become more appreciative of what is around us and have a better sense of belonging. From filtration systems and mushroom inks to the fungal network and a scent inspired by the communication between plants and fungi; all works in the exhibition feature mycelium in one way or the other. The exhibiting artists are Catherine Ostraya, Merle Bergers, Sophie Steengracht & Suzette Bousema.  
[www.trixieth Hague.nl/events/natural-dependencies/](http://www.trixieth Hague.nl/events/natural-dependencies/)  
Group

- 2020 The Opening: The Opening Opening Trixie The Hague The Hague, Netherlands Happenings in the art circles, akin to a video

feedback loop, are alive yet predictable. For this exhibition, we approach the art world as a feedback loop of inspiration, powered by social energy. Through the networker's eyes, the world is connected and the whole world is the same. Catherine, Jonas, and Beng sent various performers out and about to explore and record different events, each with a different identity and role within the art world. Cameras were mounted on the performers with various degrees of candidness: such as a GoPro camera mounted on the head, one on a chest, and one hidden from view, broadcasting a more abstract and futile impression of what is going on. The emphasis was placed on the social aspect in which futility is celebrated and encouraged and presented as a reaction to the serious traditions of networking to advance your artistic practice. [www.trixieth Hague.nl/events/the-opening-the-opening-opening/](http://www.trixieth Hague.nl/events/the-opening-the-opening-opening/)  
Group

- 2019 Unexpected Smells De Electriciteitsfabriek Den Haag, Netherlands When was the last time you sounded your way through an exhibition or where asked to close your eyes and sniff? We live in an ocular-centric world. At the ArtScience Interfaculty, this is not so. We combine sight, smell, taste, touch and sound non-hierarchically to create multi-dimensional environments which engulf the viewer as a whole. This exhibition is the culmination of the bachelor and master degrees of 17 students of the ArtScience Interfaculty, from all around the world, who open their doors and invite you to participate in their process, to become actively engaged, to be critical, to give feedback. The focus is on the sensorial, the immaterial, the ephemeral, the time-based, the shape-shifting, the hybrid – operating at the intersection between art, science and technology.  
[www.electriciteitsfabriek.nl/agenda/unexpected-smells](http://www.electriciteitsfabriek.nl/agenda/unexpected-smells)  
Group
- 2018 Opening Credits Grey Space in the Middle Den Haag, Netherlands Third year students from the ArtScience Interfaculty are excited to share their projects from the past year with the public. You will experience the analogue with the digital, the playful with the composed and the familiar with the

ambivalent. [thegreyspace.net/opening-credits-kabk-artsience/](http://thegreyspace.net/opening-credits-kabk-artsience/)  
Group

- 2018      Sensing the Place Sonic Acts Academy  
Amsterdam, Netherlands Sensing the  
Shipyards was a student research project at  
Damen Shiprepair. Artist Cocky Eek, with  
several tutors, led this collaboration  
between ArtScience Interfaculty (KABK) and  
Sonic Acts Academy. The students were  
invited to think about different possibilities  
for sensing a place and to create maps  
based on their cognition of smell, touch,  
vibrations, light, sound, etc. As an outcome  
of their research, they devised an  
experimental and experiential environment  
in which visitors embark on a sensing trip  
based on uncommon approaches to  
navigating through space.  
[sonicacts.com/2018/sensing-the-place](http://sonicacts.com/2018/sensing-the-place)  
Group

## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

- 2020      Oficinas do Convento Montemor-o-  
Novo, Portugal In this residency I  
developed a project "Mycofiltracao"  
which is an intervention into the natural  
environment of Montemor-o-Novo,  
directly influencing the amount of  
pollution in the local river by using  
oyster mushroom mycelium.  
[www.oficinasdoconvento.com/](http://www.oficinasdoconvento.com/)
- 2020      Terra Alta Sintra, Portugal A work  
period/internship in which I learned  
hands on management of nature, land  
and communities through the methods  
of permaculture. [www.terralta.org/](http://www.terralta.org/)
- 2018      De Fabriek Eindhoven Eindhoven,  
Netherlands Repetition can create  
rhythm or make patterns, enhance skill,  
use it as a method or to erode.  
Repetition causes consolidation in the  
hippocampus, resulting in (stronger)  
memories. It can provide comfort in the  
shape of habits or traditions. We are  
patterns recognition machines, they  
draw are eye and are aesthetically  
pleasing to us. Repetition can

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2018      Sonic Acts Academy 2018 Reader Book  
Sonic Acts Press / Reader / SonicActs.com  
Mirna Belina Amsterdam, Netherlands  
[sonicacts.com/2018/get-the-sonic-acts-academy-reader-with-an-academy-pass](http://sonicacts.com/2018/get-the-sonic-acts-academy-reader-with-an-academy-pass)  
The Sonic Acts Academy aims to unpack  
the processes of artistic knowledge, with a  
focus on educational practices and critical  
examination of knowledge production in the  
field of art. In keeping with the theme, the  
Reader is designed by The Rodina, a studio  
interested in self-reflection, critical design,  
and the reinvented connections between  
culture and technology.

emphasize or desensitize. It can slowly erode the hardest material. Repetition is needed to master new skills and needed to run/swim/cycle the fastest. With repetition you can both lose or gain meaning. It can be a way to relieve stress or a symptom of it. Evolution is repetition with small but potentially significant changes.

[www.defabriekeindhoven.nl/exhibition/noititeper-artscience-den-haag/](http://www.defabriekeindhoven.nl/exhibition/noititeper-artscience-den-haag/)

- 2018 European Affairs: Budapest, MÜSZI Közért Budapest, Hungary European affairs was a part of a cultural exchange between budding artists in the Hague and Budapest, organized by the Artscience interfaculty. It consisted of two weeks, after which there were presentation and performances.

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2019 Artscience Award Nomination Artscience Award. KABK. Den Haag, Netherlands A nomination for the award for the best graduates of the Artscience department in 2019.

## SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 2015 - - - VJ-ing On-going



Mycofiltração, 2020  
Performance/video



Mycofiltração, 2020  
Performance/video



Mycofiltração, 2020  
Performance/Video



Research for Mycofiltração, 2020  
Oyster Mycellium/own hair



Research for Mycofiltração, 2020  
Oyster Mycellium/own hair



With Every Exhale Lost, 2020  
Video installation, Variable



With Every Exhale Lost, 2020  
Video installation, Variable



Business card for graduation - example, 2020



A Seed in a Bell, 2020  
Perfromance/Video



A Seed in a Bell, 2020  
Performance/video