

MEDIA RELEASE

29 September 2017

Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk

New exhibition explores biotechnology and smart textile design

Biomedical engineer Professor Melissa Knothe Tate turns art and science on their heads with the exhibition *Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk* opening on Friday 6 October at Australian Design Centre.

***biotextilology* / bliˈɒˈtɛkstɪlɪˈlɒdʒi /**

The study, design and creation of textiles emulating those made by living organisms.

Melissa Knothe Tate with Joanna L. Ng, Lillian E. Knothe, and Sara McBride-Gagy

Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk is a transdisciplinary, interactive exhibition presenting Knothe Tate's multifunctional textiles and smart materials inspired by nature, tying together the fields of biotechnology and textile design on "The Cellular Catwalk."

"We're thrilled to have the opportunity to look under the microscope at Professor Knothe Tate's fascinating fusion of the craft of weaving with her research into biotechnology. This is the stuff of the future to inspire our kids and ignite their creativity by inserting art and design into the traditional STEM subjects to make STEAM", said Lisa Cahill, ADC CEO and Artistic Director.

Professor Melissa Knothe Tate is an internationally recognised leader in the fields of multiscale mechanobiology as well as the development and clinical translation of novel technologies and materials. She

trained as a mechanical engineer, biologist and biomedical engineer at world leading institutions in Palo Alto, California and Zurich, Switzerland and is now a professor at the University of NSW, Sydney.

Knothe Tate studied engineering in an era of Computer-Aided Design and Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAD-CAM) and has invented a new platform for Microscopy-Aided Design And Manufacture (MADAMe). MADAMe creates scaled-up textiles that mimic the natural cellular weaves of living tissues. Learning from cells, the threads they spin and the tissues they weave. Biotextilology features multifunctional textile design with hidden functions.

Knothe Tate's work replicates the natural weave of the tissue around human bones, using a Jacquard loom to research into a future of smart materials inspired by nature, where disruptive technology meets design aesthetic.

Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk

6 October – 15 November

Australian Design Centre

101 - 115 William St, Darlinghurst

Explore the ***Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk*** webpage [here](#)

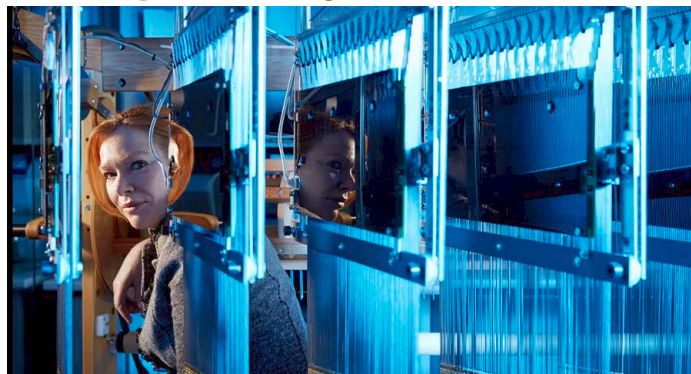
Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk will be opened at the same time as ***Bulay(i): Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Artists with Indigenous Jewellery Project***.

Explore the ***Bulay(i): Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Artists with Indigenous Jewellery Project*** website [here](#).

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Events for *Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk*

***Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk* opening night**

Australian Design Centre invites you to join us for the open night of ***Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk***

When: Friday 6 October 6-8pm

Where: Australian Design Centre

Numbers are limited so please RSVP [here](#)

Panel Discussion: Science Inspiring Craft

Thursday 12 October, 6-8pm

Join Melissa Knothe Tate and guests in conversation about her exhibition and how science is inspiring craft. Drinks from 6pm. Panel discussion starts at 6.30pm.

Artist Talk and Tour: *Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk*

Saturday 21 October, 11.30-12.30pm

Take a guided tour through the *Biotextilology: The Cellular Catwalk* exhibition with artist and Professor Melissa Knothe Tate who will discuss her work where science and weaving meet.

Free event, [bookings required](#)



Images: Melissa Knothe Tate. Photo credit Nick Cubbin

About Australian Design Centre

The Australian Design Centre is one of Australia’s leading arts organisations dedicated exclusively to design and contemporary craft. We support the power of design in innovation and craft through exhibitions, events, education programs and digital platforms.



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