



Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain du Centre

PRESS RELEASE

biothing [Alisa Andrasek] a_maze

Exhibition from September 11 to November 22, 2009
Vernissage: September 10, 2009, 6:30 pm

The exhibition presents the research of biothing, a laboratory founded in 2001 by Alisa Andrasek. biothing is part of the young generation currently experimenting with the potential of digital tools in architectural design (Peter Macapia, Xefirotarch, OCEAN, EZCT, Georges Legendre, Gramazio & Kohler, Materialecology, etc.)

Beyond "virtual" architecture limited to issues of representation, biothing acknowledges and experiments with the deep mutation that occurred during the 1990s, and which gained international recognition in the 2003 *Non-Standard Architectures* show at the Centre Pompidou, i.e. the fact that the digital design and fabrication chain has changed the entire economy of architectural production, from conception to completion. The computer now calculates and generates forms based on parametric data, and one-off objects can be fabricated on an industrial scale, thanks to computer-driven digital machines.

The experimental approach of biothing is based on the utilization of algorithmic scripts as the primary method of design generation. Like a geneticist, the architect writes sequences of code and thereby generates intelligent, immaterial forms. These are then subjected to specific programmatic, contextual or social constraints, i.e. parameters. Thus, drawing inspiration from the principles of morphogenesis, Alisa Andrasek's complex and organic architecture explores analogies between biology and construction.

For the FRAC Centre, Andrasek has designed *a_maze*, an original system functioning like a scenographic tool. Borrowing from the fractal principle of the Koch Curve, a fine and complex structure unfolds inside the exhibition space. Wells of light and flat spaces are arranged for displaying the models. Computer animation and projections round out the presentation of the projects (*Genware*, *Pavillon Seroussi* (2007), *Orbita series* (2006), *BiFid* (2005), *Mesonic Fabrics* (2007-09), etc.

Architect Alisa Andrasek was born in Croatia. She lives and works in London, where she has been teaching at the Architectural Association since 2008. A graduate of the University of Zagreb, she obtained a Masters in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University in 2000. She then pursued her career by collaborating on many projects, diversifying her areas of creation into clothing and exhibition design, and participating in the development of various projects of major importance, such as the competition for New York's East River Master Plan with Rem Koolhaas (OMA) in 2001. She has conducted workshops and seminars at Columbia University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Pratt Institute and given lectures around the world. She won the FEIDAD Design Merit Award in 2004 and was joint prize-winner of the Metropolis Next Generation Design Competition in 2005. Her work has been displayed in numerous shows, notably at the Biennials of Prague in 2003 and Sidney in 2004, the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto, Italy (MART), the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York in 2005, in Paris at the Maison Rouge in 2007 (*Pavillon Seroussi*) as well as the Beijing Architecture Biennial in 2004, 2006 and 2008.

Her works have recently been added to the permanent collections of the Centre Pompidou and are featured in the Museum's 2009 show: *ELLES@centrepompidou* (Women Artists in the collections of the MNAM).

biothing [Alisa Andrasek] is part of the national event: "Autumn Collections", Panorama of the Fonds Régionaux d'Art Contemporain (September -December 2009) (Platform. www.frac-platform.com)

With the participation of the Seroussi Gallery (Paris).

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www.biothing.org

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