



LabEasy

The Arts Catalyst
50-54 Clerkenwell Road
London EC1M 5PS

5-17 March 2013

The Arts Catalyst has invited **MadLab**, pioneers of the rapidly growing global DIY Biology movement, to bring their DIY biology workshops, salons and family events to London this March. The aim is to democratise, demystify and widen participation in low-cost, hands-on biology – bringing it out of the laboratory and onto the kitchen table.

MadLab describe themselves as, “An organization dedicated to making biology an accessible pursuit for citizen scientists, amateur biologists and biological engineers who value openness and safety”. Since 2011, MadLab’s DIYbio Manchester has conducted a range of ad-hoc community research experiments such as the Manchester Microbe Map; lo-fi laboratory builds notably an DNA amplification machine, built from parts widely available at B&Q DIY stores; and unconventional public meetings featuring blood-sucking insects and glowing bacteria. Last year they were guests of the Fed’ when the FBI invited them to help with their work to understand and keep up with the work of America’s amateur biology community.*

As the LabEasy fortnight rolls to a close, the crew will take the show on the road with a visit to Deptford Market. Armed with a battery of ad-hoc biological tests, travel-ready DIY lab equipment and some tasty produce, the DNA FoodLab will be a day-long, drop-in event for market-goers, stall-holders, the bio-curious and those interested in what’s in their burgers.

All welcome – curious amateurs with no biology knowledge encouraged!

WORKSHOPS:

All workshops cost £10 (£5 students/low income) and include a free lab coat for you to keep. They all take place at The Arts Catalyst, 50-54 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1M 5PS. Booking essential – full details www.artscatalyst.org

Shoestring biotech: Build your own lab!

Tuesday 5 March, 3–6pm

With no expensive bench top equipment in sight, our “lab raising” will be an all-hands-on-deck exercise in home technology hacking, ersatz gadgetry and lots and lots of Lego.

Genetic Modification for Beginners

Wednesday 6 March, 7–9.30pm

So you want to combine a spider and a goat? Before your ambitions get ahead of you, we

go back to basics and try the simplest genetic modification of all with the humble bacteria *Escherichia Coli*.

An Evening of Bioluminescence

Thursday 7 March 7–9.30pm

What makes fireflies glow and allows deep-sea squid to find each other in the dark? Explore the phenomenon of bioluminescence with some judicious bacterial cultivation.

Cellular Gastronomy – An Alternative Sunday Lunch

Sunday 10 March, 1–5pm

Move over Heston, there's a new organism in town - *S. Cerevisiae*. Come along, enjoy the fermented fruits of our edible Lab and take home a starter culture or bring your own to our bacterial potluck.

Cocktails and Canapes: Genetics and Taste

Monday 11 March, 6.30–9pm (over-18s only)

An evening of culinary experimentation, Tiki-style DNA extraction, taste-changing miracle fruit and the rigorously researched imbibing of cocktails, all in the name of science.

Bioelectronics – Transforming Mud into Light

Wednesday 13 March, 1–5pm

Explore the bioelectronic boundaries between life and machine, analogue and digital. Build microbe-powered LED lights using stripboard, solder, some local mud and a sprinkling of biological ingenuity.

DIYbio Salon

Wednesday 13 March, 7–9pm

An evening of discourse with Europe's foremost biohackers, artists, inventors, ethicists and novel thinkers - from DIY practicalities to speculative biological entertainments; legal and ethical grey areas (and brown areas); to 'outlaw' science and beyond. Booking essential £4 (£2 students/low income)

DIY Microscopy and Water Bear Hunting

Saturday 16 March, 2–4pm

A family workshop where you can experiment making bacteria glow; make your own USB/webcam microscope and water bear hunting kit. £5 per child (£2 low income). Suitable for ages 6+, children must be accompanied by a parent/carer throughout the workshop.

Deptford Market DNA FoodLab

Friday 15 March, 9am–2pm, FREE

Armed with a battery of ad-hoc biological tests, travel-ready DIY lab equipment and some tasty produce we'll bring wholesome LabEasy flavours to Deptford Market, London SE8 3PR.

LabEasy has received financial support from a Wellcome Trust People Award.

Notes for Editors

MadLab (www.madlab.org.uk) is a community space for people who want to do and make interesting stuff — a place for geeks, scientists, artists, designers, illustrators,

hackers, tinkerers, innovators and idle dreamers; an autonomous R&D laboratory and a release-valve for Manchester's creative communities. Daily activities include meet-ups covering subjects from computer programming and electronics through to horror film-making, field recordings, guerilla crafts, speculative fiction, home brewing, the "Omniversity" – MadLab's University in permanent beta – and... DIYbio Manchester.

* The Guardian, 'Manchester's MadLab spends time with the FBI'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/the-northerner/2012/jun/18/manchestermetroplitanuniversity-biology-diybio-madlab-fbi-california-conference>)



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