

**Cricko**

ArtScience frictions generating impact

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AI generated image

## ArtScience is blooming

**Erica Villa**ArtScience collaborations' curator with  
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December 1, 2023

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For ArtScience, this marks a rather joyful moment. **Public funding** for these types of projects, both within the EU and outside it, is on the rise. Calls for collaborations between artists/creatives and researchers may vary in explicitness; occasionally, they are encompassed within broader categories such as creative citizen science or public engagement.

Increasingly more attention is being placed on the **collaborative process**, which might now even be surpassing the interest in the final outcome. We are moving past the conventional notion of "artist residencies" in science centers, now venturing into "researchers

residencies in artistic atelier" or "joint researcher and artist residencies".

Moreover the recent growth of **generative AI** tools has boosted unprecedented applications. The once-distinct realms of arts and sciences now converge into a singular, expansive, and ever-evolving fertile ground, where technology acts as a catalyst for reflections and in the blink of an eye (to be fully revised) solutions.

Why is this so? There could be multiple factors at play. Certainly, there is a growing emphasis and need for positive cross-pollination, hybrid content, and **interdisciplinary research**. Possibly, there's also a growing shared necessity for stronger and more inclusive **human connections**, which could be immensely beneficial in these uncertain times.

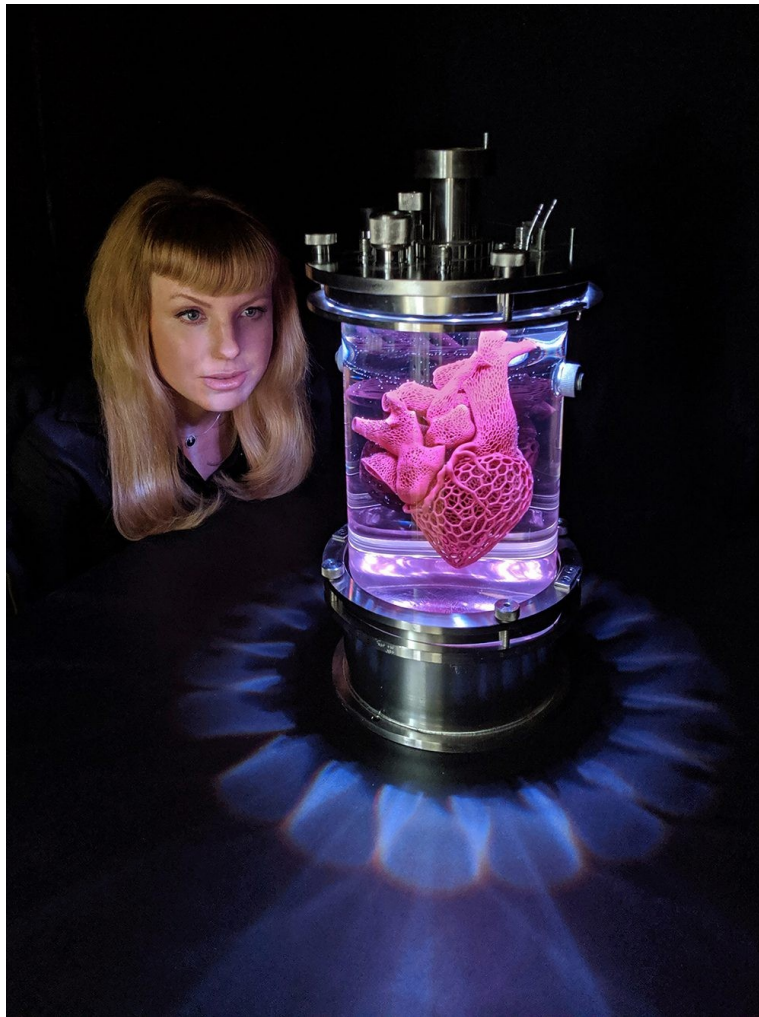
It's maybe time to **create a new word** that emancipates itself from "just" containing the word art and science. Let's keep an eye on that.

FEATURED SCIARTIST OF THE MONTH: AMY KARLE

When she was born in 1980, Amy Karle was affected by Congenital Aplasia Cutis (ACC): a rare and potentially lethal condition characterized by the absence of skin and bones. In Amy's case, the condition affected her head. The childhood of what would become one of the world's most renowned (bio)artists was spent in laboratories and pharmacies, under the care of her parents: a biochemist and a pharmacist.

Today she is an internationally award-winning ultra-contemporary artist working at the nexus of where **digital, physical and biological systems merge**. Karle is also a **provocateur and a futurist**, opening future visions of how art, science, and technology could be utilized to support and **enhance humanity** while making advancements in the technology towards those goals in the process of making

her artworks. Current projects probe who we could become as a result of our exponential technologies and how interventions could alter the course of our future.



Amy Karle and the artwork

We need to be aware of the possible impacts, both positive and negative. The intersection between bioart, biodesign, technology, science, and medicine promises to transcend traditional boundaries, opening up uncharted territories. I see a future where bioart and biodesign are not just a reflection but active parts in creating and debating scientific and medical innovation, as well as a laboratory with infinite potential to explore a new understanding of ethics, hopes, fears, and mysteries of life.

read the full interview on RADAR Magazine:

<https://www.radarmagazine.net/amy-karle-where-will-biotechnology-take-us/>

P.S. Amy has just been selected as **Artist in Residence for Studio Quantum with the Goethe-Institut**, an international program supporting artists exploring quantum technologies through an artistic lens. *Kudos!*

RESEARCHERS HAVE THEIR SAY [on collaborating with Amy Karle]

**Stanisław Łoboziak, co-founder and CTO of LabFarm, written in 2023.**

I met Amy during the Poland "Layers of Life" workshop called "What is Life in the Bio-Tech Era?" through the lens of empowerment organized by The American Arts Incubator. At that time, I was the head of the biological laboratory at the Copernicus Science Center. Amy and I spent entire nights and days in the laboratory preparing the opening of the exhibition "Layers of Life: What is Life in the Bio-Tech Era". It was an **incredibly inspiring time showing how much can be achieved by working with such creative and inspiring artists as Amy. We are still in contact with all the people who were involved in this project - creating an informal group for the exchange of ideas. I hope that we will have the opportunity to cooperate again in the near future. Especially since, thanks to her inspiration, I managed to spread my wings and open the first company in Poland producing cell-cultured meat.**

## John Verricella, Research Scientist - Autodesk, written in 2016.

Over the course of a few months I came to know Amy Karle and her work ethic in a very strong way. We collaborated on a project to 3D print cell scaffolds for an installation (Regenerative Reliquary, 2016) during her time as an Artist in Residence at Autodesk's Pier 9 workshop. From the moment I began collaborating with Amy, it was clearly apparent that she was exceedingly focused and driven. She took on accomplishing the construction of a piece that was both impactful yet quickly brought together many groups dispersed across a large corporations. Her **ability to get to the root of a task** or problem and work with people to accomplish her goal is something that I will look to as inspiration in my own work and collaborations in the future. Amy was able to **bring together so many people that rarely interact directly and show the ties between their projects, strengthening her ability to create while leaving a wake of collaboration behind her work.**

Furthermore, she consistently and diligently attributed others' work and efforts in print and in person, and this action truly speaks to team spirit. I would gladly work on more projects with Amy in the future, and thoroughly enjoyed my time and interactions with her. I think very highly of her **ability to collaborate and reach out to many parties in a thorough, thoughtful way.** It is obvious that this is very much an engrained part of

her, and her art, and it was a great thing to interact with.

#### PUBLICATIONS

### Every science lab should have an artist on the team – here's why

written by **Joanne Berry-Frith**, Lecturer in Graphic Design and Illustration, Loughborough University

*The author has been conducting scientific research with experts who specialise in advanced microscopy at Nottingham University for more than ten years. She is not a scientist – she is an artist and lecturer in Graphic Design and Illustration, at the Loughborough University (UK) and strongly wishes to be embedded in scientific labs with scientists who specialise in imaging because they are "both interested in image, technology and light".*

As researchers on the same project, we discovered numerous similarities, such as our interest in technology and our fascination with microscopic imagery. However, we approached science from a completely different angle. While scientists were busy documenting their results, I was captivated by the real-time visual depictions on the computer screen...

read the [article](#) on The Conversation

#### OPEN CALLS

### Artist Researchers In Residence (Sweden)



The Artist Researchers in Residence Programme (ARIR) at UmArts (the Research Centre for Architecture, Design and the Arts at Umeå University in Northern Sweden) provides the **opportunity for artists and makers to contribute to the UmArts research environment for one month during 2024 or 2025**. The programme will focus on interdisciplinary practice-based researchers from the visual arts, sound arts, media arts, performing arts, architectural, design, maker and hacker communities to develop short term projects in the UmArts research studio and contribute to the UmArts research environment including the Art & AI Working Group.

### Who can apply?

Artists at any stage of their research career can apply. This can include:

- Artists planning to apply for a PhD
- Artists currently undertaking doctoral research who would like to undertake a research exchange or project with an UmArts Department
- Artists who have completed their PhD but are unable to undertake a postdoc for any reason
- International artists working on a research funded project at Umeå University, or with a museum or art gallery in Umeå
- Artists who have previously worked in a research project funded by a university or by research funds
- Artists participating in an international residency programme
- Artists with a research-based practice who can demonstrate equivalent research outputs to that of a PhD
- Artists who have already undertaken an artist's residency supported by Umeå University in the last 3 years are not eligible to apply

more [info](#)



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Cricko is a curious virtual tiny cricket jumping from one artsci/sciart project to another. It welcomes researchers and creatives (not only artists) to connect and collaborate to apply to open calls, launch new projects or for the (deep) sake of it, just to name a few.

By following Cricko researchers and artists will discover creative projects on science topics and get the chance to connect to develop fruitful collaborations.

Cricko covers stories by researchers on their past or current experience in artsci projects, outstanding sciartists, articles on scientific journals, open calls, EU projects, residencies, exhibitions, festivals, events and much more.

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for any info please write to [info@cricko.network](mailto:info@cricko.network)

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**Erica Villa**

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There we go with the last [#cricko](#) newsletter of #2023. Time to take stock of the year on an [#ArtScience](#) standpoint.

There seems to be a very positive trend in terms of funded projects, open calls for collaborations and broader engagement.

Over the next year Cricko will go deeper into this trend by enlarging the team, reaching more researchers and creatives and reporting global ArtScience initiatives and research.

A great news that is, of course, just a happy tiny drop in a dreadful geopolitical ocean, but still we need more and more of these drops to enhance [#humanconnections](#), [#scienceliteracy](#) and meaningful [#artivistic](#) expressions.



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