

Arts-design-sciences  
summer school

an intensive week of Labs

June 26-30 - IP Paris

a weekend of events

July 1 & 2 - Théâtre de la Ville  
2023

Open call

Sym  
biose(s)  
Useful Fictions ~3

La chaire  
arts  
& sciences

École polytechnique

Fondation Daniel  
et Nina Carasso

École nationale  
supérieure des  
Arts Décoratifs  
-PSL

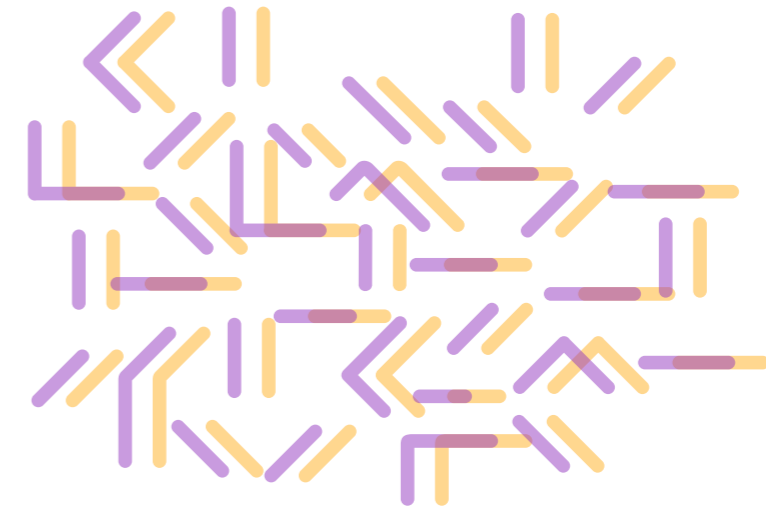
The Chaire Arts & Sciences is a partnership between a science school (École polytechnique), an art school (École des Arts Décoratifs-Paris), and a foundation of public interest (the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso).

The aim of the Chaire Arts & Sciences is to bring together citizens' issues, the academic world and new artistic practices, to explore our interdependence with living and technological environments.

## Useful Fictions

Useful  Fictions, a biennial summer school, is organized in partnership with:

- Chaire Développement durable of École polytechnique
- Centre Interdisciplinaire Arts Sciences Citoyens of Institut Polytechnique de Paris
- Hexagram, network of research-creation in arts, cultures and technologies (Montreal)
- SIANA, Towards New Imaginaries
- Télécom Paris
- Théâtre de la Ville
- UQAM – School of Design (Montreal)



6 multidisciplinary Labs and 1 Workshop, supervised by artists, designers and scientists.

We propose to thirty participants to integrate these thematic practice-based research labs for:

- an intensive week of creation within the École polytechnique - from June 26 to 30
- a public highlight during a weekend of exhibition, performed conferences and workshops for all publics on July 1 & 2

The event promotes the sharing of an open, citizen and decompartmentalized scientific culture.

Videos of previous editions:

[Useful Fictions • 1](#)

[Useful Fictions • 2](#)

# Useful Fictions ~ 3 “Symbiose(s)”

At a time of climate disruption and systemic dysfunction, the event will explore the potential of symbiotic imaginaries\*, by conceiving technological and biological variations on the theme of the common sharings, in order to apprehend what is at stake in the interstices and our faith in collective intelligence empowerment.

Can we conceive new co-operations with the living, the learning machines and the connected objects? Can we transform them into symbiotic allies in the face of environmental and social challenges? Can we draw inspiration from physical models to sketch out new narratives?

In a DIY spirit, 6 thematic Labs and 1 Workshop will be proposed to deploy a sensitive dialogue at the crossroads of arts and sciences: installations, robotics, speculative fictions, performances...

Each of these Labs will produce a device, a hybrid art form, a performance or a prototype.

All the creations will be presented on July 1 & 2, 2023, during a weekend of exhibitions, conferences and workshops.



1st édition of Useful Fictions,  
École polytechnique, 2019  
Photo: J.Dalziel

\* in resonance with the ISEA 2023 symposium for which the Ecole des Arts Decoratifs supervised the academic part

# Applications

Applicants must complete the application form available at this link: [APPLICATION FORM](#)

Application deadline: **Monday, April 24, noon**

Selected candidates will be contacted from May 9.

The number of places is limited to 4 participants per Lab. Each candidate can apply to a maximum of 3 Labs, indicating his/her first choice.

The call for applications is open to any motivated and curious person, without age or degree requirements. We wish to create small multidisciplinary teams with equal representation.

Accommodation, breakfasts and dinners are fully covered by the organizers; transportation and lunches are at the expense of the participants.

A scholarship can be requested on social criteria.

Information: [chaireartsetsciences@gmail.com](mailto:chaireartsetsciences@gmail.com)



# 6 Action-Research Labs

4 candidates selected per Lab

## LAB 1

**Symbiosis of the ephemeral**  
Bilingual Lab FR-EN



Supervisors:

**Nicolas Reeves** UQAM - School of Design, Montreal

**Jean-Marc Chomaz** CNRS, LadHyX - École polytechnique, Palaiseau, France

The climate crisis is tipping our world into a new unknown state. In contrast to the semantics of catastrophe, could we be inspired by the ephemeral forms of natural symbiosis?

At the intersection of the physical sciences and the artistic, this Lab offers to create a new media installation based on research and experiments conducted on the transitory and ephemeral forms of natural and physical elements (such as those taken by a block of ice in salt water, a caramel cake in a flow, or mist in the wind...).

Keywords: Experiments - Do It Yourself - Transient forms - Floating world - Change of state



“Mainte page blanche entre ses mains froissée”  
Photo: N. Reeves - J.-M. Chomaz

## LAB 2

**Demiurge and Artifice in the Wild:  
Zoïmorphism**

Bilingual Lab FR-EN

Supervisors:

**Antoine Desjardins** Reflective Interaction, EnsadLab - École des Arts Décoratifs, Paris

**Giancarlo Rizza** and **Andrea Cosola** Laboratory of Irradiated Solids (LSI), Institut Polytechnique de Paris (IP Paris), CEA/DRF/IRAMIS, CNRS, Palaiseau

Is it possible to give life to an inanimate object, like a demiurge, and to make this object interact with its immediate environment?

The “Zoïmorphism” project aims to create artistic objects endowed with behavior, at the frontier of the inert, the living and the artificial living.

To achieve this goal, this Lab uses magneto-active polymers with biomimetic morphologies: the use of sensors allows to activate the magnetic properties of these “zoomorphs” and to create a direct interaction with the spectator.

Keywords: Art and illusion - Active matter - Reactive artificiality - 3D Printing - Sensors - Arduino



“Zoïmorphism”  
Photo: A. Desjardins - G.Rizza

## LAB 3

### Behavioral Objects, Curious Objects

Bilingual Lab FR-EN

Supervisors:

**Corentin Loubet** EnsadLab - École des Arts Décoratifs, Paris

**Filipe Pais** NUC (Norvège), EnsadLab - École des Arts Décoratifs, Paris

What if connected objects could render intelligible and sensitive, through their behavior and design, citizen issues related to data collection?

This workshop aims at transforming connected objects into symbiotic allies: to design robotic devices with the vocation to make perceptible different aspects of data collection.

This Lab will conduct experiments to test our relationships of trust / distrust towards connected objects, and to make invisible processes such as data collection intelligible through behavioral design.

This Lab will be connected with the Workshop - Machine Learning.

Keywords: Design - Connected objects - Behavioral objects - Learning machine - Modular robotics



"Curae", Corentin Loubet, 2021  
Photo: Anne Lemaître

## WORKSHOP

### How can Machine Learning technologies transform digital art practices in real time?

No inscription - already constituted group

Bilingual workshop FR-EN

Supervisors:

**Sofian Audry** UQAM - School of Design, Montreal

**Samuel Bianchini** EnsadLab - École des Arts Décoratifs, Paris

Useful Fictions is glad to welcome a multidisciplinary workshop produced by our partner Hexagram (Montreal).

This Lab will explore the ability of Machine Learning technologies to create a symbiosis between 3 art forms: robotic installation, audiovisual performance (AV) and virtual reality (VR).

Participants will be invited to share their personal experiments in Machine Learning, and more specifically in Reinforcement Learning, in view of a transdisciplinary collaboration.

This Workshop - part of a two-year research-action - will be connected with LAB 3 - Objects with behavior, curious objects.

Keywords: Machine Learning - Reinforced Learning - Virtual Reality - AV Performance - Robotics

## LAB 4

### Phytomorphism

Supervisors:

**Karine Bonneval** Artist

**Guillaume Hutzler** PhD University of Évry – IBISC Laboratory

A proposal from SIANA, Towards New Imaginaries

This Lab is based on Karine Bonneval's artistic research developed in collaboration with teams in plant ecophysiology: how to live with the plant, in its temporality, in symbiosis with the air, the light, the soil, gravity?

The workshop will consist in creating an installation of connected carpets to “plant oneself” and take the time to interact with the data perceived by a companion plant, transformed into vibrations.

Keywords: Plant symbiosis - Programming - Tufting - Perception data - Participative installation



“Langue des bois”  
Antre Peaux, Bourges,  
in collaboration with Shoï.  
Photo: Karine Bonneval

## LAB 5

### The STUDIO: Finding Symbiotic Space

Bilingual lab FR-EN



Supervisors:

**Vera Mihailovich-Dickman** Associate Researcher and Adjunct Professor in Intercultural Communication Skills - SHALL, Centre Interdisciplinaire Arts Sciences Citoyens IP Paris; SLAM – Paris-Saclay University

**Marcus Neustetter** Contemporary experimental artist in the field of Art/ Science, South Africa and Vienna, Austria

**Marije Nie** Contemporary research and performance artist in the field of dance and music, Nordisk Teaterlaboratorium, Denmark ; S:PAM, University of Ghent, Belgium

An unpredictable environment such as that inherent in climate change requires a reevaluation of the importance of randomness and serendipity.

This Lab invites participants to join in a collaborative co-creation to imagine a multimedia installation symbolizing our context of uncertainty.

The challenge is to exploit the opportunities offered by the unexpected and to transform them by using personal research and the lived experience of the participants as “raw material”. We will combine high- and low-tech resources and integrate elements from the work in the other Labs.

Keywords : Multimedia performance - Ecological fiction - Randomness - Innovative collaborative and hybrid process



Imaginary Futures by Marcus Neustetter and team at Global Periphery in collaboration with Annick Bureaud, Paris, 2022.  
Photo: Quentin Chevrier

## LAB 6

### Symbiosis of struggles

Supervisors:

**Olivier Fournout** Télécom Paris

**Raphaël Granier de Cassagnac** CNRS, CERN, LLR - École polytechnique  
Centre Interdisciplinaire Arts Sciences Citoyens IP Paris

This Lab offers to explore, through the means of imaginative writing and theatrical play, the activist issues related to inclusiveness, “woke” sensitivity, racial, social and cultural injustices, ecological transition, identities and sexual orientations.

Based on stage writing, experiments on stereotypes and debates, a performance will be developed and then performed by the participants during the event on July 1st and 2nd.

Keywords : Minorities - Wokism Controversies - Fight against stereotypes - Convergence among social struggles - Role playing - Collective writing - Theatrical play

# Partners

Chaire Arts & Sciences of École polytechnique, École des Arts Décoratifs - Paris and the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso

<https://chaire-arts-sciences.org>

Centre Interdisciplinaire Arts Sciences Citoyens, Institut Polytechnique de Paris

<http://factory.paris>

Chaire Développement durable, École polytechnique

<https://portail.polytechnique.edu/chaire-edf/en>

Hexagram – Network of research-creation in arts, cultures and technologies (Montreal, Canada)

<https://hexagram.ca>

SIANA, Towards New Imaginaries

<https://www.siana.eu>

Télécom Paris

<https://www.telecom-paris.fr>

Théâtre de la Ville

<https://www.theatredelaville-paris.com/fr>

UQAM – School of Design (Montreal, Canada)

<https://design.uqam.ca>

They support Useful Fictions 3:



La  chaire arts &  sciences

École polytechnique École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs -PSL  
Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso