

Democratisation of art: Aesthetics of Maker Culture

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What does “democratisation” actually mean?

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Where does Maker culture come from?

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How does the ecosystem of Maker culture look like?

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Who is the author?

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What is aesthetics in Maker culture?

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DIY-BioLab at BUW



The DIY Biolab is a working environment equipped with professional laboratory equipment to perform (micro)biological experiments. For example, plants, algae and fungi as well as harmless microbes can be cultivated and researched here. The laboratory has a solid basic equipment (glassware, scales, centrifuges, microwave, heating stirrer, incubator, etc.) as well as a sterile workbench and two powerful microscopes.



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Rainwater Garden at BUW



Die Entstehung eines Regenwasserteiches schuf Raum für die Ansiedlung eines kleinen Ökosystems und lieferte eine zusätzliche Motivation, das Ökosystem zu forschen.



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PostCompost – Forest Reset / Course

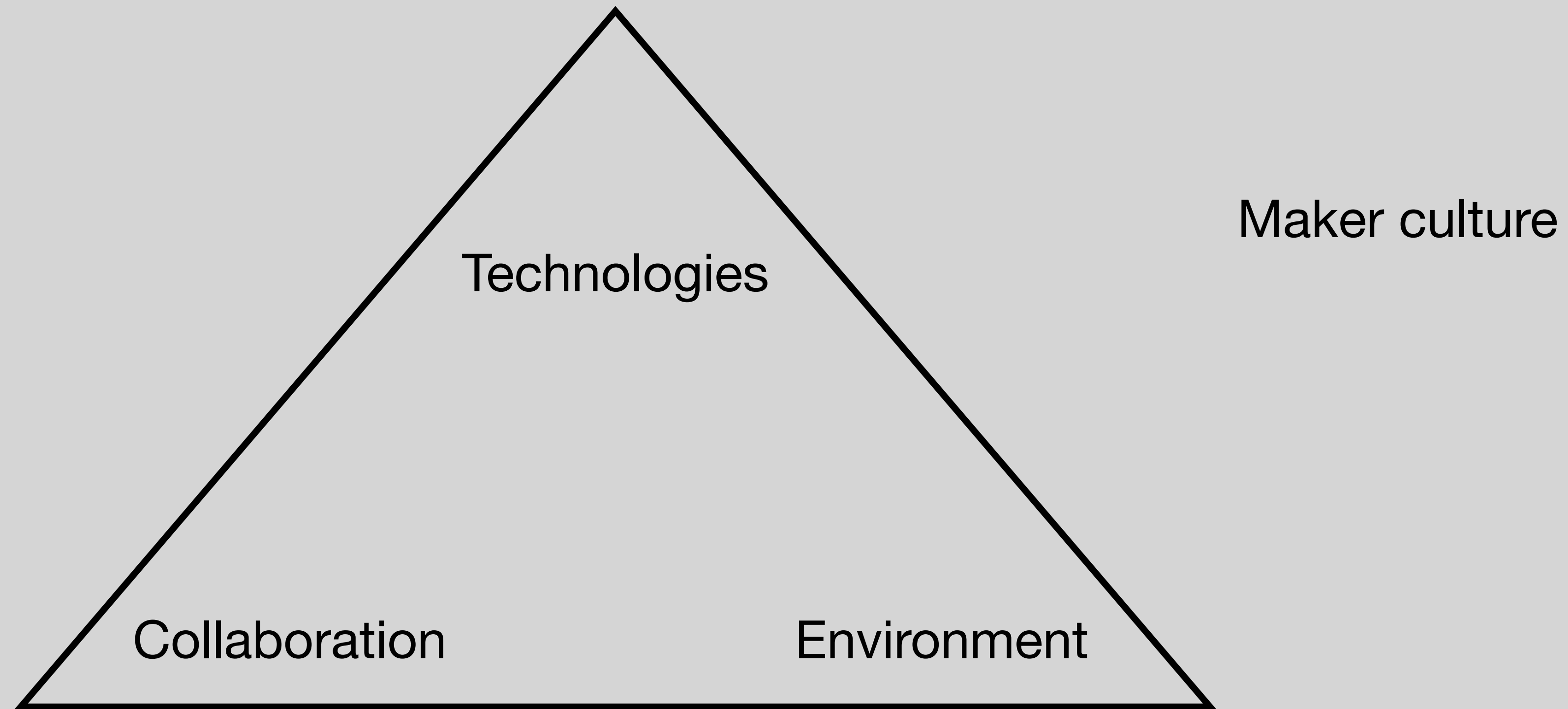


European forests are increasingly revealing the consequences of large-scale monocultures. Bark beetles thrive under these conditions, reproducing largely unchecked, while rising soil dryness weakens trees' defense and self-healing capacities. At collectively coordinated intervals, large-scale posters are layered onto the surface of a freestanding billboard, extending and materializing the project's ongoing research process.



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Ecosystem of Maker culture



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Projects

Cybernetic Subjects (Exhibition at Ars Electronica Festival 2025)

- *[Dried Out] Pond* (In collaboration with F. Bonowski and Vasili Macharadze)
- *Experiment: Daphnia Test* (Klaus Fritze)
- *What is it like to hear a bat?* (Diana Karle)

You and I, You and Me

- *Jewelry* (In collaboration with Helga Mogensen)
- *Headwear* (In collaboration with Maria Safronova)
- *Shoes* (In collaboration with Leon Crayfish)

Microorganisms & Their Hosts

- *Proposal for Microbial Therapy* (In collaboration with Auksė Gaižauskaitė)
- *Rectal Candle* (In collaboration with Maartin Schied)

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Cybernetic Subjects (Exhibition at Ars Electronica Festival 2025)



Since the 1930s, cybernetics has shaped our understanding of systems — mechanical, electrical, biological, and social. Emerging from wartime research and early computing, it introduced a framework for analyzing feedback, control, and communication across diverse domains. In Cybernetic Subjects, we aim to revisit cybernetics through a contemporary lens, questioning the role of natural and Artificial Intelligence in shaping our reality.

Cybernetic Subjects. Photos: Cosmo Schüppel

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[Dried Out] Pond



[Dried Out] Pond. Photos: Cosmo Schüppel



A 3D-modeled and CNC-milled pond invites visitors to navigate an uneven terrain within the gallery space. The work evokes the clay floors that, until recently, were common in domestic interiors, while simultaneously reflecting on human impact on ecological systems and the wider consequences of global warming.

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Experiment: Daphnia Test by Klaus Fritze



Water quality is a key environmental parameter for aquatic ecosystems. In this experiment, water from the Danube in Linz is compared with samples from the Weimar rainwater garden pond. Experimental setup: Three small glass containers filled with different amounts of water were filled with defined volumes of the respective samples. Each container contains water fleas from a breeding colony. The well-being of the *Daphnia* serves as an indicator of water quality.



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What is it like to hear a bat? by Diana Karle



Bats live in an acoustic universe of ultrasonic frequencies that we humans cannot perceive. With the help of an ultrasonic detector, the veiled signals are revealed, offering a glimpse into soundscapes that are beyond our reach. The concert reflects on the impossibility of fully grasping non-human experience, while suggesting that empathy and imagination can open pathways towards other perspectives of our entanglement with diverse species within ecosystems.

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You and I, You and Me. Participatory Event, 2021



Sapieha Palace, Vilnius, 2021. Photo: Arūnas Baltėnas

The project explores the possibilities of communication through electricity. The project proposes that electricity could help reveal the imperceptible connections between different actors.



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Jewelry. In collaboration with Helga Mogensen



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Jewelry. Photo: Bon Alog (left) and Arūnas Baltėnas

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Headwear. In collaboration with Maria Safronova



Headwear. Photo: Bon Alog (left) and Arūnas Baltėnas

In *Headwear*, I use the EEG module to scan alpha waves in the brain. On the other hand, I use the tDCS module to stimulate the brain with electrical current.



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Shoes. In collaboration with Leon Crayfish



The shoe collection uses excess human body heat, which is converted into electricity, to generate sound from the environment.

Shoes. Photo: Bon Alog (left) and Arūnas Baltėnas

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Microorganisms & Their Hosts. In Collaboration with V. Klimašauskas et al



Das Projekt untersucht, wie ausgewählte Mikroorganismen uns beeinflussen und wie wir die Mikroorganismen beeinflussen.



Gallery "Atletika", Vilnius, 2020. Photo: Andrej Vasilenko

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Proposal for Microbial Therapy. In collaboration with A. Gaižauskaitė

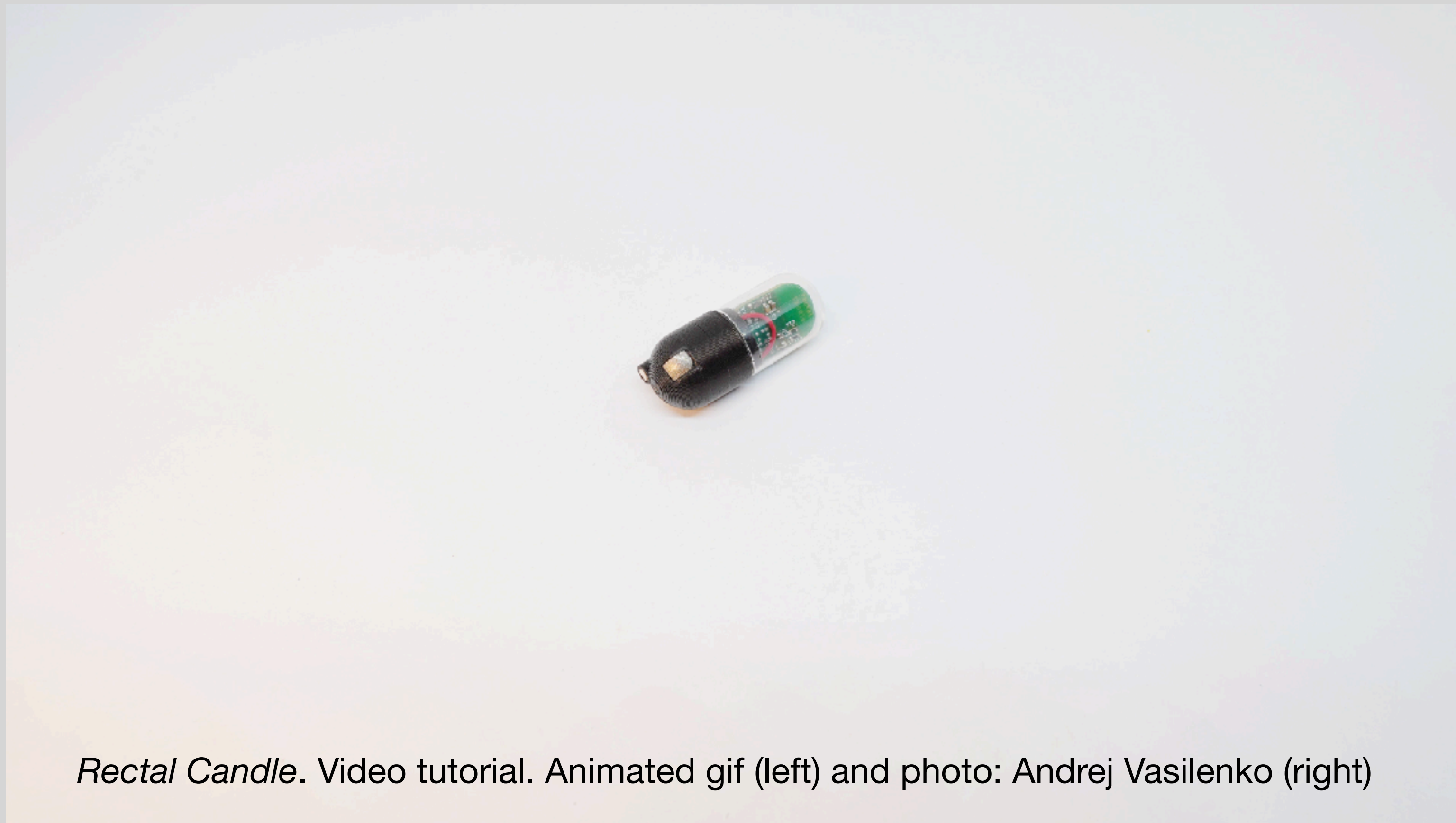


Die Installation „Proposal for Microbial Therapy“ besteht aus zwei Aquarien mit Joghurt: Das erste ist mit *Lactobacillus reuteri* und das zweite mit *Streptococcus thermophilus*-Bakterienstämmen besiedelt. Die Aquarien sind mit einer Elektronik verbunden, mit deren Hilfe die Veränderung des pH-Werts verfolgt werden kann.

Proposal for Microbial Therapy. Photo: Andrej Vasilenko

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Rectal Candle. In collaboration with Martin Schied



A capsule that measures the pH value of one's own rectum and transmits it via Wi-Fi. On the left side, you can see an animated GIF of it.

Rectal Candle. Video tutorial. Animated gif (left) and photo: Andrej Vasilenko (right)

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Summary

Democratisation is the process of widening access to something previously restricted, without necessarily redistributing power in a democratic way.