

ART
&
INNOVATION

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A research project by

Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts

&

InCrops

2011

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Editor

Veronica Sekules

Contributors

Sam Abelman

Edward Acton

Kaavous Clayton

Bee Farrell

John French

Carlos Gonzalez

Mark Haywood

Jacqui Jones

Andi Sapey

Veronica Sekules

Liliya Serazetdinova

Marcela Tršová

Design

Praeter

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www.incropsproject.co.uk

Preface	6
Introductions	
Vision and Context <i>John French</i>	8
Innovation and Improvisation <i>Veronica Sekules</i>	12
Environmental Entrepreneurship, Art and Creativity <i>Liliya Serazetdinova</i>	16
Artists' presentations	
Kaavous Clayton <i>with Earth and Reed</i>	20
Marcela Tršová <i>with Woad Inc.</i>	24
Marcela Tršová <i>with Norfolk Lavender</i>	26
Jacqui Jones <i>with Cyberpac, Marchant Manufacturing and A&O Bio Resins</i>	28
Samuel Abelman <i>with Hemp Technology</i>	30
Mark Haywood <i>with Hardy Bamboo</i>	32
Mark Haywood <i>with Cambridge Biopolymers</i>	36
Carlos Gonzalez & Andi Sapey <i>with Easton College</i>	38
Reflections	40
Summary of Findings	42
Useful Information	
Companies	44
Project Partners	46

PREFACE

Edward Acton

Below
Ueno Masao: *The Eye is a Rose Window*, 2011
Commissioned by the Sainsbury Centre for
Visual Arts for the exhibition *Basketry: Making
Human Nature* (Photo: Andy Crouch)

It is a pleasure to introduce this body of new work in the field of art and innovation. It represents a convergence of thinking between the artistic, business and scientific communities.

The achievements of both the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts' *The Culture of the Countryside* project and of the InCrops project with its technology and business base and strong commitment to bio-renewables, are notable.

The convergence of these two projects around innovation and climate-change adaptation has led to the emergence of genuinely new thinking about bio-based, local and community derived materials. This extends

to the land and includes agriculture in the world of artistic interpretation. What has been so pleasing is to see the way in which artists, when presented with novel materials, have found new ways of expressing themselves and

how this, in turn, has led to innovation and new forms of exploitation. These pages contain fascinating examples of both art and innovation, and I very much look forward to the next chapter of this collaboration. ●

Professor Edward Acton
Vice-Chancellor,
University of East Anglia



USEFUL INFORMATION

Project partners

Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts

University of East Anglia
Norwich Research Park
Norwich
NR4 7TJ

Tel. 01603 593199
E-mail: scva@scva.ac.uk
Web: www.scva.ac.uk

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts is a world class art museum at the University of East Anglia (UEA). It was founded in 1973 through generous benefactions by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, whose art collections are housed in a complex of buildings designed by Foster + Partners, the original core of which, opened in 1978 is now Grade II* listed.

The collections, comprising art from 4,000 BCE to the present, and from many of the world's regions and cultures, have always been an inspiration for wide-ranging study. While many of the artists from around the world are anonymous, their creative range connects beyond the Western art context of exhibitions to daily life, personal adornment, ritual, customs, death and burial; representing different beliefs and values of luxury, beauty and commemoration. Nineteenth- and twentieth-century Western artists represented in the collection, many of whom were known to and personally supported by the Sainsburys as patrons, include Henry Moore, Pablo Picasso, Francis Bacon, Amedeo Modigliani and Chaim Soutine. The Centre also houses growing collections of Art Nouveau and Abstract and Constructivist art, architecture and design. Its large spaces host a lively and varied range of temporary

exhibitions and it is well known regionally and internationally for its learning and outreach programme and workshop activity between artists, schools and communities.

The Sainsbury Centre is part of the Sainsbury Institute for Art (SifA), comprising a number of research and teaching centres including the Sainsbury Research Unit for the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas; the Sainsbury Institute for the Arts and Cultures of Japan; the UEA's School of Art History and World Art Studies; and the South Asian Decorative Arts and Crafts Collection.

InCrops

University of East Anglia
Norwich Research Park
Norwich
NR4 7TJ

Tel. 01603 597248
E-mail: info@incropsproject.co.uk
Web: www.incropsproject.co.uk

InCrops is part of the Adapt Low Carbon Group based at the University of East Anglia. Its team of expert business innovation managers work with businesses to commercialise new bio-renewable and low carbon products from alternative and non-food crop feedstock, through support part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme 'Investing in Your Future.'

InCrops has been developed to stimulate new business activity through the commercialisation of new bio-renewable and low carbon products, from alternative and

non-food crop feedstock; to promote the East of England as world-class researchers in plant and crop science; to stimulate sustainable economic growth through supply chain development, market integration and product innovation; and to accelerate the rate of successful technology transfer into the business and commercial environment.

The organisation has a strong commitment to low carbon economic growth via uptake of crop-derived bio-renewable materials into low carbon supply chains and promote the use of natural and renewable products instead of fossil resources; and the development and use of bio-based products that have a low or zero carbon life cycle in their creation, manufacture, distribution and disposal. InCrops uses plant science research to support carbon reduction and technology transfer to stimulate the switch from fossil fuel derived products to bio-renewable low carbon products; and its understanding and use of life cycle analysis (LCA) for low carbon auditing in major supply chains is used to validate the success of low carbon strategies.