For Immediate Release

**Invitation to inauguration…**

We are pleased to announce the inauguration of **Coalesce Center for Biological Art** on Wednesday, March 23, from 4-6 PM, in 308, 359 and 363 Hochstetter Hall on UB’s North Campus. Coalesce is a hybrid studio laboratory facility dedicated to enabling hands-on creative engagement with the tools and technologies of the life sciences. Coalesce is a major facet of GEM, UB’s Community of Excellence in Genome, Environment and Microbiome, establishing a dedicated studio laboratory for biological art and emerging practices in the arts, as well as interdisciplinary coursework, residencies, workshops and exhibitions. RSVP to coe-gem@buffalo.edu

This is the opportunity to hear about upcoming events and long-term plans for Coalesce and to meet the multi-disciplinary team. The event is free and open to the public.

**Call for Participation…**

The inauguration introduces architect and artist Zbigniew Oksiuta, who will lead a Biological Habitat workshop from March 24-25, 4-6:30 PM. Oksiuta explores the possibility of designing biological structures and is focused upon membranes, self-organization and gravitation. His work has been exhibited in the Venice Biennial, Ars Electronica Linz, Mediations Biennale, Poznan, and many other significant venues.

Workshop participation will be limited to 16 persons. Interested students and faculty should send email to Paul Vanouse, vanouse@buffalo.edu, with the heading “Bioart Workshop,” and a brief 3-4 sentences explaining your background/interest in the workshop, by March 7. While the workshop will be aimed towards experimental art and design practices, the intent is to enable a range of participants (including architects, humanists, ethicists, policy makers, etc.) in a hands-on creative engagement with the tools and technologies of the life sciences. No prior molecular biology experience is required.

**Skin: Membrane: Habitat…**

On Friday, March 25, the workshop will be open to the public. Events begin with a lecture by Oksiuta from 4-4:40 PM and a panel/roundtable discussion from 5-6:30PM on the theme of *Skin*, for instance as a site of identity, as a microbial habitat, as a barrier, and as an interface. This discussion will include Oksiuta, WBFO Artist in Residence Shelly Jackson, and several UB faculty and visiting researchers. More info TBA.

These events supported by: UB’s Community of Excellence in Genome, Environment and Microbiome (GEM), and Techne Institute for Arts and Emerging Technologies.

For more information: Paul Vanouse, Director of Coalesce, vanouse@buffalo.edu

https://www.buffalo.edu/genomeenvironmentmicrobiome/coalesce.html