**RESEARCH STATEMENT: The Contamination of Alice: Instance #10**

Becoming Alice and The Desire for Immortality

**RB:** *The Contamination of Alice: Instance #10* forms part of an ongoing series that engages with notions ofbiological and creative contamination. This version engages with the concept of immortality, interspecies, genetic and cross-disciplinary exchange. The work also considers notions of foundation and how disciplinary and evolutionary development is contingent on interactions between different organisms and materials and how exchange can be seen as a major contributor to transformation and modes of becoming. Through the inclusion of elements from cell and tissue culture, microbiology and 3D fabrication, the work makes reference to preceding projects that laid the foundations for current research in the biological arts.

**RC:** The artwork includes live biological material in the form of facial casts composed of Agar that grow different bacterial colonies over the exhibition duration with a 3D printed facial scan of the artist. 3D components are displayed in conjunction with a video animation incorporating time-lapse imagery of bacteria and cell movement. Through the inclusion of animated contamination growth, the work gestures towards the concept of genetic exchange and cross-contamination of biological agents and creative ideas. The exhibition contributes to the development and recognition of artworks that draw on research across the arts and sciences and explores strategies for communicating complex biological and conceptual concepts through a merger of video and biological arts practice.

**RS:** The work was selected by bioart curator Dr Melentie Pandilovski for inclusion in the show and conference *Rise of the Bio-Society at Riddoch Art Gallery* in Mt Gambier. The work was featured alongside leading national and international art-science practitioners such as Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Eduardo Kac and Guy Ben-Ary. Exhibition outcomes were presented by Dr Pandilovski at the ADM Symposium “Innovation, Biodesign, Culture, and Technology” in Singapore, 20 - 21 June 2017.