



Deptford Market DNA FoodLab

Deptford High Street, London SE8 3PR

Friday 15 March 2013, 9am-2pm

MadLab, UK pioneers of the DIY-bio movement, bring their people's DNA FoodLab to Deptford Market on Friday 15 March. Armed with a battery of ad-hoc biological tests, travel-ready DIY lab equipment and some tasty produce, the DNA FoodLab invites market-goers, stall-holders, and anyone bio-curious to extract the DNA from strawberries; experiment with miracle fruit; and try DNA taste tests for themselves.

This free, day-long, drop-in event is for everyone interested in how DNA can reveal what's in their burgers and whether their veg have been genetically modified. Curious amateurs with no biology knowledge encouraged!

The Deptford Market event is part of LabEasy, an Arts Catalyst project to democratise, demystify and widen participation in low-cost, hands-on biology – bringing it out of the laboratory and onto the kitchen table. For more see www.artscatalyst.org.

MadLab (Asa Calow and Rachael Turner pictured), describe themselves as, “An organization dedicated to making biology an accessible pursuit for citizen scientists, amateur biologists and biological engineers who value openness and safety”. Since 2011, they have conducted a range of ad-hoc community research experiments such as the Manchester Microbe Map; lo-fi laboratory builds notably an DNA amplification machine, built from parts widely available at B&Q DIY stores; and unconventional public meetings featuring blood-sucking insects and glowing bacteria. Last year they were guests of the Fed' when the FBI invited them to help with their work to understand and keep up with the work of America's amateur biology community.*

LabEasy has received financial support from a Wellcome Trust People Award.

For more information and images contact Jo Fells, jo.fells@artscatalyst.org, 07877 226187

Notes for Editors

MadLab (www.madlab.org.uk) is a community space for people who want to do and make interesting stuff — a place for geeks, scientists, artists, designers, illustrators, hackers, tinkerers, innovators and idle dreamers; an autonomous R&D laboratory and a release-valve for Manchester's creative communities. Daily activities include meet-ups covering subjects from computer programming and electronics through to horror film-making, field recordings, guerilla crafts, speculative fiction, home brewing, the “Omniversity” – MadLab's University in permanent beta – and... DIYbio Manchester.

* The Guardian, 'Manchester's MadLab spends time with the FBI' <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/the-northerner/2012/jun/18/manchestermetropolitanuniversity-biology-diybio-madlab-fbi-california-conference>



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