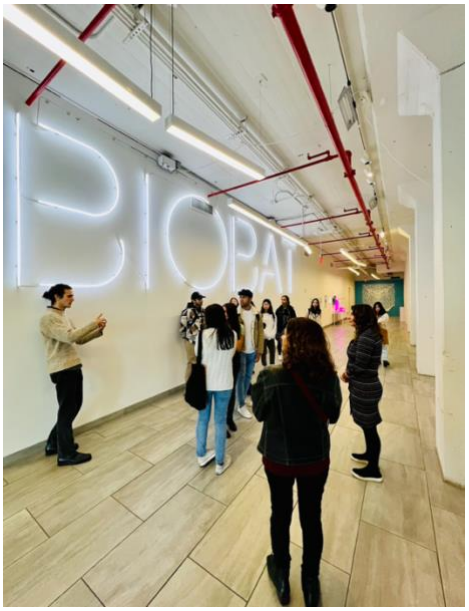
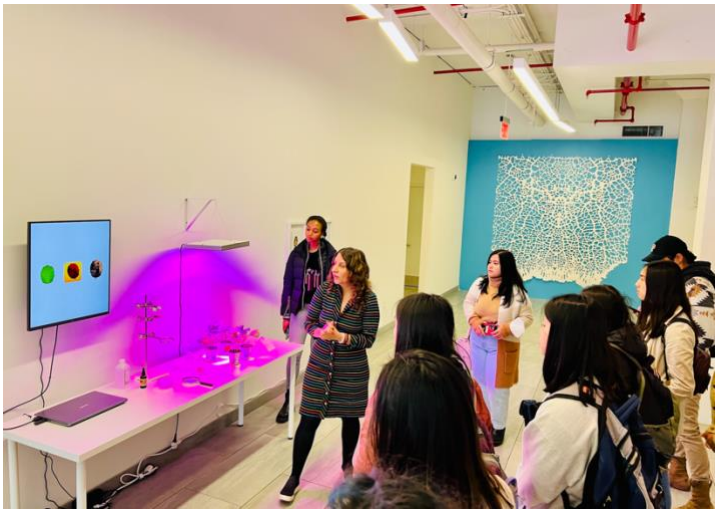


Students of LAS 390/ ANT 392/ GHP 390 Multispecies Worlding and Global Health Policies, Visit New York City

Over the fall break, students in the PLAS course "Multispecies Worlding and Global Health Policies" (LAS 390/ ANT 392/ GHP 390) took a day-long trip to Brooklyn and Manhattan to visit two exhibits exploring health, the environment, and human-nonhuman relations. Participants on this trip examined how artists and scientists bridge design and multispecies relations, or relations between species and people, and how those relationships shape social worlds.

First, students stopped at BioBat, an incubator space for the life sciences and biotechnological research located in South Brooklyn. BioBat President Dr. Eva Cramer and Executive Director Thomas Hall welcomed students upon arrival and guided them through a brief presentation about the campus' history and current projects.

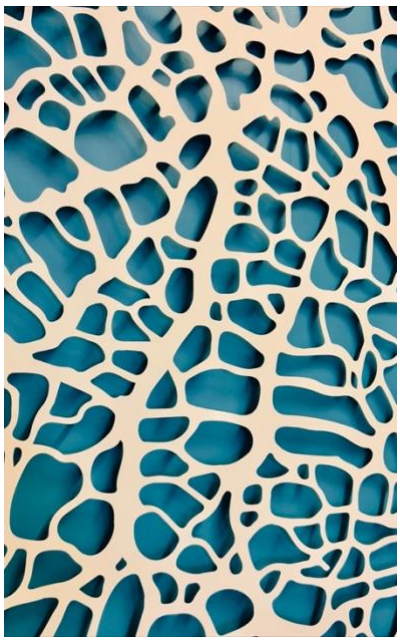
On-site, students visited the newly installed laboratories of the Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) in charge of water quality management and coastal health for NY Harbor. Executive Director of the IEC, Evelyn Powers, walked students through recent water monitoring lab installations. In addition, students learned about the Billion Oyster Project, and other clean water efforts and collaborative programs conducive to NY Harbor being the cleanest it has been in 100 years.



Students also learned about emerging biotech careers and companies and internship opportunities on the BioBat campus.

After visiting the biotech and environmental health labs, the group enjoyed a guided walkthrough of the BioBat Art Space. Operations Manager, David Jadric and Director and Cofounder Elena Soterakis co-led a private tour of the current bioart exhibit by Yoko Shimizu entitled "Vibrant Matters." Shimizu's work explores the dynamism, agency, and expressive

potential of living systems at the intersections of art, design, and the life sciences. Students engaged with a significant sampling of Shimizu's work on biodesign and how technologies and lifeways can be integrated. Students pondered materials and techniques highlighted in the exhibit, including interactive and multinucleated slime molds that can solve mazes, gravity-defying silica test tubes, biomorphic landscapes, and other expressive potentials of living organisms. Throughout the tour, Soterakis, who is also an bioartist, invited students to think of ways we can shift our relationship to environments and other species from one of domination and control to one of symbiosis and multispecies collaboration.



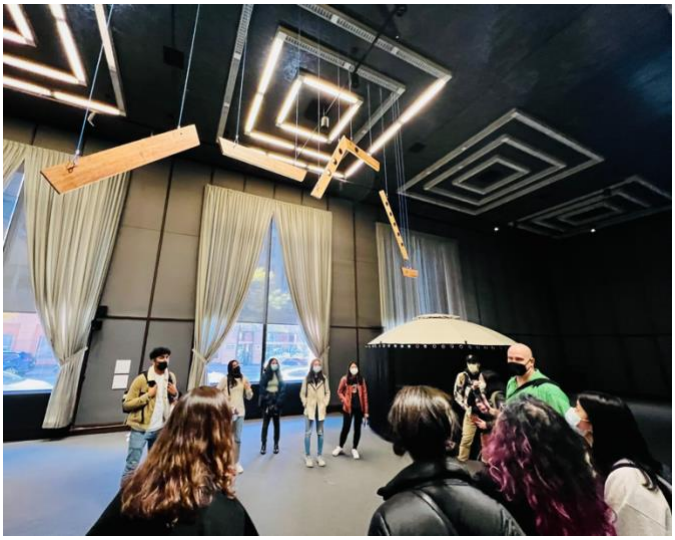
Students continued their trip by crossing over to Manhattan via ferry and taking the R uptown to NYU Tisch School of the Arts. To expose students to the design process and better equip them for their course design projects, students learned about ways artists create social interventions to draw attention to and change perspectives on health, environment, and climate crises.

The group had the opportunity to directly engage with associate professor, visual artist, and cultural worker Pato Hebert. Hebert gave students an in-depth presentation on the creation of one of his series, In, If Not Always Of, in which a figure called "The Oscillator" appears in various landscapes.

"The Oscillator" is an ambiguous and ambivalent human silhouette made of shiny metals that look like mirrors. "The Oscillator" reflects its environments and interrogates multispecies relations by destabilizing the figure of the human. This metallic figure also draws on an embodied multispecies tradition among indigenous people throughout the Americas depicting nonhumans and other anthropomorphic beings. For Hebert, working with metals from the earth is a way to converse with

multiple cosmopolitical visions and our relationships to place and space. In the context of natural spaces, the Oscillator appears as a matter out of place that pushes us to question what it means to be attuned to prior histories of a place and how that shapes our relation to it.

Hebert also guided the group through the current multimedia art exhibit at NYU Bobst Library entitled *This is Not a Drill*. This exhibit showcases artistic perspectives on equity, technology, and climate emergency. Participants learned about public pedagogy, access to information, and ways that design and the artistic imagination can be instrumental in rendering more equitable ways of knowing. In the gallery, Hebert talked about his contribution to the exhibit and discussed with students terraforming via nuclear experiments that were planned (but never realized) during the construction of the Panama Canal.



Taught by Dr. Alberto Morales, a PLAS Postdoctoral Research Associate & Lecturer, LAS 390/ANT 392 focuses on the politics of health, environment, multispecies relations, and scientific/biomedical interventions in Latin America and beyond. Drawing on a wide range of interdisciplinary work, this course examines global health concerns through the lens of multispecies entanglements to analyze the ongoing effects of ecological and environmental changes and the practices of world-making that drive new imaginings and becomings of natureculture. Along with Dr. Morales, Program Coordinator Eneida Toner, and PLAS Visiting Research Scholar, Agustín Díez Fisher, and Course Assistant Samantha Lopez-Rico accompanied students through their multispecies journey in the city.