



Emma van der Leest Design & Research  
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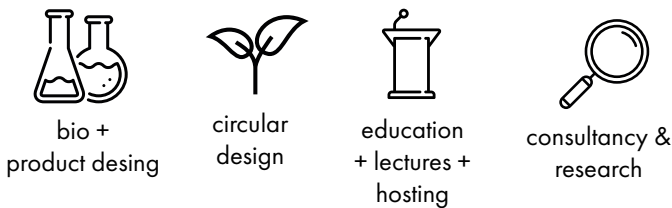


## about

Emma van der Leest is trained as product designer, and has great interest in the field of biofabrication. Biodesign incorporates living organisms e.g. bacteria, fungi, algae or cells into the design process. By discovering materials and processes, that nature has designed but hasn't patented, we can search for new grown materials that are completely compostable and minimize the usage of hazardous resources that can cause huge damage to our ecosystem.

As product designer, she collaborated with different disciplines, from scientists, physicists, artists and designers. Through a strong design, Emma tells a compelling story. She highlights the crossovers with craft, scientific research and new production techniques. Emma is trying to create an environment where boundaries dissolve, and where different disciplines benefit and learn from others.

## skills



## education

- 2015  
Master (4 months) Materialisation in Art & Design  
Sandberg Institute, Amsterdam
- 2011- 2015  
Bachelor product design  
Willem de Kooning Academy, Rotterdam  
*cum laude with honours*
- 2007 - 2011  
Vocational school, spatial design  
CIBAP, Zwolle

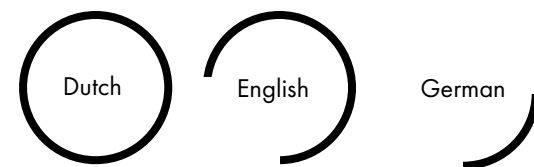
## internship

- 2014  
BioCouture Ltd. Design Consultancy in biofabrication  
intern design, research, consultancy & laboratory skills  
London, England (now [Biofabricate](#))

## tools & personal

#1 design	#2 personal	#3 laboratory
Adobe Photoshop	Flexible	Basic media
Adobe Illustrator	Friendly	Basic culturing
Adobe InDesign	Passionate	Basic biology
Sketch Up	Teamplayer	Basic chemistry

## language



## work experience

- 2021 • present  
Co-curator Dutch Innovation Pavilion, Floriade  
Museum for 21st Century Design | Amsterdam, NL
- 2020 • present  
Visiting Tutor MA Material Futures  
Central Saint Martins | London, UK
- 2020 • present  
Tutor Growing Cultures, MA Ecology Futures  
MIVC | Avans University | Den Bosch, NL
- 2019 • present  
Researcher | teacher New Material Practice Research  
Willem de Kooning Academy | Rotterdam, NL
- 2019 • 2020  
Tutor MA Social Design  
Design Academy | Eindhoven, NL
- 2016 • present  
Founder & creative director BlueCity Lab  
BlueCity, Rotterdam • [www.bluecitylab.nl](http://www.bluecitylab.nl)
- 2015 • present  
Founder Emma van der Leest Design & Research  
[www.emmavanderleest.com](http://www.emmavanderleest.com)
- 2014 • present  
Product Associate  
Biofabricate Conference New York City  
[www.biofabricate.co](http://www.biofabricate.co)



## exhibitions

- **2021 | November**  
Yksi Expo, Eindhoven, NL  
Fungkee | Fungal Supercoating
- **2021 | October**  
Dutch Design Week, Klokgebouw, Eindhoven, NL  
Fungkee | Fungal Supercoating
- **2021 | July**  
Museum De Fundatie, Zwolle, NL  
Bioleather Slipper
- **2021 | March**  
Museum de Domijnen, Sittard, NL  
Fungkee | Fungal Supercoating
- **2021 | March**  
Museum Het Valkhof, Nijmegen, NL  
The Microbial Vending Machine
- **2020 | October**  
Impossible Bodies, Den Bosch, NL  
The Microbial Vending Machine | Augmented Reality
- **2019/2020**  
'Polarities', MU Artspace, Eindhoven, NL  
Fungkee | Fungal Supercoating
- **2019**  
Dutch Design Week, Veem gebouw, Eindhoven NL  
Lab in Progress
- **2019**  
Het Klimaatmuseum, Utrecht Centraal Station, NL  
The Microbial Vending Machine
- **2019**  
GOGBOT Festival, Grote Kerk, Enschede, NL  
The Microbial Vending Machine
- **2019**  
Dolf Henkes Price, TENT, Rotterdam, NL  
The Microbial Vending Machine
- **2018**  
Dutch Design Week, Klokgebouw, Eindhoven, NL  
Biocouture bag collection
- **2016**  
Dutch Design Week, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, NL  
Earth Jewellery

- **2015**  
Best off graduation show, Witte de With Kwartier, Rotterdam  
Form Follows Organism
- **2015**  
Salone del Mobile, Milan, IT  
Growing Materials Project
- **2015**  
London Design Week, London, ENG  
The Compostable Burial Urn

## prices & nominations

- **2020**  
Duurzame Jonge 100 NL |  
Top 100 sustainable young leaders under 32  
Listed
- **2019**  
Winner Bio Art & Design Award 2019  
€25.000 to develop the 'Fungal Supercoating'
- **2019**  
Nominee Dolf Henkes Price, TENT, Rotterdam  
Oeuvre price
- **2018**  
Winner Border Sessions Award  
Oeuvre price €5000
- **2018**  
Duurzame Jonge 100 NL |  
Top 100 sustainable young leaders under 32  
Listed
- **2016**  
Nominee Henri Winkelman Award  
Oeuvre price
- **2015**  
Nominee Drempelprijs Award  
Form Follows Organism



## publications/media/other

- **2021**  
ASN Bank Wereldprijs  
Jurymember 'Nature & Environment'
- **2021**  
Anna & the Brains (worktitle)  
Expert in Scienceprogram for the VPRO
- **2021**  
ANS Bank Worldprize 2021  
Jury member
- **2021**  
HUBOT, Amsterdam NL  
'Model for Biodesign Job'.  
Job agency for people and robots  
www.hubot.org
- **2020**  
Raum und Wohnen Magazine, Switzerland  
'Die Bio-Designerin entwickelt aus Bakterien,  
Pilzen und anderen Mikroorganismen  
neue Materialien.'
- **2020**  
Elle Decoration NL Magazine May | June issue  
It's Alive, interview
- **2020**  
The Low Countries, The Netherlands  
Biodesigner Emma van der Leest is  
Growing a Sustainable Future
- **2019**  
VPRO De Toekomstbouwers, television show  
Episode 3: Emma van der Leest
- **2019**  
'Do it Ourselves Together book by Jeroen Junte  
The Microbial Vending Machine  
ISBN: 978-94-6208-520-6
- **2019**  
Elle Decoration NL Website, NL  
Designer in Beeld: Emma van der Leest
- **2019**  
Laka Perspectives book, PL  
Let's Grow Clothes - chapter in book  
ISBN: 978-83-947975-2-2
- **2019**  
Beeldenmagazine, NL  
'Cross-over in de kunst: Emma van der Leest'
- **2017**  
FD Newspaper, NL  
'Het Levende Lab'
- **2016**  
Metro Newspaper, NL  
BlueCity Lab
- **2016**  
Form Follows Organism - the biological computer  
book & e-publication by Hybrid Publishing  
Willem de Kooning Academy
- **2015**  
Publish Magazine, The Netherlands  
Form Follows Organism
- **2015**  
Mrvica Magazine, Croatia  
Form Follows Organism
- **2014**  
Stichting Volkskracht Magazine, The Netherlands  
Biocouture Studio