

**PRESS RELEASE**

Munich, June 11th, 2018

**SKIN CLOSE: Free-entry all-day BIOTOPIA FEST at Schloss Nymphenburg brings together scientists and designers to explore the fabrics of the future**

**Hands-on workshops, exhibitions, talks and a fashion show to engage curious minds of all ages**

BIOTOPIA, a new museum of life in development in the beautiful surroundings of Schloss Nymphenburg in Munich invites you to explore textiles and materials of the future on **Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**, 2018. The programme includes **open labs, workshops, exhibitions, talks, children's programme, a treasure hunt and a fashion show** lasting from **10 a.m. to 9 p.m.** The visitors will have the opportunity to experience science at first hand. **Free Admission.**

“From mushroom leather and seaweed clothing to spider silk shoes, how can we be inspired by nature in our quest for more sustainable materials? This one-day festival is a taste of what is to come as we embark on the exciting journey of metamorphosis from the Museum Man and Nature towards BIOTOPIA in the beautiful setting of Nymphenburg Palace and surroundings, not only in the future BIOTOPIA museum, but also in our yearly BIOTOPIA FESTIVAL which from June 2019 onward will allow the public to participate in exciting events and experiments testing and exploring ideas exploring the connections between humans and our natural environment“, said **Prof. Dr. Michael John Gorman**, Founding Director of BIOTOPIA

**Leading scientists, fashion designers, artists, and international experts** will give insights into their work and ask what biology can offer to the future of design: **Paola Antonelli**, senior curator for Architecture & Design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, **Veronica Ranner**, designer, artist and researcher at the Royal College of Art in London, **Julia Lohmann**, Professor of Design and Head of the Department of Seaweed at the University of Fine Arts, Hamburg, **Fiorenzo Omenetto**, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Silklab Tufts University Boston and **Susanne Renner**, director of the Botanical Gardens Munich-Nymphenburg, as well as many more.

The visitors of the BIOTOPIA Fest are invited to encounter **visionary ideas** and extraordinary materials within a diverse programme. **Diana Scherer**, **Iris van Herpen**, **Otilia Vlad** and **Blond & Bieber** will exhibit pieces of their current fashion collections, illustrating the efforts of designers to engage in sustainable fashion by using unusual materials, alternative coloring methods and manufacturing techniques. Design Professor at Munich's University of Applied Sciences, **Ralph Ammer**, will present innovation and speculation driven projects developed by his students. A fashion show inspired by nature, organised by the Deutsche Meisterschule für Mode / Designschule München, will be the conclusion of the all-day event.

Further partners include synthetic silk entrepreneur **Jens Klein** (AMSilk), fashion designer **Suzanne Lee** (Modern Meadow), multidisciplinary designer **Maurizio Montalti** (Officina Corpuscoli), industrial and communication designers **Aart van Bezooijen** and **Paula Raché** (Material Stories).

Also numerous partners of BIOTOPIA from both the local nature-culture-quarter around Schloss Nymphenburg as well as from the Bavarian network, will be present offering various activities: Museum of Man and Nature, the Botanical Gardens Munich-Nymphenburg, the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, the Bionicum Nürnberg to name a few.

“SKIN CLOSE – FABRIC OF THE FUTURE” marks the first event of an **annually BIOTOPIA Festival**, launching in the summer of 2019, emphasizing a participatory, experience-based approach to a varying thematic focus each year.

BIOTOPIA takes a bold **new approach with inter- and transdisciplinary activities** at the intersection of life sciences, art and design to engaging people with some of the most critical issues of our time and aims to explore, question and reconfigure the relationship between humans and other living species.

**ADMISSION IS FREE**

SKIN CLOSE (“HAUTNAH”) – FABRIC OF THE FUTURE  
THE BIOTOPIA FEST

Saturday, June 16th, 2018, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Hubertussaal, Johannissaal, Orangeriesaal and outdoors at Nymphenburg Palace, Nördliches Schlossrondell, 80638 Munich

**Press tour: 12:00 a.m. – please register at: [zollner@zinnober-abc.com](mailto:zollner@zinnober-abc.com)**

**The full programme and image material can be found here:**  
<https://biotopia.net/de/presse>

**For further information please visit our website: [www.biotopia.net](http://www.biotopia.net)**

**Press contact:**

ZINNOBER Art & Business Communication  
Barbara Maria Zollner  
+49 / 89 / 54 84 78 57  
[zollner@zinnober-abc.com](mailto:zollner@zinnober-abc.com)

BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern  
Dr. Ulrike Rehwagen – Head of Project Delivery  
+49 / 89 / 2180-72190  
[rehwagen@biotopia.net](mailto:rehwagen@biotopia.net)