

PRESS RELEASE

Munich, 6 September 2022

## **BIOTOPIA Festival "SENSE – The Power of Perception!" on October 1st and 2nd 2022**

**4 venues, 2 days, over 60 activities, adventures for the  
senses and free entry!**

**For an entire weekend, sensory explorers of all ages are invited to  
discover the world of perception, and experience cutting-edge  
science in Munich–Nymphenburg.**

BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern invites everyone interested to a two-day festival in Munich–Nymphenburg entitled “SENSE – The Power of Perception!” which will already give a taste of the future BIOTOPIA museum. On October 1st and 2nd 2022, visitors will be able to explore the extraordinary sensory worlds of humans and animals in the Hubertussaal of Nymphenburg Palace, in the rooms of the Museum Mensch und Natur, in Munich’s Botanical Gardens, and in the BIOTOPIA Lab.

How does our perception work? What senses do we have in common with animals? Can a robot feel? During the Corona pandemic, many people experienced first-hand how strongly the loss of smell or the lack of physical contact affected our lives. How can sensory perceptions be changed or deceived? And what does all this have to do with ecological issues and current research? Festival guests can expect a colourful and entertaining program for all age groups that invites them to join in discussions, try things out and explore our remarkable senses.

**Experience sensing with all your senses: An invitation to change perspective**

BIOTOPIA’s SENSE Festival 2022 explores the sensory world from the perspectives of different species, some of which can perceive completely different or have significantly more stimuli than humans, from bat echolocation to the inner magnetic compass of migratory birds. The topics are at the interface between bio- and neuroscience, art, design and society. The result is a multi-sensory experience that challenges and expands the festival guests' knowledge of the senses. The two-day festival will highlight chemical communication as well as neurological processes and optical perception – all in the context

of current research. Under the theme "hands-on science", the Bavarian Natural History Collections, among others, will show current developments in science and the challenges to our society.

### **Marvel – experiment – think further: from sensory maze to DJ sounds**

In addition to a varied stage program including lectures, discussions, presentations and live performances, the BIOTOPIA Festival SENSE places a special emphasis on innovative activities for all age groups that encourage the audience to think, take part, and act. In a sensory maze, in an earthquake simulator or through optical illusions, visitors can trace their own sensory abilities, and test their limits. An olfactory laboratory holds the scents of our planet in store, takes you to the burning Amazon rainforest through olfaction, and gives you an impression of how it used to smell like in the past. Guests are also invited to create their own scent compositions with aroma molecules and oils. Festival visitors can sniff the odor of extinct flowers in the BIOTOPIA Lab – in the exhibition "Resurrecting the Sublime" by artists Christina Agapakis, Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg and Sissel Tolaas.

A guided tour of the **Botanical Gardens** impressively draws attention to the communication between plants and insects. Last but not least, sounds of nature play a central role in DJ Dominik Eulberg's performance: He invites visitors to a disco of animals under the title "Sounding Animals – An Instrument for Animals". The **Museum Mensch und Natur** offers various activities on the theme of sensing – to touch, smell, see, and also to create. In addition, the CellF installation of Perth artist Guy Ben-Ary shows how neurons can produce music. A neural network grows in a petri dish and controls music synthesizers in real time in a performance with opera singer Corinna Ruba. Highlights such as a conversation with Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Ed Yong about his new book "An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us", and the closing performance with Cosmo Sheldrake, as well as a multisensory maze of philosopher Ophelia Deroy complete the program.

Through his abstract paintings made of different earths, Munich artist Ekkeland Götze makes climate change visible in the special exhibition room. With a microscopy station, robot workshops, dance and theatre performances in the Nymphenburg palace courtyards, and a variety of other child-friendly activities, the BIOTOPIA Festival SENSE also caters to the curious minds of young festival visitors.

*"We are delighted that this year's BIOTOPIA Festival will give all curious people the opportunity to discuss and experience the fascination of perception – and to do so with exciting partners from science and art. Very recently, the Corona pandemic has shown how much the loss of the sense of smell and physical contact affects our existence. By understanding the rich sensory world of other animals, we can gain new perspectives on human perception, that is the goal of BIOTOPIA´s SENSE festival " says Professor Dr Michael John Gorman, founding director of BIOTOPIA.*

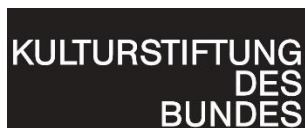
**Admission to the BIOTOPIA Festival SENSE is free** – all festival guests have to do is to pick up a festival wristband in the entrance area of **Nymphenburg Palace/ Hubertussaal** at the beginning of their visit. Registration is required for some program items:

[biotopia.net/sinne-anmeldung](http://biotopia.net/sinne-anmeldung). More information will follow shortly with the detailed festival program at [biotopia.net/festival-sinne](http://biotopia.net/festival-sinne). The BIOTOPIA newsletter and social media channels will also provide regular information about the festival program and contributors. **Dive with us into the experience of perception and see the world with different eyes!**

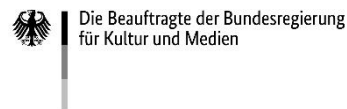
#### **Including:**

Anne Cleary and Denis Connolly – Bionicum Nürnberg – Charles Spence – CellF – Cosmo Sheldrake – Daisy Ginsberg – Dawn Chorus – David Rothenberg – Dominik Eulberg – Eckhart Nickel – Ekkeland Götze – Ed Yong – Guy Ben-Ary – Hirnkastl – Iwanson School of Contemporary Dance – Jonathon Keats – Jörg Peter Schnitzler – Juan Ruiz – Koordinationsstelle für Fledermausschutz Südbayern – Landesbund für Vogelschutz – Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München – Max-Planck-Gesellschaft – Muckids – Ophelia Deroy – Rachel Carson Center – Smell Lab Berlin – Staatliche Naturwissenschaftliche Sammlungen Bayerns – Technische Universität München – Timo Feldhaus – and many more.

#### **Funded by**



#### **As well as**



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## **About BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern**

In the upcoming years, the popular Museum Mensch und Natur at Nymphenburg Palace will be comprehensively expanded, and will reopen with a unique new concept as BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern.

BIOTOPIA will convey natural history and ecological awareness in a completely new way – through the presentation of behaviours, activities and processes that connect humans with other organisms. Topics in the new permanent exhibition such as "sensing", "communicating", "eating", "sleeping", "moving" or "reproducing" affect us all equally. BIOTOPIA is therefore a museum for everyone: a discussion and communication platform that brings the latest research to life, an interactive place of learning with public hands-on labs and diverse programs, an interdisciplinary space that builds bridges between natural science, art, and design. The future museum will be able to draw on the rich treasure trove of objects from the Bavarian Natural History Collections, and showcase current research from all over Bavaria. Communicating science in a vivid and generally understandable way – that is the program.

As a museum of life, BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern wants to create a space in which the relationship between humans and other living beings can be rethought and reshaped. It will inspire its visitors to encounter the diversity of our planet and to get to know their environment anew: "explore life".

Further press-material and images: [www.biotopia.net/en/press](http://www.biotopia.net/en/press)

For exclusive interviews please contact: [mail@ulrikehaardt.de](mailto:mail@ulrikehaardt.de)

**Social Media:** #BIOTOPIA    #BiotopiaLab #BiotopiaSinne  
Facebook    @BiotopiaMuseum | @BiotopiaLab  
Instagram    @biotopiamuseum  
Twitter    @BiotopiaMuseum

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