

Thematic Focus MUTATIONS
Interdisciplinary Thematic Residency 2020–2021
Akademie Schloss Solitude

Stuttgart, 18. November 2021

“Mutations transcend dichotomies of premodern/modern, pro-science/anti-science, and north/south, inviting us to focus on entanglements and interdependencies.”

- Emma Kowal, Joanna Radin, and Jenny Reardon

From Indigenous body parts, mutating temporalities, and the half-lives of postcolonial technoscience, Social Studies of Science, 2013.

The thematic focus group »Mutations« is a cooperation between the [Akademie Schloss Solitude](#), an international and transdisciplinary artists' residence based in Stuttgart, and the [KfW Stiftung](#), an independent non-profit foundation which focuses on intercultural dialogue and artistic production in the global context. This marks the first time in its history that the Akademie Schloss Solitude has expanded its profile with a content-related program. Since October 2020, international artists and creative thinkers have been engaging, both locally and digitally, with the topic of »Mutations« through immersive group labs:

To define the **mutational** is, at its most basic, to set apart a condition at odds with an established order. In the life sciences, this translates to alterations in chromosomal sequence, molecular transformations in cells, tissues, and organisms that are tracked within empirical contexts construed by **modern science**. Yet embedded in the idea of mutation are **blind spots** underpinning **the** designation of order itself. This is true not only in conceptual terms, disciplinary methodologies, or institutional priorities, but also through socio-political configurations that frame what is deemed disparate or exceptional in the **first place**.

The thematic **focus** group »Mutations« at Akademie Schloss Solitude is comprised of seven fellows representing a variety of artistic and interdisciplinary backgrounds. The group is marked by intersecting interests that expand mutation **beyond** bounded interpretations of **biological** structures and **systems**. Be it in the worsening **ecological crisis**, the systematic persistence of capitalist and post-colonial structural violence, or the **ongoing** waves of a **viral** pandemic, the urgency of reevaluating mutations serves as a **homing device**. Over the course of nine months, the »Mutations« fellows will engage in discussions and reflection on the **critical potential** of mutations for **rethinking** and reclaiming integrative **conceptions of life** and livelihood, where the individual connotations of the term converge with its planetary implications.

The thematic focus group »Mutations« is comprised of the following fellows:

Sabina Hyoju Ahn: Media and Sound Artist (South Korea), [Website](#) | **Angela Anderson:** Video Artist and Researcher (USA/Germany), [Website](#) | **Grayson Earle:** New Media Artist (USA), [Website](#) | **Ana María Gómez López:** Artist, Writer, and Researcher (Netherlands/Colombia/USA), [Website 1](#), [Website 2](#) | **Clara Jo:** Video Artist (Germany), [Website](#) | **Maxwell Mutanda:** Multidisciplinary Researcher, Visual Artist, and Designer (Zimbabwe), [Website](#) | **Joana Quiroga:** Visual Artist and Philosopher (Brazil), [Website](#)

Partner:



KFW STIFTUNG