

# Designing for Sustainable Bio-based Materials

A person's hand is shown holding a transparent, bio-based bag with a wooden handle and frame. The bag is filled with a piece of brown, textured material, possibly a bio-based material. The background is a gradient of orange and red.

**Pirjo Kääriäinen 4.3.2019**  
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*Design Yesul Woo CHEMARTS 2018 photo Eeva Suorlahti*



## **Pirjo Kääriäinen**

Professor of practice, Design driven fibre innovation  
ARTS Design + CHEM Bio<sup>2</sup>



**My heart:**  
Nature  
Creativity  
Explorations



**My background:**  
Textile industry  
Design + Management  
Entrepreneurship



**My passion:**  
Materials research  
Design + Science  
Interdisciplinarity

**A!**



Photo Eeva Suorlahti

**CHEMARTS** is a strategic collaboration in education and research between the School of Arts, Architecture and Design and the School of Chemical Engineering.

**A!**

CHEM-ARTS 2017  
Personal common reed

Photo Eeva Suorlahti

The aim of **CHEMARTS** is to inspire designers and material researchers to explore bio-based materials for innovative applications and for more sustainable material future.

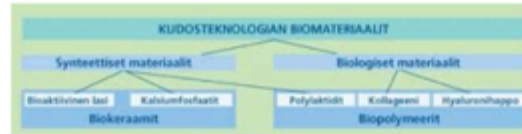
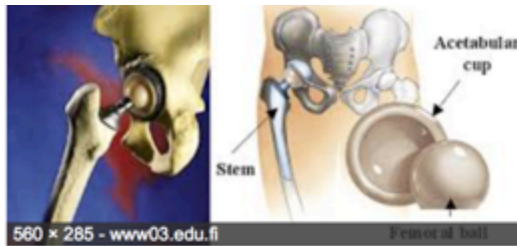


## Today's topics:

- 1) Bio-based materials
- 2) About new production technologies
- 3) Designers in material research

*Wood dust + nanocellulose by Heidi Turunen, DWoC 2017*

# Biomaterials? Bio-based materials?



Kuva 1. Muutamia esimerkkejä kudosteknologian biomateriaaleista.



**SUOMI VOI ELÄÄ KIERTÄVISTÄ BIOMATERIAALEISTA**

Kasvu lähtee usein yhtäaikaisesti. Suomi hallitsee biomateriaalit, kumit ja myös muut polymerit. Nyt niiden valmistuskin siirtyi lisää kotimaahan.

Tuotanto on vakaata ja kestävää.

1. Aivan viime vuosina uudet materiaalit ovat lähteneet tuotantoketjun alkupuolelle, jota lähtenyt vakaasti kasvamaan ja kehittyneeseen.
2. Uusien materiaalien kehittäminen on vauhdittanut kasvua ja tuottanut uusia tuotteita, jotka ovat vakaasti kasvaneet ja kehittyneet.
3. Samankaltaiset biomateriaalit ja kumit ovat lähteneet vakaasti kasvamaan ja kehittyneeseen.
4. Kiertotalous on vakaasti kasvaneen ja kehittyneen yhteistyönä.
5. Kiertotalous on vakaasti kasvaneen ja kehittyneen yhteistyönä.

**Miksi ympäristöystävällisyys?**

- Biomateriaalit
- Biomateriaalit
- Biomateriaalit
- Biomateriaalit

**Miksi ympäristöystävällisyys?**

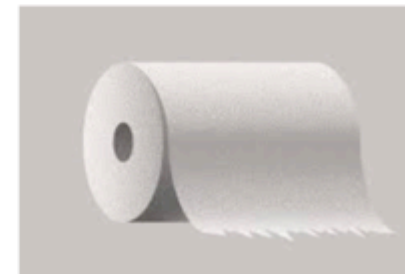
Ympäristöystävällisyys on vakaasti kasvaneen ja kehittyneen yhteistyönä.



**BIOKIERTOJUONI**

Biomateriaalit ja -komposiitit ja eläin- ja kasvitieteelliset biomateriaalit kiertotalouden jalka on Suomessa eläin- ja kasvitieteellisen sektorissa.

- Biomateriaalit
- Biomateriaalit
- Biomateriaalit ja eläin- ja kasvitieteelliset biomateriaalit
- O - BIO-kasvit



**PÖYRY SITRE**

**BIOMATERIAALIT TUULIEN KIEROTALOUDEN**

Ympäristöystävällisyys on vakaasti kasvaneen ja kehittyneen yhteistyönä.

Pöyry Biomateriaalit, Sitre, Kanta, Pöyry



# 1. Bio-based materials

[www.CelluloseFromFinland.fi](http://www.CelluloseFromFinland.fi)

A close-up photograph of a forest floor. The scene is dominated by vibrant green moss and lichen. Several bright red berries are scattered across the moss. In the background, there are dry, brown leaves and a small, textured pine cone. The overall lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the textures of the forest floor.

**75% of Finland is covered by forests**  
*60% more wood than 100 years ago*

**Richness of the Finnish nature**

*How to combine ecological values,  
nature experiences and economical  
aspects in a sustainable way?*



# Finland's top export products 2017

1. Paper and paperboard  
6,9 bill. EUR



5. Wood pulp  
2,0 bill. EUR



6. Softwood sawnwood  
1,9 bill. EUR



2. Diesel fuel  
4,5 bill. EUR



3. Stainless steel  
2,7 bill. EUR



4. Motor vehicles for  
personal transport  
2,4 bill. EUR



7. Ships and boats  
1,5 bill. EUR



8. Electric  
generators and  
motors  
1,4 bill. EUR



9. Earth movers and  
excavators and other  
similar machinery  
1,2 bill. EUR



10. Special machinery  
1,1 bill. EUR





**A!**

*What about design products? Sustainable fashion? Cosmetics?*



# Concepts for material design

**Transforming**  
**Reinventing**  
**Recycling**  
**Growing**  
**Designing**

# Pathways towards sustainable materials

Concept	Materials	Enablers	Objectives
<b>Transforming</b> natural raw materials or industry/agriculture side streams/waste into new materials	Wood, plants, algae - anything containing cellulose, or protein-based materials such as feathers etc.	New or renewed, sustainable and resource-efficient production processes	Only renewable raw materials Sustainable processes with non toxic chemicals
<b>Reinventing</b> traditional materials and production technologies	Willow, hemp, nettle, wood etc. Natural dyes and non toxic chemicals based on natural ingredients	Sustainable cultivation systems, and renewed production processes	Learning from the nature Learning from the past Combining tradition with new technologies
<b>Recycling</b> all materials	For example textiles like cotton, polyester, <u>lyocell</u> ; plastics, electronics -everything!	Efficient collecting and mechanical and chemical etc. processes	Less need for virgin materials Minimizing waste Closing the loop
<b>Growing</b> new materials	Microbe or fungi with proper nutrition	<u>Biofabrication</u> processes Synthetic biology <u>Bioart, biodesign</u>	No waste materials No extra production phases
<b>Designing</b> materials with <u>biotechnologies</u>	Living cells from various sources, treated with genetic engineering	Synthetic biology New production processes	Totally new materials with designed material properties Production processes inside factories

Modified from: Niinimäki, Salolainen, Kääriäinen (2018) *Opening up New Textile Futures through Collaborative Rethinking and Remaking*



**Example: Transforming**

## Designing Cellulose for the Future

*Design Driven Value Chains in the World of Cellulose (DWoC) is an interdisciplinary materials research project 2013-2018, funded by Tekes (Now Business Finland) [www.CelluloseFromFinland.fi](http://www.CelluloseFromFinland.fi)*

# Example: Transforming wood to nanocellulose



Photo Eeva Suorlahti

*Tempo-oxidized nanocellulose by Nina Riutta, CHEMARTS 2017*



Replacing plastics with nano/microcellulose? Maker Tiina Härkäsalmi 2016, DWoC

DESIGN DRIVEN  
VALUE CHAINS  
IN THE **WORLD**  
OF CELLULOSE  
DWoC



Fireretardant nanocellulose coating  
for wood by Heidi Turunen & VTT  
DWoC 2017



Light-weight nanocellulose stool  
by Tiina Härkäsalmi, DWoC 2017

Photo Eeva Suorlahti





## THE SULAPAC STORY

The inspiration for Sulapac's innovation lies in the Finnish forest. Founders Suvi Haimi and Laura Kyllönen wanted to develop a beautiful and ecological packaging material that would help to reduce the plastic waste.

## Example: **Transforming** natural materials into textiles



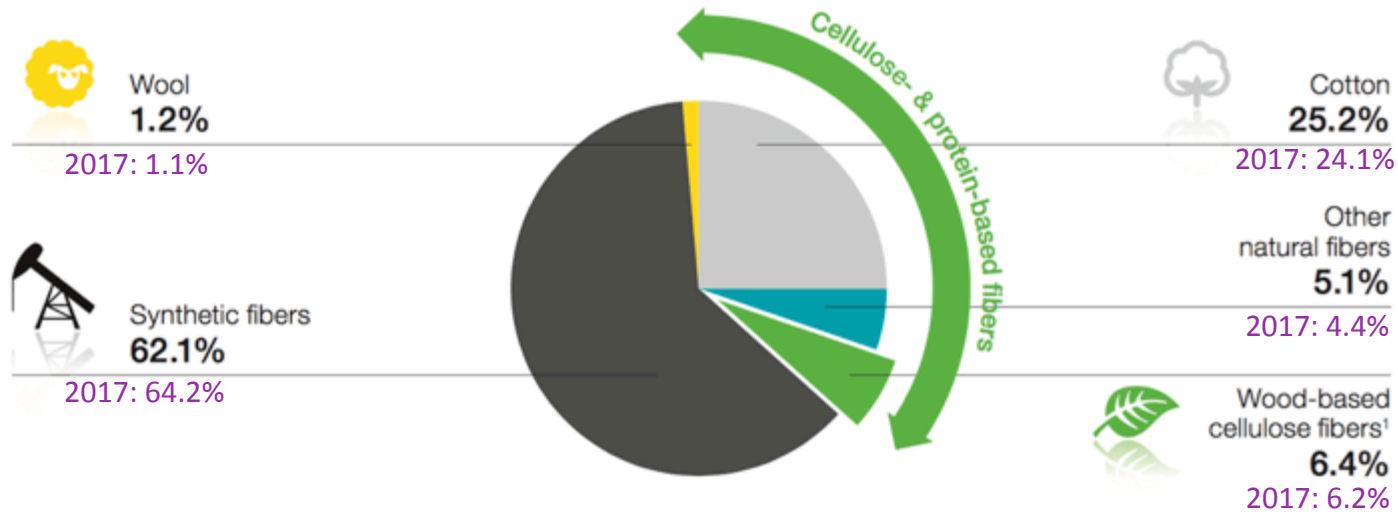
*Ioncell, new sustainable technology to produce high quality textile fibres from wood or cellulosic waste by Prof. Sixta's team (with the University of Helsinki)*



*Non toxic, waterproof textile finishing by Prof. Österberg's research team*

# Global fiber market

Global fiber consumption 2015 94 million tons 2017: 105 million tons



<sup>1)</sup> Wood-based and cotton linter-based cellulose fibers

Source: ICAC, CIFRS, TFY, FEB, Lenzing estimates

Source: Lenzing annual reports 2015, 2017





In addition to Ioncell, several other technologies using cellulosic raw materials for textile fibre production are currently developed in Finland: carbamate technology by **Infinite Fibre**, BioCelSol by **VTT**, and another project using ionic liquids by **MetsäFibre**.

**Spinnova** is developing different kind of process for textile fibres without dissolving the pulp.

Example: **Reinventing** natural materials



*Willow bark CHEMARTS 2017*

Example: **Reinventing** natural materials




Photo Eeva Suorlahti

*Willow bark dish by Eveliina Juuri & Sanna-Liisa Järvelä CHEMARTS 2017*

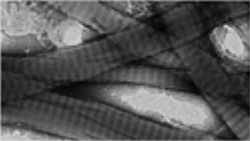




YOUR NEXT HANDBAG MIGHT BE MADE OUT OF WINE

Signal of change / Manure couture - making cow manure-based fabric



[News](#) [Collaborations](#) [Learn More](#)

This is Zoa™. The world's first bioleather materials brand. Able to be any density. Hold to any mold. Create any shape. Take on any texture. Combine with any other material. Be any size, seamlessly. A liquid. A solid. An anomaly. Grown with the intention for making things of real value, that exist not just to serve humans, but to co-exist with everything.



## Recycling: Raw materials for the future

**English:** Classified home trash for aid the recycle process. Numbers for description have been added. A original copy without numbers can be submitted by me on request. 1) glass bottles, 2) thin plastic, 3) thick plastic, 4) cardboard, 5) no classified, 6) cans, 7) paper, 8) polystyrene, 9) glass fragments, 10) batteries, 11) metals, 12) organics, 13) tetrapak, 14) fabric, 15) wc.



# A! Example: Recycling for textile materials

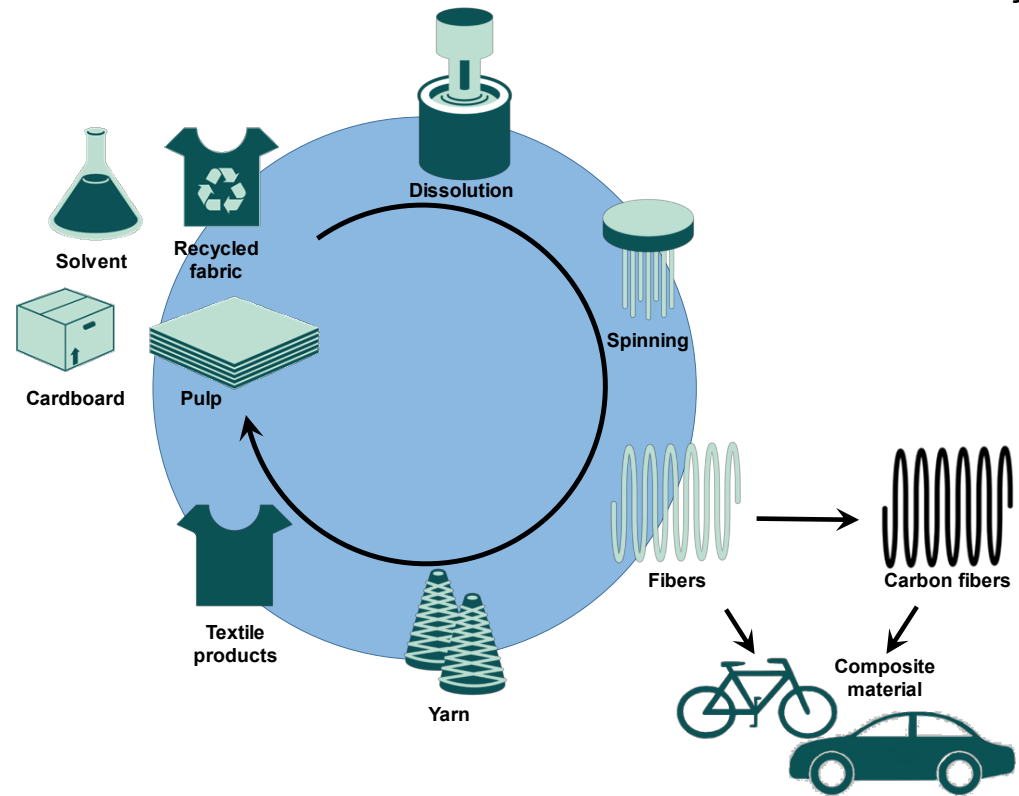


*Design Ioncell team 2018, photo Mikko Raskinen*

*Design Marjaana Tantt, DWoC project 2017, photo Eeva Suorlahti*

*Recycling and upcycling waste materials (textile waste, paper, cardboard) by Ioncell process by Prof. Sixta's research team*

**IONCELL**  
*ioncell.fi*



*Circular process enabling circular economy*

Photo Nina Riutta



**A!**

## Finch Designs Recycles Plastic Bottles Into Rain Capes, Swimsuits

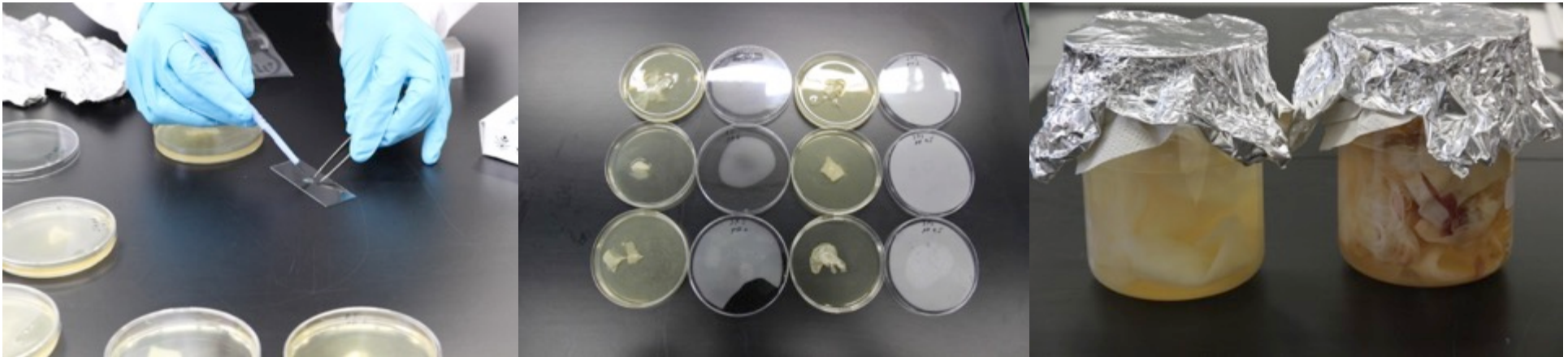
ECO-FASHION BRANDS



Designed by London-based [Alexander Taylor](#), the shoes are made using Adidas' existing footwear manufacturing processes but the usual synthetic fibres are replaced with yarns made from the recycled [Parley Ocean Plastic](#).

# A!

## Growing of materials





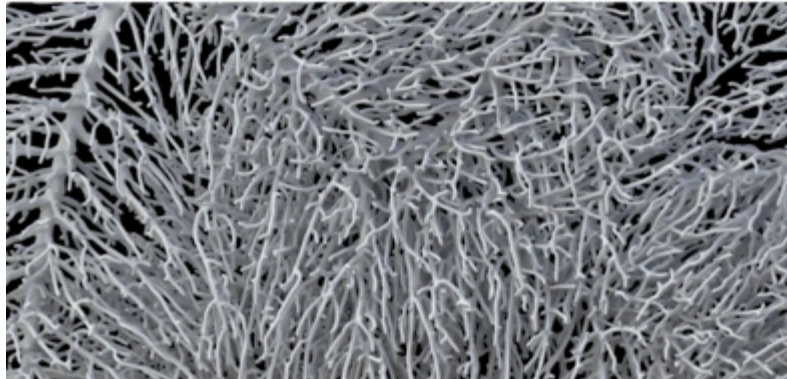
## Growing of materials

*Microbial cellulose and nanocellulose  
based textile experiments  
Julia Strandman, CHEMARTS 2018*

# Growing of materials



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## MYLO™

We're using mycelium, the underground root structure of mushrooms, to make an entirely new, leather-like material.

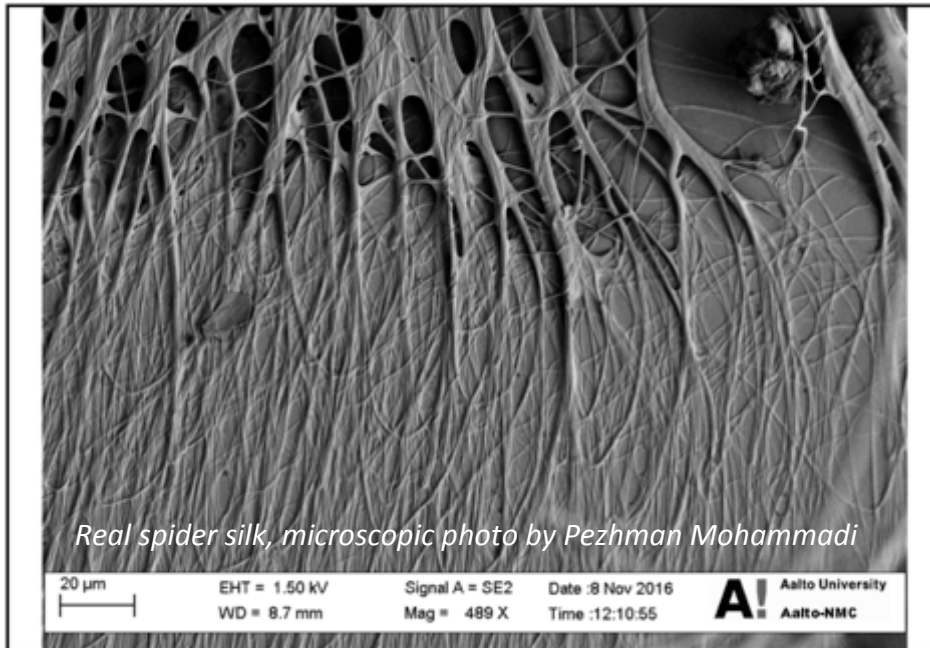


<http://www.fungal-futures.com/>

MycoTEX-Mycelium-Textile

By Aniela Hoitnik

# **A!** Designing materials with biotechnologies



*New Silk - Bio-based production of silk-like materials, research project inspired by spider silk by Prof. Linder's research team*

A close-up photograph showing a white, porous foam being formed. The foam has a complex, interconnected structure with many small bubbles and channels. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture and depth of the material. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

## **2) About new production technologies**

*Foam forming VTT 2017*



## Foam forming saves water



Photo Eeva Suorlahti

*Foam formed, acoustic panels from wood pulp by Tiina Härkäsalmi + VTT DWoC 2017*



Photo Eeva Suorlahti

*Prototype for biodegradable shoes by Saara Kinnunen HAMK + VTT DWoC 2017*

# Spraying with pulp and nanocellulose

Kuva Eeva Suorlahti

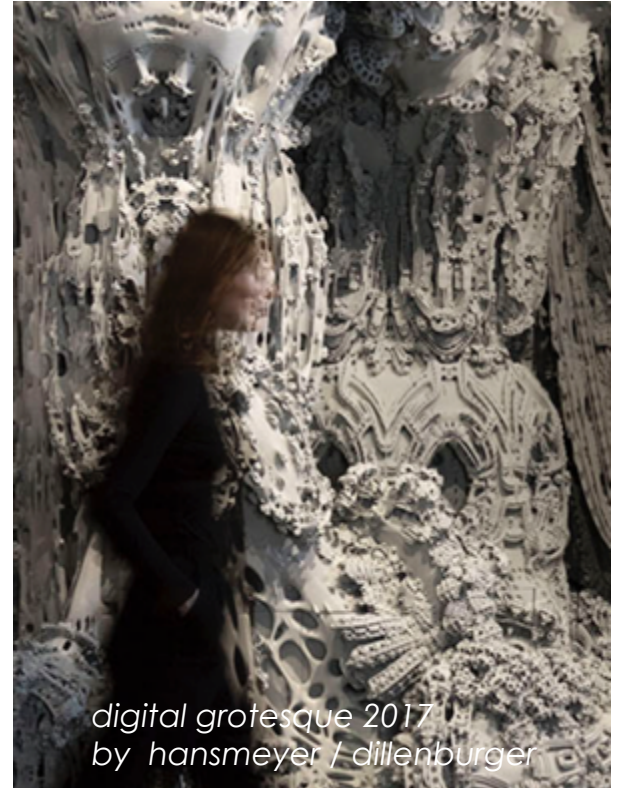
By Tiina Härkäsalmi DWoC + Lumir Oy 2017



3D prints for Black Panther  
by Julia Koerner



Continuum Fashion 2015



digital grotesque 2017  
by hansmeyer / dillenburger

3D printing: New technology, new visual language



Carole Collet



Fashion designer Suzanne Lee  
Biocouture 2014

Grow your  
products?



Photo: Eeva Suorlahti

Fungi jewelry by Manuel Arias Barrantes & VTT, 2017



Growing complex structures with microbe

*Prof. Orlando Rojas's team 2018 Chemical Engineering at Aalto University*



*CellPod by Niko Rätty 2017 in collaboration with VTT for food production*



### **3) Designers in material research**

## Why Design with Material Research?

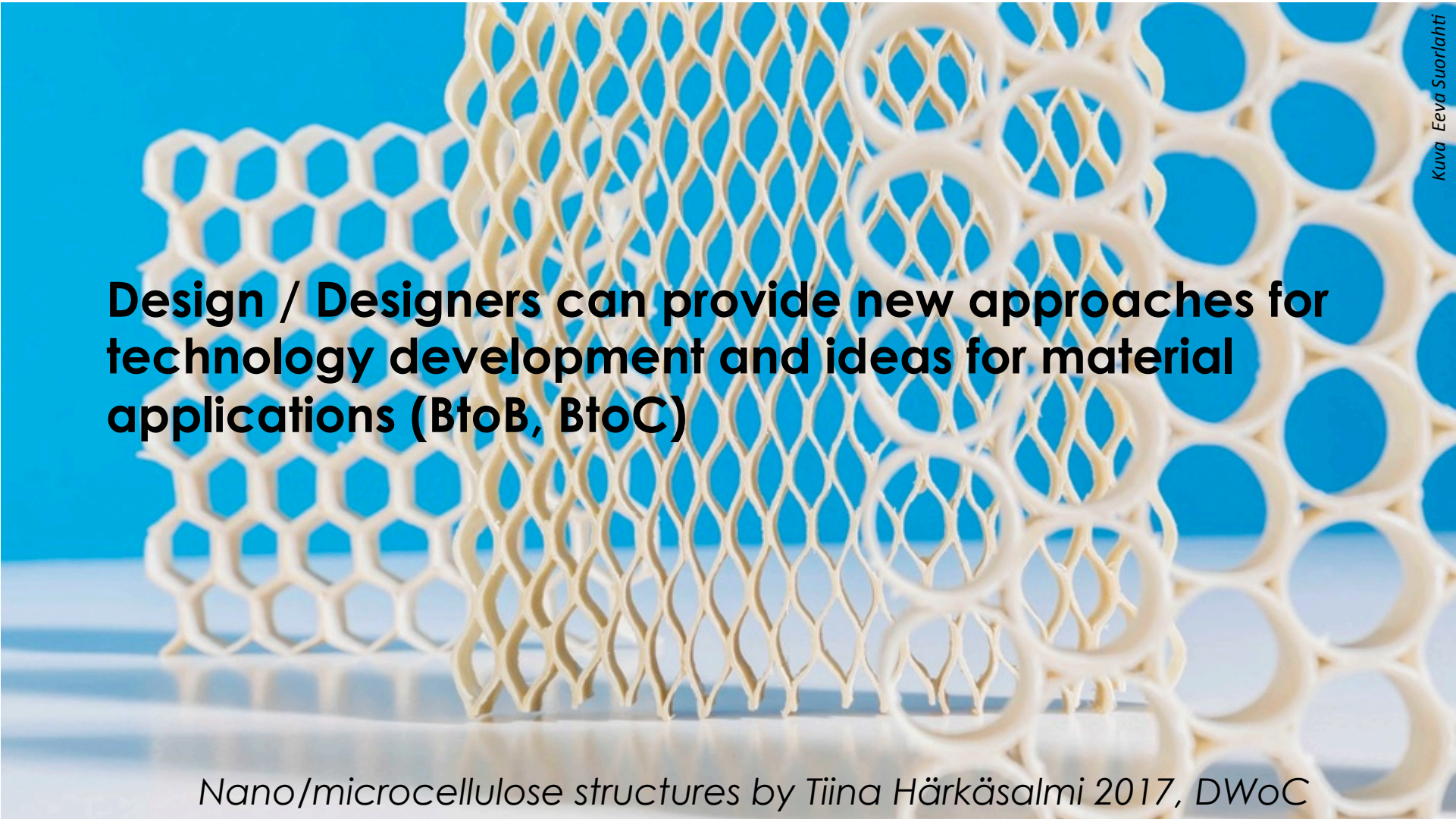
- Design process includes an integrative and holistic approach
- Design process provides methods for co-creation, quick prototyping and testing
- Designers are often future-oriented
- Designers can communicate even non-existing things and speculate with future through visualisation and prototyping

*>supports very slow material development processes by making them understandable*



New Biomateriality Lab 2017, photo Eeva Suorlahti



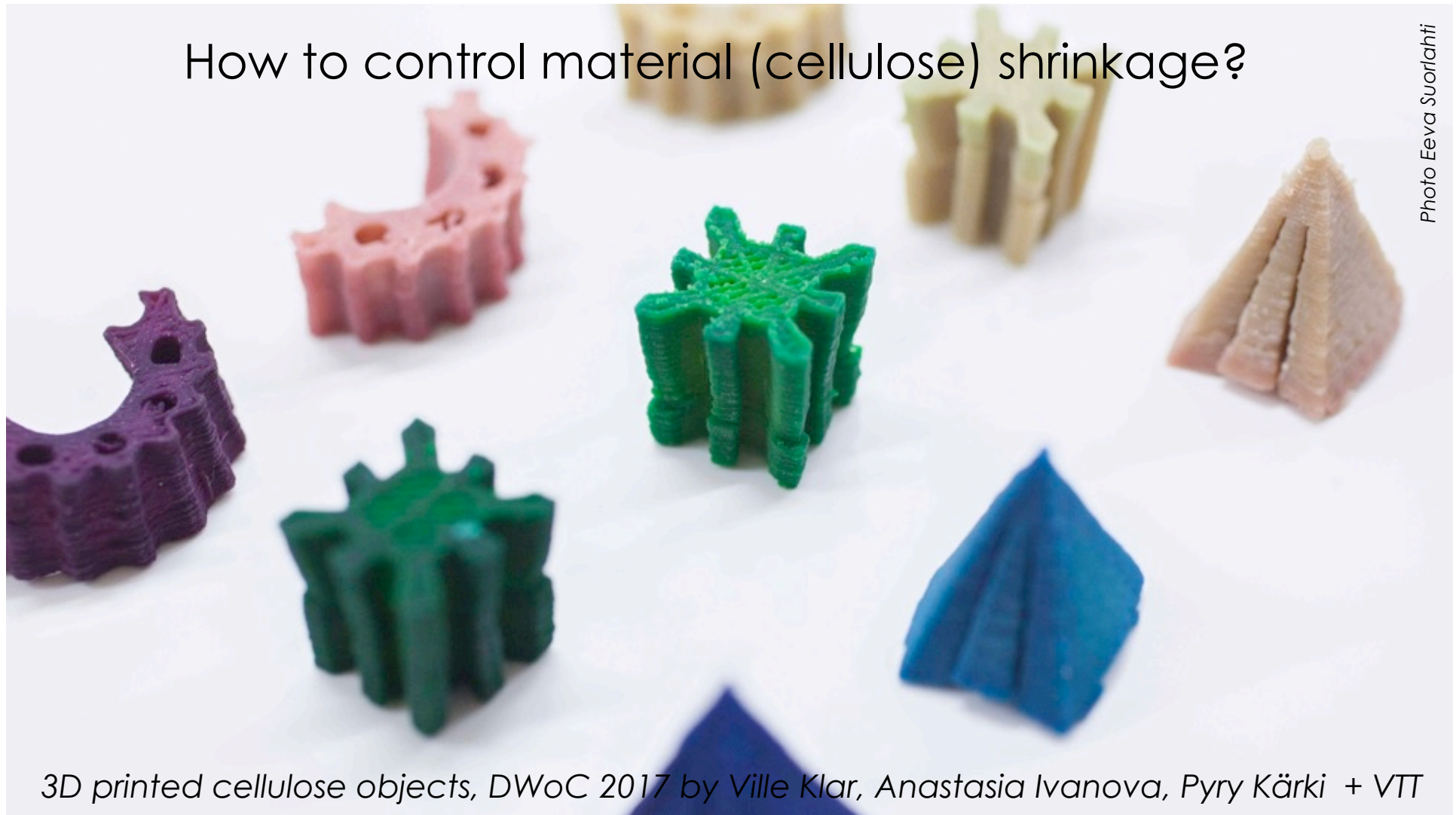


**Design / Designers can provide new approaches for technology development and ideas for material applications (BtoB, BtoC)**

*Nano/microcellulose structures by Tiina Härkäsalmi 2017, DWoC*

How to control material (cellulose) shrinkage?

Photo Eeva Suorlahti



*3D printed cellulose objects, DWoC 2017 by Ville Klar, Anastasia Ivanova, Pyry Kärki + VTT*

How to benefit from material (cellulose) shrinkage?

Photo Eeva Suorlahti

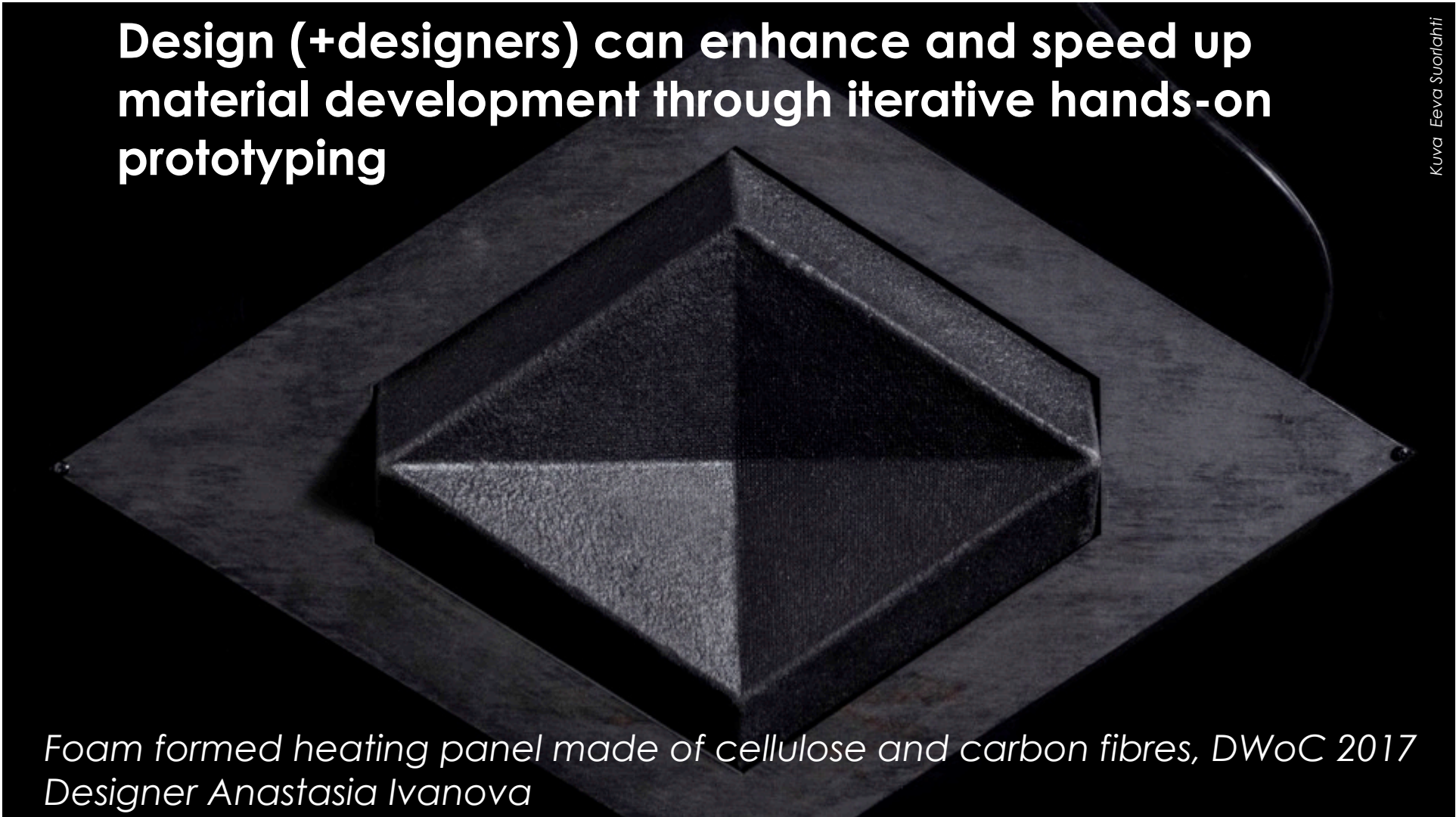
*3D textiles DWoC 2017 by Ilona Damski, Ville Klar / Aalto University + VTT*



**Design (+designers) can enhance and speed up material development through iterative hands-on prototyping**

Kuva Eeva Suorlahhti

*Foam formed heating panel made of cellulose and carbon fibres, DWoC 2017  
Designer Anastasia Ivanova*



**Design is a great tool for communication**



## *In DWoC design researchers were*

AGENT OF CHANGE: Embedding design, architecture and design thinking in traditional pulp and paper business

CATALYZER: Generating new design driven activities and ideas

DESIGNER: Exploiting the methods of explorative prototyping and concept development – always considering the user (BtoB, BtoC)

TREND FORECASTER & VISUALIZER: Exploring, documenting and visualizing scenarios of how materials could be used

CURATOR & COMMUNICATOR: Disseminating the project findings and results

FACILITATOR: Engaging and inspiring student society



Collaboration!

# Our Recipe for Successful Collaboration

Pirjo Kääriäinen & Liisa Tervinen

This recipe is based on our personal experiences and on several discussions with colleagues who have been working in creative multidisciplinary teams. The ingredients are well tested and we can warmly recommend them. Feel free to test portions and methods according to your own ideas and preferences.



## FOR 2+ PEOPLE

### Ingredients

- A mix of open-minded people  
*Try to find different species, preferably curious ones*
- 1–2 inspiring encounters
- A bowl of support in the form of resources
- At least 10 portions of communication
- A handful of action & doing things together
- A large spoonful of courage  
*Detailed maps can't be provided beforehand. To find something unseen, you have to explore and experiment. And fail.*
- Lots of mutual respect and goodwill
- A Lot of Patience
- Add another 10 portions of communication to understand each other's language. *You can't have too much!*

### Method

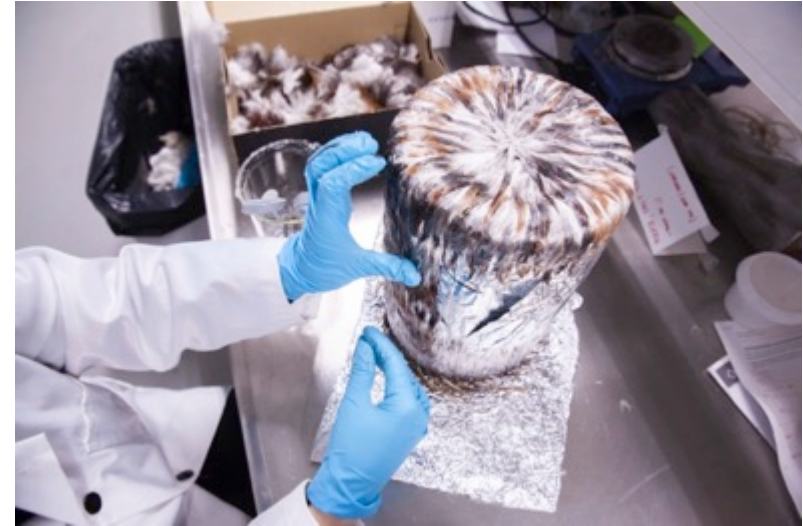
- 1 Enable inspiring encounters and let people find their shared interests. Stir if needed.
- 2 When the seeds of collaboration emerge, acknowledge them and let them grow. However, some of them might not survive – don't worry, you can try again. And not all of them will grow into anything at all.
- 3 Nurture promising seedlings carefully but not too much; they should have enough space and freedom to grow courageous and persistent.
- 4 Check that the collaboration is beneficial for all parties; it is equal and fair, talk and find a mutual agreement on IP and acknowledgement.
- 5 Talk, talk and talk about the collaboration and process with each other. Then share it with others too as an inspiring unique story – your story.
- 6 Be proud of the journey and what has been achieved.
- 7 Repeat steps 1–5 until you are happy.
- 8 At its best, this all will lead into blooming, new, world changing and worth the effort.





*'What becomes of the design process when working with living materials?  
If we can turn a yeast into a living factory, what language will designers need to learn?  
What are the ethical implications of biofabrication?'*

*Carole Collet*



**Experimenting  
with waste:**

- Dog hair
- Cat tail (plant)
- Chicken feathers
- Saw dust
- Nanocellulose
- Potatoes
- Starch
- Coffee grains
- ...what else?

Photos Eeva Suorlahti





**Thank you!**

**Courses:**

**Design Meets Biomaterials**

**CHEMARTS Summer School**

**UWAS Diving into Fashion Technologies**

**Bio Materiality (partly)**

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