

riivus  
23rd biennale of sydney  
12.03–13.06.22

Algaescapes

MAJOR GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PRINCIPAL PATRON



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



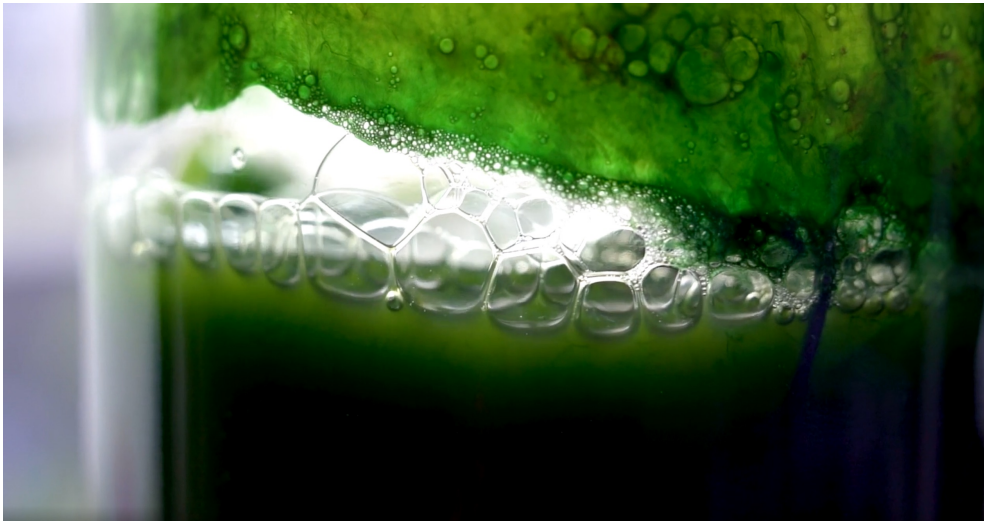
Jessie French, *Algae*, 2021, from the series 'Transparent two-tone microalgae bowl', Algaebased bioplastic developed by the artist, whole microalgae pigment: *Athrospira platensis*, 5 x 14.5 cm. Supported by Art director: Thalia Economo. Courtesy of the artist. Copyright © Jessie French. Photograph: Pier Carthew.

... algae tell the most  
ancient stories of  
landscapes.  
Cyanobacteria's are  
actually the first  
organisms on this  
planet to start  
photosynthesising and  
the first organisms to  
start creating oxygen  
in our atmosphere...



## Born 1988 in Naarm / Melbourne, Australia Lives on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country, Naarm / Melbourne, Kulin Nation

Jessie French explores speculative futures through algae-based bioplastic and water-based ecologies. Housed within an ethos of consumption, sustainability and regeneration, her practice invites others to engage with the possibilities of a post-petrochemical world. Through experimenting with other materials, she explores the potential of closed-loop systems of (re)use and conscious consumption and interaction with objects. In 2020, French founded OTHER MATTER, an experimental design studio working with algae-based bioplastics which engages others in the possibilities of new materials through objects, experiences and futures.



Images: *Liquid Languages: Jessie French* (video stills), 2022, 23rd Biennale of Sydney Learning Resources.  
Video: Ankit Mishra

# Exercise: Algaescapes

Algaescapes are everywhere. They occur naturally in our everyday worlds with limited resources and effort. Algae holds great power in transforming our future energy sources, climate conditions and food security. Algaescapes can also be created, observed and function as teachers through our interactions with them.

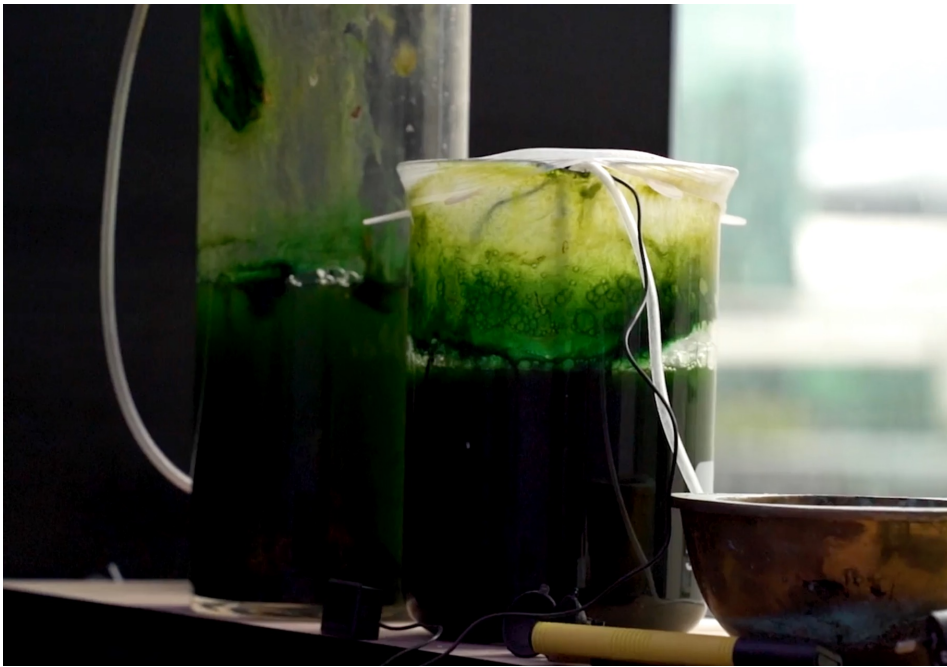
## Particulars

- Range of glass jars 5-10 vessels of various shapes and sizes
- Various water samples from in and around your local environment. Ensure some samples are sterilised and salted, others fresh, to offer different growth patterns
- Nitrates, phosphates, and silicates nutrient mixtures
- Sunlight
- Algae samples (sourced from the pond or purchased)

## Actions

- Research the diverse breadth of algae. How many algae are there? Why are they important features of our environment? Locate three new facts about algae you never knew before
- Visit your local water body; a pond, river, lake or ocean. Search for algae in the waterscape. Where is it found? How does it grow? What texture is it? What does it smell like?
- Commence the birth of your algaescape
- Fill your vessels with different water samples.
- Add nutrients to the water to enable your algae to cohabitate with other microscopic aquatic life
- Select your sun filled environment where your algaescape will grow and flourish
- Add your algae samples to the glass jars. Monitor it's development – take notes. Observe the colour changes. Compare and contrast the results from different vessels
- Continue caring and tending to your algae teacher





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