

PlantBot Genetics Inc. presents an engaging overview of second shift pollinators such as the moth, along with recent advances in self-pollinating robo-plants. *The Moth Project* highlights inspired responses to the decline of the honeybee and the hope that Moths and PlantBots will step in and save the day.

As consumers, we no longer know the real price of our food. Present food distribution systems are so complicated that it is unrealistic to expect consumers will make responsible choices based on the knowledge at hand. We encourage people to think more about their food, where it comes from, and where it may be going. PlantBot Genetics shares the remote control in the ArtLab, releases robotic plants, commandeers public spaces, offers nothing events, and plants a night blooming community garden. Whether it be a street, museum, or gallery based event, our goal is to inspire people to question the food they eat and how it got there in an entertaining and artistic way. Having an out of gallery experience is often more memorable and can speak to a much wider audience. Our street tactics bring art and education into a community despite the level of support for healthy food or art culture in that particular location.

What is PlantBot Genetics?

PlantBot Genetics is a parody biotech corporation that satirically looks at the possible evolution of plant species due to the consequences of modern agricultural practices. Genetically modified food technology is a novel and untested technology. We have little information on what long term effects it will have on consumers, the lands on which it is grown, or what wide-ranging environmental impact may occur. While some studies have shown GMOs to be safe, most of this research was funded by companies that sell GMO seeds. More independent studies are needed. Evidence suggests that GM crops engineered to produce pesticides or withstand powerful chemical herbicides damage beneficial insect populations and create herbicide resistant super-weeds.

In response, Monsantra, our company's most widely distributed product is named after the Monsanto Corporation, one of the largest producers of genetically modified seed. Like a B-movie Godzilla, Monsantra is a hybrid of imagination possibility and reality. Using actual seeds created and patented by the Monsanto Corporation and other producers, plants are grafted onto robotic and remote-controlled bases to become an organism with no clear heritage and no clear future. The poetic GM plant robot hybrid hybrids beg the question, what will it all become? We have also expanded our product offerings to include projects that seek a broader impact. Our most recent Moth Project represents a more direct approach to this form of public practice and scholarship.

PlantBot Genetics will be in the Quad Cities for an out-of-gallery residency at the end of the exhibition. Join them and Augustana students on March 31st at 6 pm at the Figge Art Museum or April 2nd at the Freight House Farmer's Market (8 am-1 pm).

#themothprojectqc