

Tosca Terán, aka Nanotopia, is a 1st generation Mexican-American interdisciplinary artist. She describes herself as a human holobiont whose work is a confluence of art, ecology, and craft. Born in San Francisco, California, Tosca migrated to Canada in 2001.

Working with metals, computer coding, and animation since the mid-eighties, Tosca was introduced to glass as an artistic medium in 2004. Through developing bodies of work incorporating metal, glass, and electronics, Tosca received scholarships at The Corning Museum of Glass, Pilchuck Glass School and The Penland School of Crafts.

Her work has been featured at The Harwood Museum, SOFA New York, The Toronto Design Exchange, MOCA Toronto, The Ontario Science Centre, Music Works, Vector Festival, Studio Art & Craft Canada, SONICA21, Glasna Music Magazine, The Mushroom UK, NAISA (New Adventures In Sound Art), Ars Electronica and cited by NASA Ames Research center. Awarded funding support and residencies from the Goethe-Institut Montreal, The Canada Arts Council, BigCi Environmental Award Australia, Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, and Coalesce Centre for Biological Art for her immersive, nonhuman bio-sonification projects.

Tosca Terán CV: (select list)

April 1, 2023 - October 29, 2023 - invited to install and perform Symbiont::MyceliOhms at the Art Gallery of Victoria, BC for their Symbiosis exhibit. Locally cultivated fungal mycelium develops over the seasons while connected into a special Eurorack synthesizer set-up. Within this set-up biodata-modules detect micro-fluctuations in conductivity between 1,000-100,000 of a sec translating the biodata into notes in realtime. Photogrammetry scans from old growth forests have been turned into Point Clouds and brought into a node based programming language. The living fungi are connected into this nodal-based network controlling visual effects. When Visitors move within the space, and occasionally through proximity they will see themselves as microbial, fungal life connecting with the forest, and with each other. A live performance took place during the Symbiosis opening reception where Tosca and her partner performed with the living mycelium in a quadraphonic sound set-up.

November 18 2022 - Invited phygital Mycelia 2.0 performance at the Sensorium Centre for Nordwind Festival Berlin's Cyber Attack: Digital Art & Activism conference. Physical performance with quadraphonic sound set-up, living mycelium connected to eurorack synthesizers. VR performance

September - October 2022, Invited AIR at Larry Spring Museum of Common Sense Physics, Myco-ecture Sound Dome Installation, Soundwalks & performances, Mendocino, California

April 2022, Sounds of Nature, A sound walk podcast commissioned by the Goethe-Goethe-Institute Montreal, <https://www.goethe.de/prj/tbp/en/eps/son.html>

November 11, 2021 Chaos Consortia live-virtual audio/visual performance as part of the In Space Grey exhibition for DARC Media Arts Resource Centre, Ottawa Canada

July, September, October 2021 Invited special event/performances of Mycelia for AMAZE. / Berlin, The Venice Film Festival21, and Raindance Film Festival. Performances take place within the VR environment of Mycelia as well as in real life.

July 29- Sept 20, 2021 The Mycorrhizal Rhythm Machine for NAISA (New Adventures In Sound Art). Handmade acoustic instruments (percussion, string, wind) played by a Mycorrhizal symphony of sound as it grows, dies-off over several months.

Jan 23rd-Sept 26 2021 Forest UnderSound installation for The Museum, Kitchner, On

October 2020 Remote Realities: Symbiosis WIP mixed reality experience conceptual verification with test-subject feedback, TSV/DMG Toronto

September 16, 2019 Studio 6, Bio-sonification:Non-Human collaboration performance, Auckland, New Zealand

Sept 5-28 TRANSMISSIONS, bio-data sonification of Mycelium in collaboration with Lisa Jackson, Vancouver, BC Canada

July 13-14 2019 Bio-Sonification: Non Human Collaboration experience for Vector Festival in partnership with MOCA 1st floor installation at the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto

June 15 - Sept 15 2019, Mycelium Martian Dome project • 8'x16.5' mycelium built geodesic dome with living mycelium sculptures/bio-sonification. Ontario Science Centre in partnership with MOCA

April 18-21, 2019: Grow Op at the Gladstone, ENERGY. Rm #206 installation. MycoRemediation, Bio-sonification. Non-Human collaboration

March 26-May 15, 2019: FACTT Festival of Art & Science: trans-disciplinary event. Installation.

Jan 17-27th, 2019: La Planete Sauvage: Moving Away from Human-Centred Work Beyond Anthropocene. Installation/exhibit for DesignTO Festival.

Oct 25-27th, 2018: Náttúrulegt, Obvara bio-sonification installation Reykjavik Iceland, Icelandic Arts Association Gallery

Awards/Residencies (select list):

2022- Awarded New Media Composite grant from Canada Arts Council

2022- Awarded New Media project grant from Ontario Arts Council

2021-2022 Residency at Coalesce Centre for Biological Art, SUNY Buffalo

2021 Mycelia awarded The Spirit of the Festival award, Raindance Film Festival UK

2021 Ars Electronica Digital Musics & Sound Art Honourable Mention award for Forest UnderSound

2021 Invited to perform Mycelia as a Special event during the Venice Film Festival, 2022

2021 Canada Arts Council Explore & Create program awarded Research and Creation grant for Symbiosis.Dysbiosis

2021 Exhibition assistance for Forest UnderSound from Ontario Arts Council, A Space Gallery recommender.

2020 Goethe Institut Montreal New Nature R&D Grant for Symbiosis.Dysbiosis

2020: Toronto Arts Council Project Grant for Symbiosis.Dysbiosis

2020: Dames Making Games in partnership with Trinity Square Video: Remote Realities residency recipient. Residency supports a mixed reality project with technical support, production costs, mentorship, and presentation/exhibition. August-October Toronto.

2019: Jury's Choice award for Grow Op 2019 at the Gladstone Hotel, the Award is presented for exceptional work that best responds to the conceptual direction behind the show as outlined in the original Call for Submissions. Toronto

2019: BigCi Environmental Award recipient for Bilpin International Ground for Creative Initiatives. Unesco heritage site in Wollemi National Park, Greater Blue Mountains, Australia - awarded 2-month residency with \$3500 stipend, airfare, presentation, workshops.

Presentations/Instruction

- January 2023: Invited tutor at The Venice Biennale Cinema College VR, Venice Italy.
- November 2022 Invited panelist for Nordwind Festival Berlin's Cyber Attack: Digital Art 7 Activism.
- May 2022 Invited to present Symbiosis project for NEOsVR Education & Science group CUNY Brooklyn. Presentation held within NEOsVR with colleague/collaborator Neuroscientist Brendan Lehman.
- April 2022 Coalesce Centre for Biological Art Leonardo Laser Talks for BioArt in the Public Sphere at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Buffalo New York. Presentation and Fungi synth performance
- March 2022: Invited tutor at The Venice Biennale Cinema College VR, Venice Italy.
- Feb, 2021 Brilliant Labs Speaker Series: Designing with Nature. How can we collaborate with nature and biological systems to make art? Presentation for Middle School students and teachers across Canada via Zoom.
- Feb, 2021 Invitation to present and host Democratizing Mushroom Cultivation: Fungal Bio-Materials workshop for the University of Windsor Incubator BioArt Lab.
- May 25-Dec 2020 Invitation to present and participate in New Nature- an immersive Media & Climate Science Exchange between Germany, Canada, Mexico,US hosted by the Goethe Institute Montreal

- November 2019, ArtSci Salon in partnership with the Mycological Society of Toronto, Fantastic Fungi Futures presentation at the Fields Institute University of Toronto
- November 2019, Mapping w/Slime Mould for the Toronto Biennial, Toronto Canada
- October 12/13 2019, Sculpting with Mycelium & bio-sonification performance in the Upper Blue Mountains/Wollemi National Park, Bigci Bilpin Australia
- 2018: From Cell to Canvas: Creative explorations of the microscopic, artist presentation/ talk at the Fields Institute, University of Toronto

Education:

2017-2018: CRISPR-CAS9 Workshop with Marta De Menezes, HackLab Toronto

2017: Video mapping for theatre, Maz Gedari, I/A - ARKit, Wekinator, AR & Machine Learning with Rebecca Fiebrink- Processing workshops with Tess Sutherland, I/A

2017: Indigenous Canada program certificate University of Alberta

2011: Private Mig/Tig welding intensive course with Carla Grahn, Seattle

2010: Personal Vocabulary- sculpting borosilicate glass, Instructor: Janis Miltenberger, SA: Jennifer Umphress, The Penland School of Crafts, NC Awarded Scholarship

2010: Flameworking- The Ultimate Details, Instructor: Loren Stump. Corning Glass, NY

2010: Piece by Piece, Flameworking, Instructor: Kari Russelle-Poole. TA: Eunsuh Choi, Pilchuck Glass School, Washington

2009: Colour mixing & the John Burton style of off-hand sculpting borosilicate Instructor: Suellen Fowler, Jesse Kohl – The Studio at the Corning glass, Corning NY

2008: Component Casting w/Glass and Metal. Instructor: Anna Boothe-Urban Glass, Brooklyn

2004: Beginning Glass Blowing- Instructor: Catherine Vamvakas-Lay, Harbourfront Studios •
2002-2003: Intro to sensors, PD, Max/MSP & Microcontrollers. Instructor: Various, I/A Toronto

1994: Japanese Alloys, die making & forming Instructor: Phil Poirier, Santa Fe Metalsmithing School, Santa Fe, NM

1993: Amulets & Talisman Instructor: Harold O'Connor, Taos Art Institute, Taos, NM
1992-1994: Apprenticeship with Olin West, & Mona Van Riper for James Reid Ltd., Santa Fe, NM