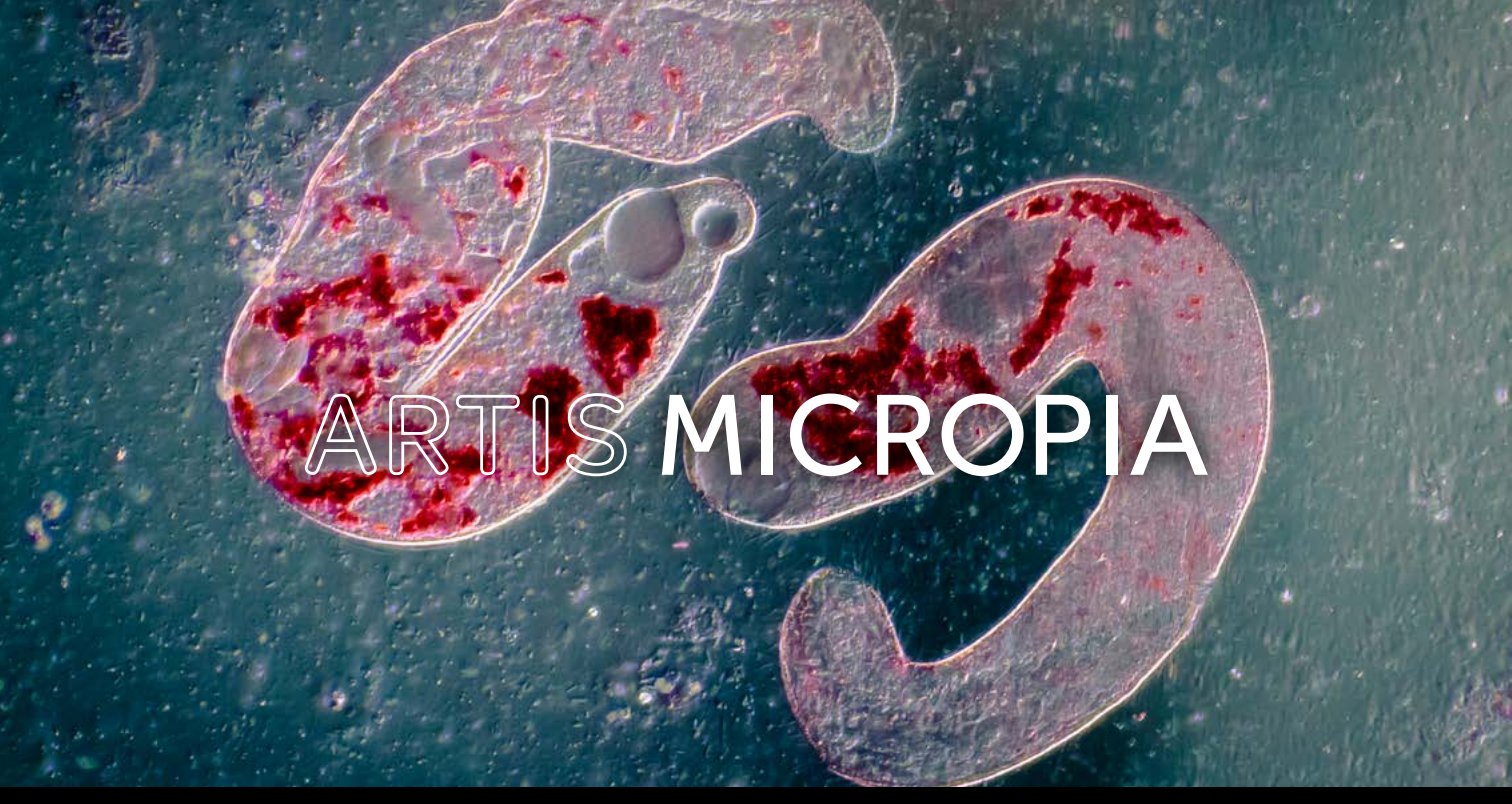
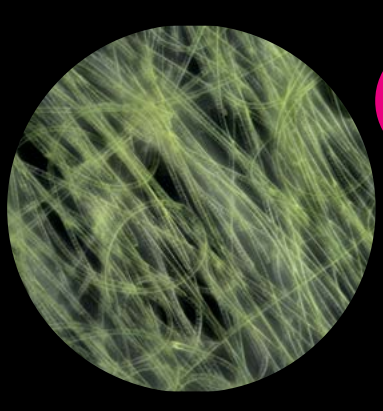


A colourful life

A closer look on colours

Microbes can come in a wide variety of colours. Often, these colours tell a unique story, for instance about competition, self-defense, or nutrition. Explore some of these colourful stories on a route that was specially created for this autumnal October month.



1

Red-brown blue-green algae

Exhibit: small life, big impact

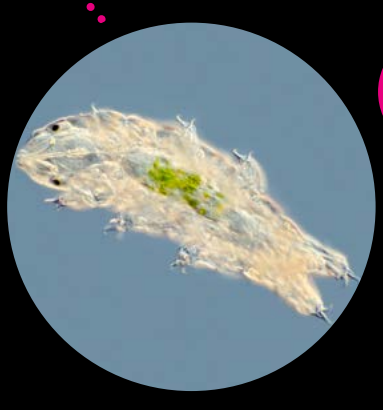
Cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae) use various pigments during photosynthesis. Each pigment absorbs a specific colour. Depending on the composition of these pigments, the cyanobacteria can be blue-green to reddish-brown.

2

Colour mosaic

Exhibit: segmented society

This column is teeming with life! Each layer has a unique environment allowing different species of colourful microbes to flourish throughout the column.



3

A colourful diet

Exhibit: ultimate survivor

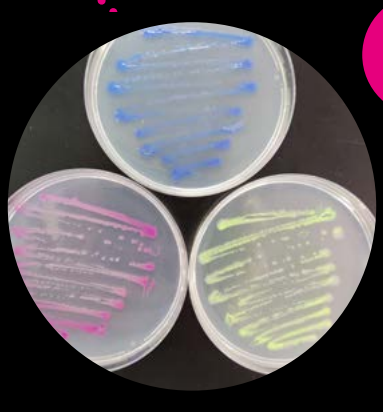
Because tardigrades are transparent, you can clearly see the green food inside their bodies. During digestion, this material changes to yellow to reddish-brown. You can see when they had their last meal!

4

Dangerous colours

Exhibit: microsafari

This hairy microbe has a unique defense strategy. Its pink colour is toxic to predatory microbes. Alarmingly beautiful!



5

Fluorescence thanks to coral

Exhibit: roommates

These E. coli bacteria display colours they do not naturally produce. Genes from coral have been introduced to the bacteria. Thanks to these genes, the bacteria can produce pigments that are extremely valuable for scientific research.

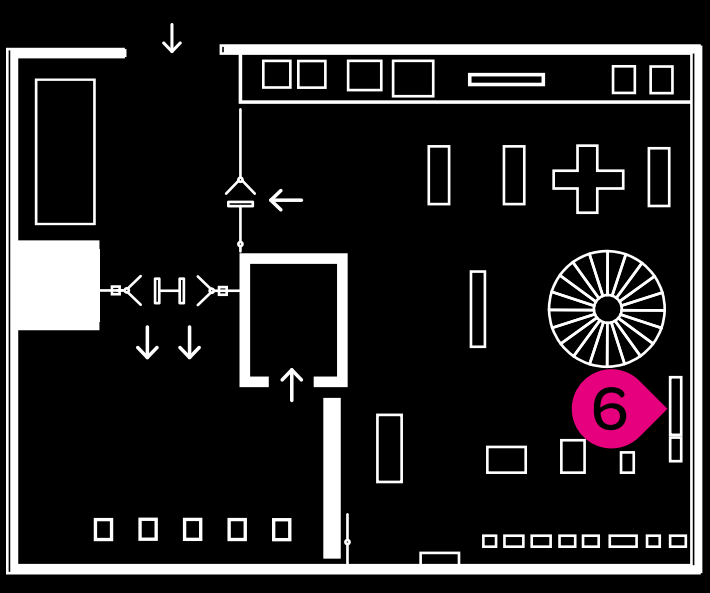
6

Micro-art

Exhibit: the fungal wall

Fungi are often considered as filthy, unwanted and unhealthy. Not necessary! Fungi are so much more. Be inspired by the beautiful structures and colours in this artwork.

Use the map below to search for these special microbes.



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