

Submission of idea sketches
15 May 2023
Mailing of invitation to the workshop
16 June 2023
Workshop in Berlin
14 July 2023

The Fritz and Trude Fortmann Foundation
for Building Culture and Materials
www.fortmann-stiftung.de

BIOLUMINESCENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

There is great fascination in glowing sea creatures and insects, in luminous fungi, algae, and bacteria. They emit a bright, mild light in blue-green tones, which is so appealing partly because it shines without any visible sources of energy. Since it became possible to create transgenic organisms in the 1990s, bioluminescence has become an important research topic not only in biotechnology but also in fine arts. In contrast to fluorescence, bioluminescence does not need any external light sources. The light is generated actively by internal chemical processes within the organism.

In design and architecture, too, there are experimental designs relating to bioluminescence. New research on the intensification and amplification of light have expanded the options here towards integration in design processes. One of the goals in this is a clean, sustainable, and affordable plant-based alternative for light sources, and a reduction in the universally lamented „light pollution“ of urban areas by means of softer illumination.

The Fortmann Foundation aims to use this call for proposals to support the potential and the current research in the field of bioluminescence for architecture and building culture. We ask for the submission of expressions of interest, with which you are welcome to include sketches of ideas of no more than two pages showing possible artistic, practical, and theoretical research approaches. On the basis of the submitted sketches and expressions of interest, the foundation will select participants to be invited to a workshop in Berlin. The workshop is intended to facilitate personal exchange, networking, and potentially also the formation of new or expanded project groups. The selected projects, which will run for two years, can be funded with an amount of up to EUR 200,000.

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