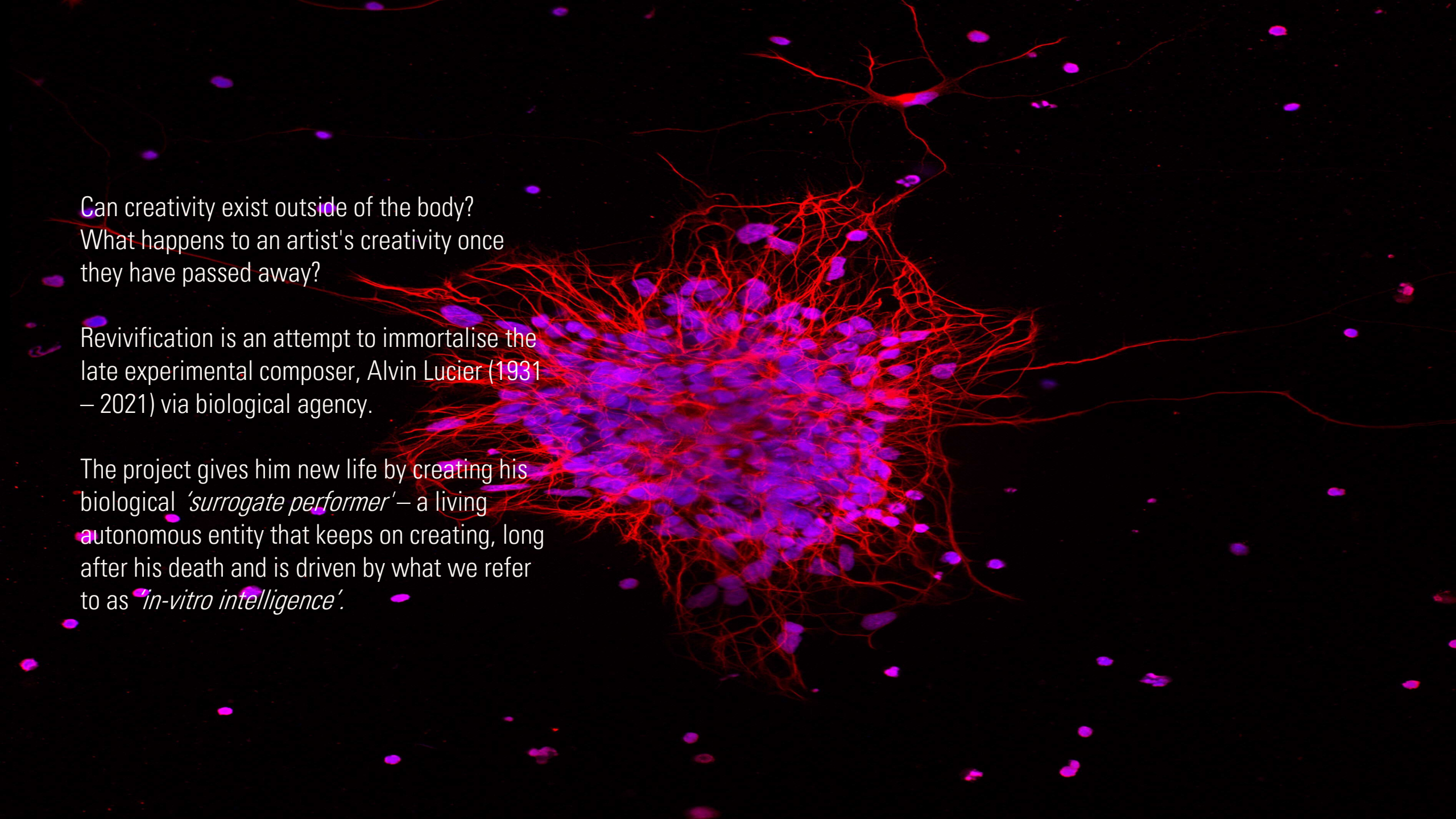




REVIVIFICATION

GUY BEN-ARY, NATHAN THOMPSON, STUART HODGETTS, MATT GINGOLD
IN COLLABORATION WITH ALVIN LUCIER



Can creativity exist outside of the body?
What happens to an artist's creativity once
they have passed away?

Revivification is an attempt to immortalise the
late experimental composer, Alvin Lucier (1931
– 2021) via biological agency.

The project gives him new life by creating his
biological '*surrogate performer*' – a living
autonomous entity that keeps on creating, long
after his death and is driven by what we refer
to as '*in-vitro intelligence*'.

Alvin Lucier transformed experimental music by shifting focus from virtuosic performance to the physical properties of sound itself. His groundbreaking works explored brain waves, echolocation, and room acoustics, blurring boundaries between music, science, and art.



Music for Solo Performer, 1965

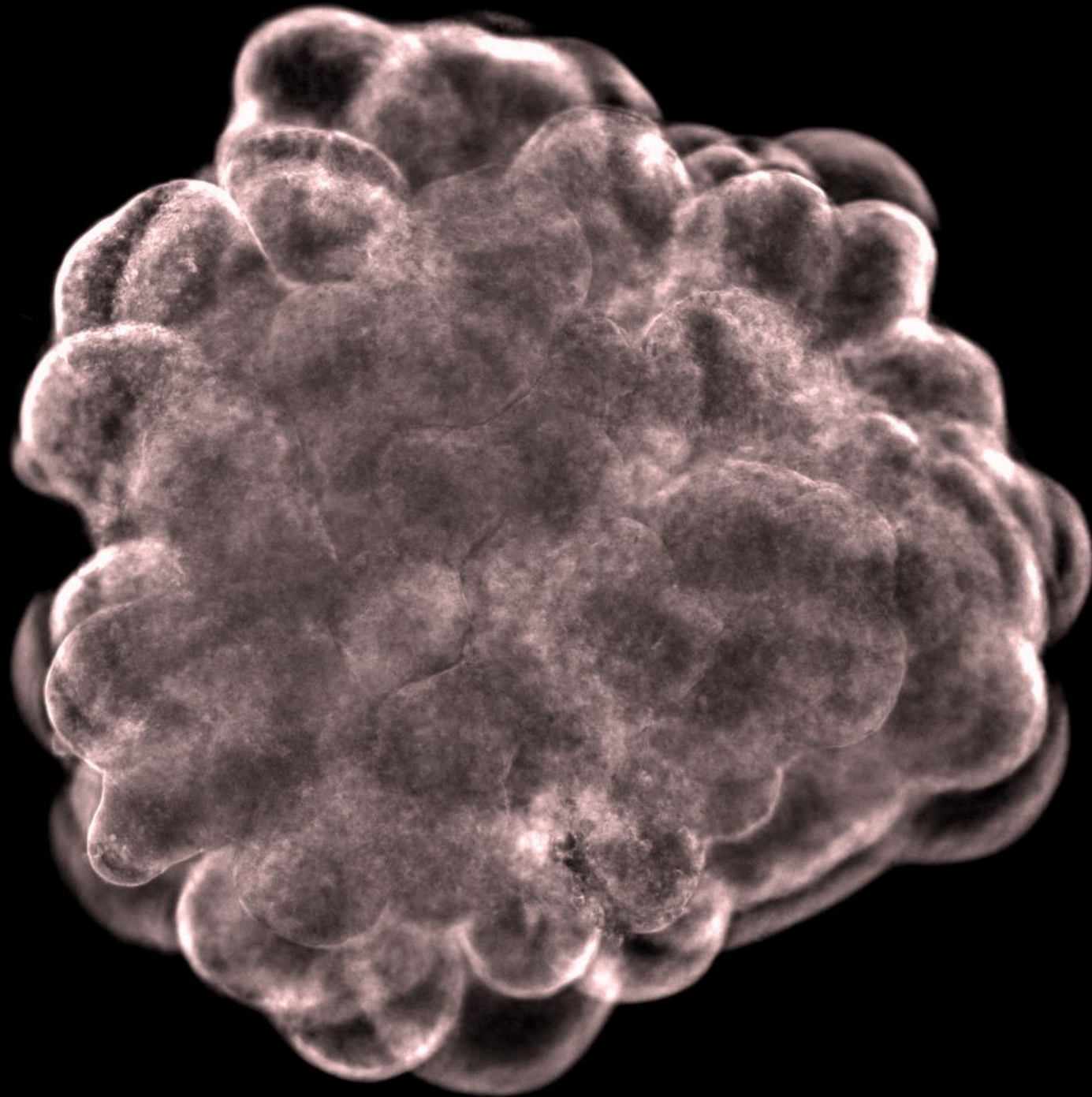
We met Lucier in 2018 when he was 87 years old. In 2020 we decided to collaborate on the development of a new project. Through fortnightly video meetings, we explored ways to immortalize his artistic essence through biological agency.

Sadly, Lucier passed away in December 2021.



Using Lucier's donated blood cells and induced pluripotent stem cell technology, we created cerebral organoids - three-dimensional structures resembling a developing human brain.

These organoids create Lucier's 'surrogate performer' that continues his artistic journey beyond death.



At the heart of the installation stands a sculptural object housing Lucier's 'in vitro brain' and its life-sustaining technologies.


Twenty hand-crafted brass plates surround this central structure. Each plate connects to the neural activity of Lucier's cerebral organoid. As neural signals pulse through transducers and actuators, they strike the brass, creating resonances that fill the space.



Microphones behind each brass plate capture localised audio data which is fed back to the living organoid via neural stimulation.

This creates a continuous closed-loop system - a cybernetic dialogue where the surrogate performer both creates sound and responds to its acoustic environment. The organoid can autonomously adapt and compose new work within the gallery space.



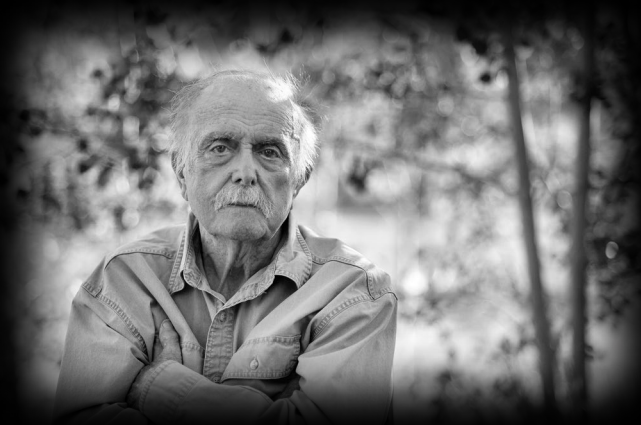
A microscopic view of a grid of cells, likely a neural network or a bio-engineered structure. The cells are arranged in a regular grid pattern, with some cells showing internal structures and connections. The overall color is a warm, golden-brown hue. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.


A bio-engineered, living entity -
Revivification embraces emergence
and the nuanced qualitative
properties of audible
communication.

It represents *'in vitro intelligence'* -
neither artificial nor natural, but a
living neural network functioning
outside the body. The surrogate
performer does not reconstruct
Lucier's work but extends his
compositional philosophy by
embracing indeterminacy and the
agency of sound itself.

Revivification's ethical foundation is based on Alvin Lucier's informed consent. He voluntarily donated his biological material; this project continues to maintain full transparency with Lucier's estate and family.

This work raises questions about our obligations toward the disembodied cognitive entities we may create - the inherent agency of perception we bestow upon them and the blurred line between life and death in the 21st century contemporary environment we are currently building.



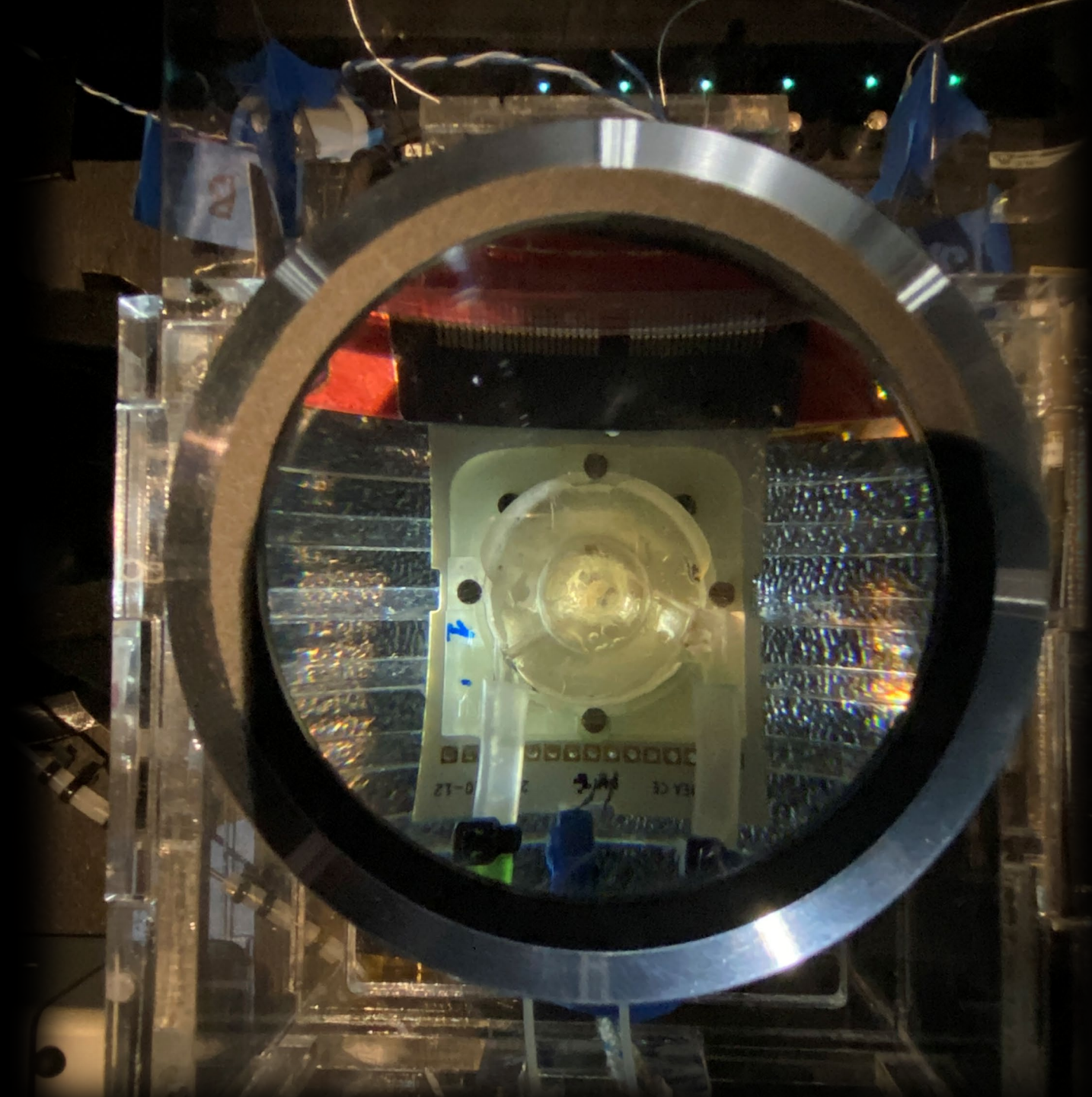


This is not preservation or simulation, but a form of 'postmortem play' where Lucier's biological material continues to create in ways neither he nor we can fully predict.

The installation marks a historic first: a deceased composer continuing to create live performances after death.

What is measurable and immeasurable in artistic agency? Can biotechnology enable creative expression to transcend physical boundaries?

Revivification proposes a provocative vision of artistic immortality, suggesting that creative essence might persist beyond death. The project invites us to reimagine the boundaries between life and art, presence and absence, creator and creation.



TECHNICAL RIDER

- We will require 7 days to install Revivification, and it will take probably one day to un-install the work.

Space .

- Revivification's layout can change according to the space that is offered to us and whether the hosting organisation is willing to design with us and custom build an enclosure (our preferred option).
- The minimum space requirements are – 10 meters x 10 meters x 3 meters (W x L x H). Low noise pollution and preferably can be darkened.

Technical & equipment and other costs

- Collaboration with a local laboratory. We would need to collaborate with a scientist that is growing organoids in their lab. The level of collaboration is depended on the duration of the show.
- We will need to receive biosafety approval for showing living cells in the gallery – the collaborating laboratory can assist with this.
- Consumables in the lab/gallery - media solution, other chemicals, specialised dishes, sterile connectors and a variety of tubing.
- 2 cylinders of CO2 D size Co2.

People required for install –

- Guy Ben-Ary (Perth)
- Nathan Thompson (Perth)
- Stuart Hodgetts (Perth)
- Matt Gingold (Melbourne)

Shipment –

- Shipment of cells/organoids – this will be either frozen controlled shipment *or* living biological matter shipment both are specialised and temperature-controlled shipments.

Shipment of crates – via sea –

- 1290mm*1290mm*1500mm (L*W*H) – 800kg
- 1290mm*1290mm*1500mm (L*W*H) – 200 kg
- 600mm*400mm*300mm - (L*W*H) – 30 kg

Please note – these needs to be fine tuned according to specific space requirements.

Budget will be sent on request

