Jury report DA4GA 2011

Zack Denfeld, Cathrine Kramer & Yashas Shetty + Netherlands Consortium for Healthy Ageing

The Edible Time Machine

The Edible Time Machine: Ageing & Eating in the anthropocene is a collection of recipes that imagine near and far future diets of ageing Dutchmen from multiple perspectives: genomic, gastronomic and ecological. How will changes in climate, demography and energy change the genomes and food technologies that compose Dutch food cultures?

Five recipes will be put together, five dinner performances will be staged and a cookbook will be published.

The jury is curious about the perspective of future cuisine as it is seldom presented to a large audience – especially taking into account the effects of changing ecology, changing demography and changing food technology. What will our future selves serve for dinner? The jury would also like to see how the genetic constituencies of the population of the longest living are incorporated in the project and its recipes, as this is the most significant research population of the Netherlands Consortium for Healthy Ageing.

The lens on food culture and dietary regimes from a genetic perspective is interesting, as our food becomes more and more sophisticated and we simultaneously long for authenticity. Few restaurants serve high tech food, not even El Bulli, for they do not modify raw materials. Edible Time Machine plays with the enormous current media attention for cooking and offers a great way to disseminate the outcomes: a cookbook.

The designers have a strong research oriented practice as seen in their earlier work as “Centre for Genomic Gastronomy” and in the fact that they are curating a show titled EDIBLE for the Science Gallery in Dublin. Also, connecting the Edible Time Machine to the large NCHA study Getting Old Together is promising.