

Clair Tompkins Bio-Artist

Clair Tompkins is a Bristol-based bio-artist whose work explores growth, decay, transformation, and our relationship with the living world. Combining a background in science with an intuitive, hands-on approach to making, she creates sculptural works using wheatgrass roots grown within moulds cast from human skeletal forms.

Working closely with natural processes rather than trying to fully control them, her practice embraces unpredictability, fragility, and change as part of the work itself. Roots grow, dry, shift, and slowly fragment over time — echoing cycles found in both nature and the body.

Clair grows all materials from seed and is deeply interested in the quiet agency of living matter, seeing nature not simply as a material, but as an active collaborator in the making process.

Selected Shortlists

- Shortlisted: ***Planet Earth: Handle with Care*** – Art for Planet Earth | 2026

Selected Exhibitions:

- ***Precious Things*** – Mission Gallery, Swansea | 2026
- ***The Symbiocene Forest*** - BioArt Laboratories / Dutch Design Week | 2025
- ***The Beyond Project*** – Material Matters, London Design Festival | 2025
- **New Designers** – Business Design Centre, London | 2025
- ***Routes*** – BA Design Crafts Final Year Exhibition | 2025
- ***Come As You Really Are*** – Swansea Open | 2025
- **British Art Medal Society** – Student Medal Project | 2023

Education:

- **MA Contemporary Dialogues: Design Crafts** UWTSD | 2025 – 2028 (part-time)
- **BA (Hons) Design Crafts - (1st)** UWTSD, Swansea | 2020 - 2025
- **MSc Applied Entomology** Imperial College London | 1997 – 1998
- **BSc (Hons) Clinical Science (2:1)** NESCOT | 2002 – 2004
- **BSc (Hons) Zoology (2:1)** Swansea University | 1993 - 1996

Affiliations:

- Member, Green Maker Initiative – MAKE Southwest.