

Baum & Leahy x Know & Love – London Design Festival 2026



Baum & Leahy, left: Rose Leahy, right: Amanda Baum. Photo: Aad Hoogendoorn (2025)
www.baumleahy.com / <https://www.instagram.com/baumleahy> / hello@baumleahy.com

Baum & Leahy is an artist duo working across visual art, installation, sculpture and public engagement. Their practice brings together ecological thinking, contemporary scientific research and sensory worldmaking. Collaborating with scientists and cultural practitioners, their research-led projects, rooted in the natural and social sciences, are shaped through multisensory experience, spatial immersion and material storytelling. Guided by themes such as biophilia, multispecies coexistence and microbiopolitics, they develop projects that cultivate ecological imagination and expand sensory awareness. Working across art institutions, public space and academia, they approach collaboration as a mode of knowledge-making grounded in relation and mutual transformation.

Baum & Leahy (Amanda Baum (*1991) and Rose Leahy (*1992)) work between Copenhagen and London. They met at the Royal College of Art on the Information Experience Design MA and have exhibited internationally, including at Wellcome Collection, Modern Art Oxford, Somerset House, V&A (UK), Kunsthall Charlottenborg, The National Gallery of Denmark, Medical Museion (DK), Nieuwe Instituut, Museum Het Valkhof, MU Hybrid Art House, Into Nature Biennial (NL), Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (ES), Blackwood Gallery (CA) and Art Laboratory Berlin (DE).

Recent activities include a visiting arts fellowship focusing on the biosocial holobiont at the Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society at the University of Edinburgh, a public engagement project on

sustainability and art-science communication (Sustain Art Sci) with Medical Museion, Danish Technical University and the University of Copenhagen, exploring art and activism with Roskilde Festival (DK), and the STARTS MUSAE residency 'Food as Medicine'.

Previously, they were selected for The Danish Arts Council's career development grant 'The Young Artistic Elite', were fellows at Birmingham Open Media, commissioned artists for One Cell at a Time, a public engagement program for the Human Cell Atlas, and part of CPH:DOX Lab. They are the recipients of the MASSEE Arts Grant, Post-digital Landscapes Prize, Bio Art & Design Award and the British Library Labs Artistic Award, and were shortlisted for the Hedda Prisen, Lumen Art Prize, and The Rapoport Award for Women in Art and Tech. Since 2022 they have been working with creative producer Anna Firbank.

Collaboration with Know & Love for London Design Festival 2026

Baum & Leahy: "For the London Design Festival 2026 we are excited to be showing limited edition works at Know & Love. This London Design Festival collaboration has been an opportunity to expand on themes within our projects and imagine how they might be reimaged as an experience within the home. A feature of many of the creations we will be showing at Know & Love is their use of unused materials and offcuts from our previous projects. Working resourcefully with found materials and waste streams is an ongoing methodology within our practice. As a result, many of the objects we will show at Know & Love during the London Design Festival will be materially connected to our artworks, extending the projects from the gallery into the home."

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Know & Love is a small independent gifts and homewares shop nestled in the heart of Stoke Newington's vibrant community in North London. We sell hand crafted, ethical and sustainable products, usually made locally, always by people we know and love.

Our products range from artisan chocolate made in Bethnal Green, herbal tea from a garden in Hackney and ceramics made in Stoke Newington, to 3D printed pots by a local architect and bags and pouches crafted from waste plastic collected in Hackney.

We champion lots of local makers and artists and are excited to showcase a home grown artist again this year in our shop!

Featured projects:
Sensory Cellumonials Portal pillows



Portal pillows. Image: Baum & Leahy (2026)

The *Sensory Cellumonials Portal pillows* are pillow creatures made from organic cotton, buckwheat husk, linseed and lavender, which can be used as eye masks or to bring biomorphic form and pattern to the home. They are borne out of *Sensory Cellumonials* (2021), a project for 'One Cell at a Time' which was a public engagement program for the Human Cell Atlas.

The *Portal pillows* connect to the online artwork *Sensory Cellumonials*, and each one to a specific journey within the site: the Portal of Vision, Touch and Sound. The *Portal Pillows* can be used to accompany the online artwork, which includes a guided meditative journey, first featuring Our Living Cellular Kin (Olcks) and then inviting you to close your eyes and venture into imaginaries of the cells within your body, and a possible future of cellular biology. Each *Portal Pillow* is sewn in textiles custom-printed with patterns made from stills from each of these journeys within the online artwork. The *Portal Pillows* are made from off-cuts from *Sensory Cellumonials* inclusion in the exhibition 'Movements for Staying Alive' at Modern Art Oxford in 2025.



Sensory Cellumonials in the exhibition 'Movements for Staying Alive' at Modern Art Oxford. Image: Rob Harris (2025)



Sonic Cellumonials. (2021) Baum & Leahy in collaboration with Sofie Birch and Greg Orrom Swan

Sensory Cellumonials (2021)

Baum & Leahy in collaboration with Ella Yolande, Benjamin Hill and Sofie Birch

Sensory Cellumonials is a multi-portal online experience which invites you to connect with yourself on a cellular level, and through this intimate encounter explore possible futures within cellular biology and health. Five journeys guide you into your inner cellular sensorium: Through the domes dotted with taste buds on the tongue, the swaying temples in the ear canals, the furry forests in the nose, the sensitive soft valleys in the skin and the layers of crystalline refraction through the eyeballs and beyond. Each journey is guided by Our Living Cellular Kin (Olcks) – guardians of the five human senses and connected to the five kin-doms of life. You are invited to share your voice at the closing of each ceremony in the wishing pool – a generative map of perspectives on cellular biology research inspired by the UMAPS created for the Human Cell Atlas.

Sensory Cellumonials (2021) was created by Baum & Leahy in collaboration with Ella Yolande, Benjamin Hill and Sofie Birch. Curated by Suzy O'Hara and community engagement producer Justine Boussard. Sound and web development by Max Worgan, Paul Bevan, Mark Wilson and James Smith. Advised by Human Cell Atlas members, an advisory panel and workshop participants. Funded by Wellcome.



Sensory Cellumonials: Still from Portal of Sound. Image: Baum & Leahy in collaboration with Ella Yolande, Benjamin Hill and Sofie Birch (2021)

Featured projects: Renaissance Rose Balm kit



Renaissance Rose Balm kit. Images: Baum & Leahy (2026)

The Renaissance Rose Balm limited edition kit grew out of a long term collaboration between artist duo Baum & Leahy and Professor of Renaissance Visual and Material Culture Jill Burke and her research collective Renaissance Goo. Below is a description of the installation that was the outcome of this year-long arts-research collaboration.

This limited edition kit, inspired by Renaissance practices of making and sharing remedies and recipes, invites you to create two 30ml rose balms – one to keep and one to give.

Each kit contains: Rose petals, beeswax, recipe cards, tins, labels, cloth sieve and drawstring bag handdyed with madder root, and a unique beaded braid.

This kit is an extension of the project and installation Beauty Sensorium by artist duo Baum & Leahy and Renaissance Goo led by historian Jill Burke, author of 'How to be a Renaissance woman'.



Beauty Sensorium at Wellcome Collection. Image: Benjamin Gilbert / Wellcome Collection (2023)

Beauty Sensorium (2023)

Renaissance Goo / Jill Burke and Baum & Leahy

Commissioned by Wellcome Collection for *The Cult of Beauty* (curated by Janice Li), *Beauty Sensorium* is an immersive installation exploring overlooked histories of women's biochemical knowledge in the Renaissance. The installation presents reconstructed cosmetic recipes from the 1562 text *Gli Ornamenti delle Donne*, developed with the Renaissance Goo collective, combining scent, texture, and sound to connect sensory experience with historical and scientific inquiry. Workshops invite participants to recreate the recipes through hands-on, multisensory engagement.

World of Interiors also featured Beauty Sensorium in their article on The Cult of Beauty at Wellcome Collection in 2023:

<https://www.worldofinteriors.com/story/the-cult-of-beauty-wellcome-collection-exhibition>

Renaissance Rose Balm kit description

The Renaissance Rose Balm Kit invites you to recreate a historical remedy in your own kitchen. Inside, you'll find rose petals and beeswax, a madder root and rose-dyed cotton cloth (which also serves as a sieve), a decorated waxed cord repurposed from the original installation, and paired sets of tins, labels, recipe cards, and drawstring bags.

As you make two balms, you'll encounter something of how remedies were once composed –

through scent, touch, and simple materials. Keep one, and gift one: a small gesture echoing the exchange of recipes and care that circulated through Renaissance “sisterhood” networks, where knowledge ranged from gentle rose balms to more curious and experimental preparations.

Beauty practices remain entangled today – between pleasure and pressure, care and industry. Drawing on histories such as those explored by Jill Burke, Professor of Renaissance Visual and Material Cultures at the University of Edinburgh, and the multisensory artistic practice of Baum & Leahy, this kit gestures toward a renaissance of biophilic beauty practices – grounded in everyday making, shared knowledge, and close attention to the living world.

Current exhibition at Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona

This first series of the Renaissance Rose Balm kit was developed for Laie Bookshop at Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona as part of the exhibition ‘The Cult of Beauty’ which is currently on display May-November 2026.

Further selected projects and limited editions

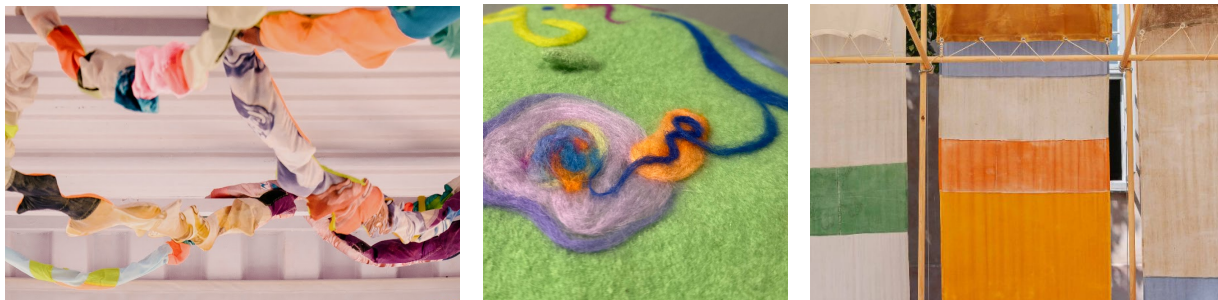


Image credits: (L–R): Pantopia (2022), Microbial ecology berets, and Fallowland (2025)

Other projects presented as part of the LDF feature, alongside limited-edition objects available for purchase, include: Textile wall pieces made from plant-dyed, beeswaxed cotton and linen offcuts (Fallowland, 2025), Light sculptures made from upcycled sail and tent fabric (Pantopia 2022), and berets depicting microbial ecologies.