

## do it yourself

Vivienne Baillie Gerritsen

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"Hermafrodite", by Lisbeth Hummel

Courtesy of the artist

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Why would plants seek to self-pollinate? The answer seems obvious. When you can't find someone else to do it, do it yourself. It is not in the pursuit of pleasure that a plant would end up self-pollinating but rather in the hope of guaranteeing successful growth within a given environment; an environment that has become hostile enough to make cross-breeding difficult, yet in which the disadvantages of in-breeding are outweighed by the advantages...

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## Cross-references to UniProt

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