

## Genetically modified yeast shows off its artistic side

For centuries, humans have played around with yeast. In ancient days, we domesticated it to make beer and bread. Now, a new and innovative form of artwork is just a way to visualize the next frontier of yeast manipulation.

A few years ago, the geneticist Dr. Jef Boeke and his laboratory at NYU got together with researchers worldwide to synthetically recreate the 16-chromosome genome of brewer's yeast. The goal of the effort, called [Synthetic Yeast 2.0](#), is to better understand "the complicated web of genetic interactions that underlie all biological processes," Boeke said.

Last year, the research group made its first breakthrough when they [created](#) a designer chromosome called "SynIII." The yeast still worked with this synthetic chromosome, even after 50,000 changes to the original chromosome they manipulated.

Although Boeke's "biopointillism," revealed at a [New York Genome Center meeting](#), isn't part of Synthetic Yeast 2.0, the artwork shows that dabbling with yeast genomes can produce phenotypic, if not behavioral changes.

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Painting by Numbers, With Genetically Modified Yeast](#)**