

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yN9pioJWTk0>

Mixed media installation, variable size. Materials include Garden Cress, Coleus Blumei, Mimosa Pudica, carpet, found objects, bought objects, found footage, copper, magnesium sulfate, slime, lithium and gravity.

The slime attempts nothing, its constant motion is to due gravity and the components that make up the slime, it seeps into the smallest crevices and slowly engulfs whatever object's surface it is placed upon.

In the process of devouring something, it also forms a second layer of skin resembling the surface of what is underneath. At first it imitates the visual characteristics of the underneath, but as the application is repeated over time the family resemblance is less self-evident. The slime's character succeeds the original.

The lithium is derived from a battery, and presented in a glass box.

The alkali metal corrodes in contact with oxygen, and is slowly disappearing from sight. After carefully dismantling the battery, it came out looking like a more luxurious version of aluminum foil. Then it quickly changed to a crisp, black material, which no one would mistake for a metal. Now, it resembles burnt paper; thin and fragile, and impossible to handle. The slightest motion will in turn nudge it closer to nothing.

The garden cress is growing on arbitrarily placed textiles, carelessly left behind and now serving as ground for the edible plant. Garden cress has a limited life-span when grown on material without any nutrients, it tends to thrive for a period of a little over two weeks, before it bows down and dries out, discolouring the textile to a slight shade of brown as it goes. In addition to growing at a rapid speed, it is also quite sensitive to its surroundings, as discovered by a group of Danish ninth graders who grew the plants near a router only to find the seeds mutated and died.

It comes with a strong, pepper-like smell and needs safe surroundings.

Upon touch, the plant Mimosa Pudica releases a chemical, which makes all the moisture detract from the leaves and into the stem.

The motion that follows has earned the plant many names, sleeping grass, sensitive plant and my personal favourite; shame plant, to mention but a few. Its motion is always named with an affect, imbedding quite a range of emotions to the otherwise mundane-looking weed.

I have been collecting different hybrids of Coleus Blumei (Solenostemon scutellarioides) for the last year. The plant, native to Java and Indonesia, was introduced to Europe by the Dutch and has had its windowsill glory time due to its vibrant coloured leaves. It also comes with the promise of being a psychoactive plant, being linked to traditional use by the Mazatec Indians of southern Mexico and is compared often to Salvia Divinorum, but I am not aware of any scientific research which supports this. What does exist, however, is quite a large number of followers who cultivate the plant, privately, in hope of a cheap and easy legal high.

One plant has been selected from the collection and been given special attention in the last few months. It has been better treated in terms of placement and nutrition, but also by nurturing compliments and touch.

With the aid of a machine made to assist the user in tracking acupuncture points where therapy is needed, I have tried to measure if there is a noticeable difference in the plant's reaction as I keep on showering it with love and affection.

With the setting to 2.5 Hz (the setting which tracks simple cell functions), it has been under constant surveillance in hope of identifying the strengthened bond between us.