

Project

Sophia Amelia Eickhoff

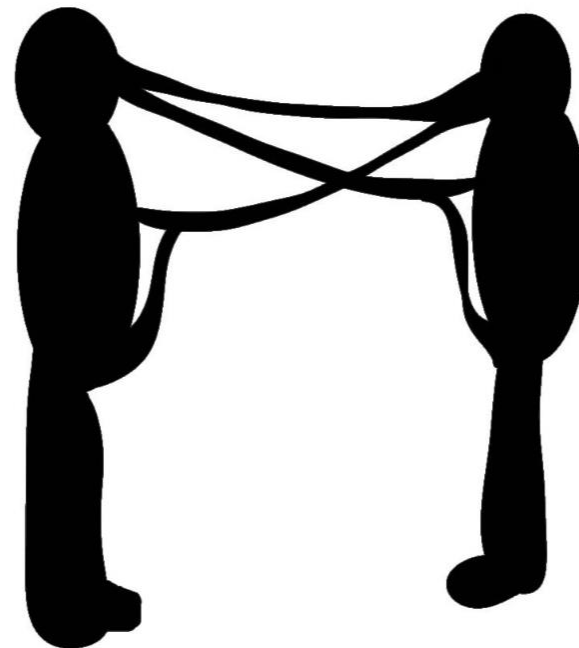
3 Semester/ Media Art and Design

SMELL AS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION

SMELL AS A FORM OF COMMUNICATON

This Project is an approach to the social conditioning of what smells we as humans have learned to find repulsive. Much has to do with the human hygiene standards, which have developed through the sedentary nature of human and the division between rich and poor. Many of our body odors and pheromones communicate to our environment something about our health, which was originally important to assess the reproductive capacity of others. In this, a device connects the most "information loaded" body parts to the nose and mouth of the other person to smell only the "unpleasant" smell. In doing so, all other senses are, as much as possible, not usable/blocked since smell is very much understood by association of the visual and auditory. Due to human history this form of exchange has become extremely fetishized and devalued.

CONCEPT



DESIGN

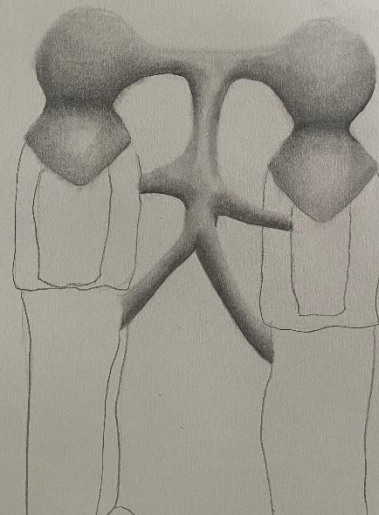
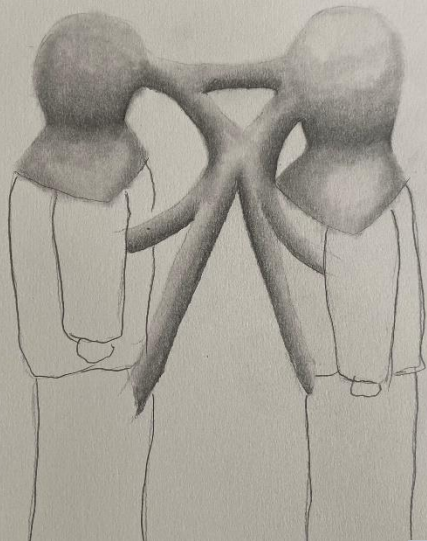
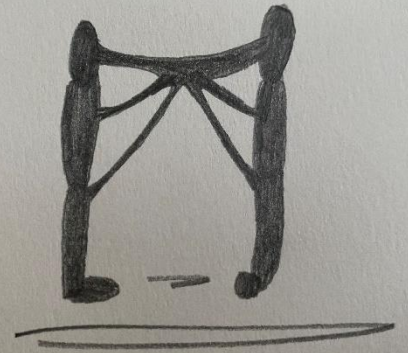
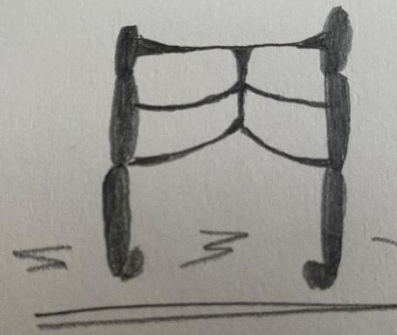
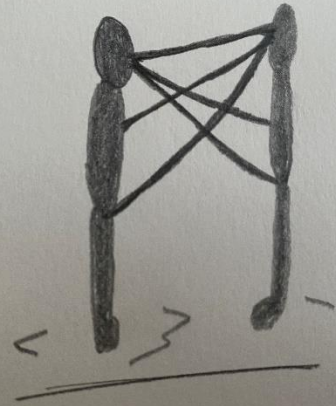
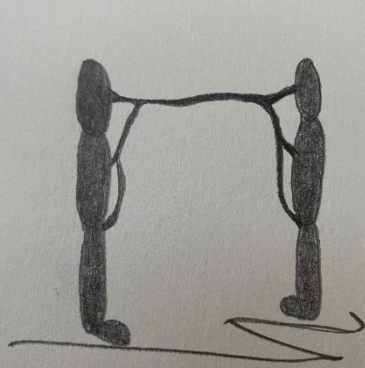
NECESSARY

- **Sealed for smell and fresh air.**
- **Needs to be a cleanable Surface.**
- **Block out outside perception of optic, haptic, audio from the other person.**
- **Size adjustable.**
- **Secure attached to the Body.**
- **Easily removable from head and Body.**
- **Comfortable.**

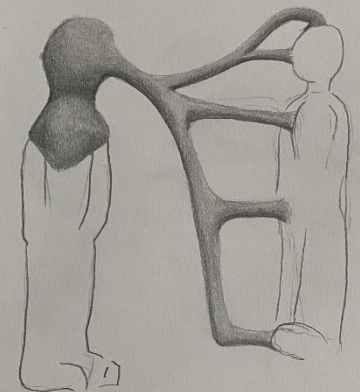
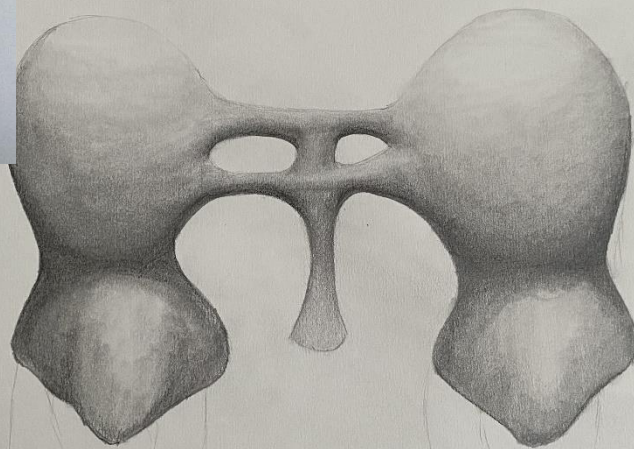
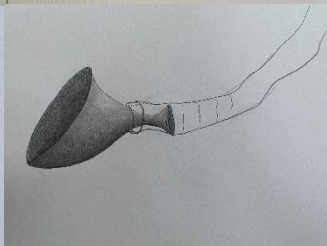
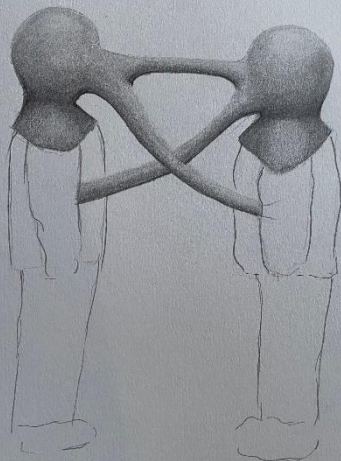
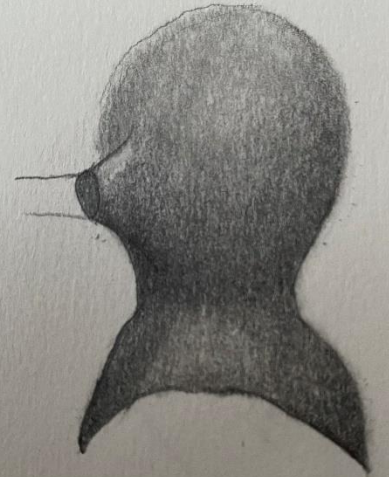
>>> ISOLATION CAPSULES

>>>SHUT OFF AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM THE REST OF THE ENVIORMENT

PROCESS



Size adjustable
flexible tubes
sticking and pieces
see through tubes
sealed
cleanable surface

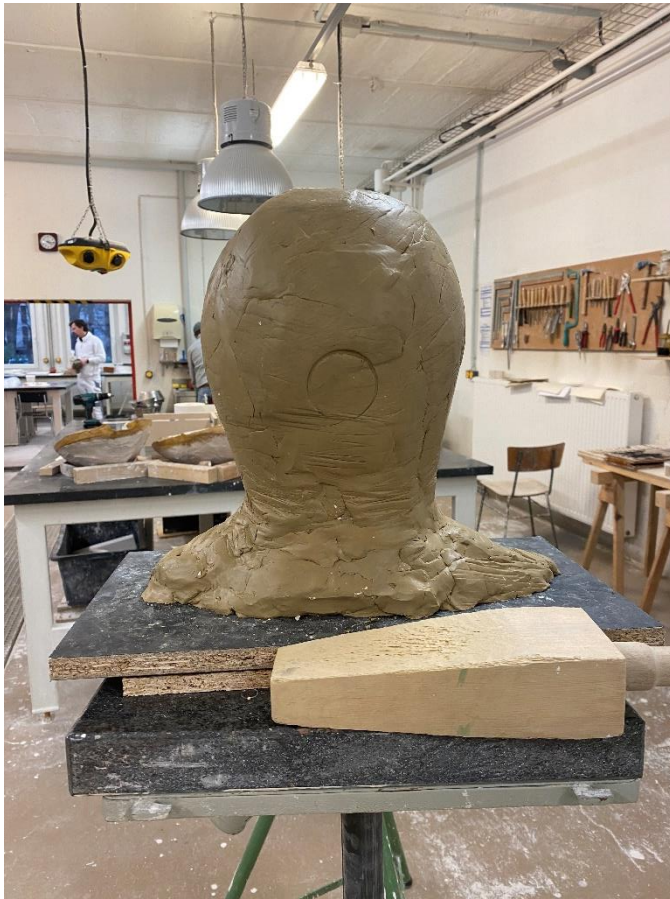


CURRENT STATUS



PROCESS

DEVELOPING



PROCESS



NEXT



ORIGIN

In 2020 I had a covid infection which first didn't affect me very much. But after some days I realized that my taste and smell have completely disappeared. These Symptoms are typical for a covid infection but mine never really went away. For two years now I have been living with long covid. I have tried Therapy to regain my sense, but it did not work out for me. My smell is almost completely gone except for some very intense scents. But these don't smell like they used to. Interesting for me is my taste. Some things don't taste like they used to, some make me nauseous, some don't taste at all, some things taste like something I have never tasted before.

PROCESS

WHAT IS SMELL AND HOW DOES IT WORK

Odors are scent stimuli consisting of odorants released into the air by solids or liquids. How readily or and how quickly odor molecules are released into the air depends on the chemical with the chemical properties of the substances. Generally, the faster a substance evaporates, the stronger the odor, which, however, can also dissipate quite quickly. The slower a substance releases scent molecules, the weaker the odor, but lasts longer. The type of odor we perceive depends entirely on the composition of the atoms.

Smelling and tasting are the senses that need to be in direct contact to be sensed. They are chemical/molecular senses. For these it is a prerequisite that the chemical stimulus is in direct contact with the receptor sites. This is different for seeing or hearing. Molecules from the environment are absorbed with every breath. These enter the nasal cavity either directly into the nasal cavity via the nose or indirectly through the mouth via the back of the throat. Humans and mammals have about 350 to 400 different olfactory receptors, which are regularly regenerated by our genes. These contain proteins that recognize individual molecules according to a lock-and-key principle.

INFORMATION

IDIOSYNCRATIC SENSE AND LIMBIC SYSTEM

It is described as *idiosyncratic sense* which means that each person perceives their environment individually through their nose/mouth. This is also different for seeing or hearing. That is why people can perceive between 4000-10000 odors. Since the neural network of the smell, is more developed (older) than the language network, it is difficult for people to express themselves linguistically about it. It is also shaped by individual and cultural experiences and values. The processing is strongly related to the limbic system, since smelling also releases encephalins, endorphins, serotonin and norepinephrine. Compared to seeing and hearing, the sense of smell is not so easy to control or filter and thus has a much more subconscious perception.

The limbic system is responsible for storing our memories, drives, desires, and emotions in our short-term or long-term memory. This is how we, conscious or unconscious, learn and adapt our behavior.

INFORMATION

SEXUALITY

The relationships that we have to other humans depends very much on how we perceive their bodily odors. Whether it is from mothers to their babies, friends or sexual partners it is always dependent on pheromones. For sexual relations, the most relevant is the MHC pheromone that we produce ourselves and perceive from others. This communicates us if the person is genetically compatible or has a healthy immune system to reproduce and evolutionary make the offspring more likely to survive. By that humans are still conditioned to choose their mate.

Due to the developments of human society this way of bonding and choosing a “mate” has become unnecessary and other factors determine who we want to reproduce or just be intimate with for example: similar interest, hobbies, humor, money, age, sexuality, values, culture, place, status, beauty standard, support And much more!

This project should not be seen as something that criticizes these other selection factors, but as something to make aware of this subconscious choice making, we do almost every day.

INFORMATION

REFERENCES

READING

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https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/library/01/6/I_016_08.html

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-hidden-power-of-scent/>

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Elder, Rob. (2001). "The Science of Attraction Archived 2007-06-23 at the Wayback Machine," *Journal of Hybrid Vigor*, Emory University, Issue 1.

Three Essays on Theory of Sexuality – Freud

The Perfume- Patrick Süßkind

See Yourself Sensing: Redefining Human Perception - Madeline Schwartzman

WALTER PICHLER

Die Verbesserung von Mitteleuropa - Oswald Wiener (Appendix)

Presentation

Introduction to smell and taste

Erste Hilfe bei Geschmacksverlust [ISBN 978-3-8321-6911-4](#)

Wir Riechen besser als wir denken [ISBN 978-3222150371](#)

(stupid) tv shows

love is blind

naked attraction

ART

Plastique-Fantastique <https://plastique-fantastique.de/All-Projects>

Peter

Decupere http://www.peterdecupere.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=20:news&id=94:sweat

Moses Maerz <https://12.berlinbiennale.de/de/artists/moses-maerz/>

Vanitas Machine <http://heavythinking.org/vanitas-machine/>

Wolfgang

Georgsdorf <https://www.ingenieur.de/technik/fachbereiche/rekorde/geruchsortel-im-dauereinsatz-ein-festival-fuer-nase-in-berlin/>

Zähler https://www.khm.de/studentische_arbeiten/id.14296.zahler/

Andreas Muxel <https://www.andreasmuxel.com/artresearch/connect/>

Olfactory Research <https://www.olfactoryresearch.net/>

What does air pollution taste like? <https://www.thenationalnews.com/arts-culture/art/what-does-pollution-taste-like-how-artists-are-harvesting-the-air-to-capture-city-s-flavours-in-meringue-1.1041080>

Kat Austen<https://www.katausten.com/portfolio/the-coral-empathy-device/>

Lab<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/7344/7350/320/0>

LINKS

<https://www.uniklinikum-dresden.de/de/das-klinikum/kliniken-polikliniken-institute/hno/forschung/interdisziplinaeres-zentrum-fuer-riechen-und-schmecken/neuigkeiten/umfangreiche-informationen-zum-thema-riech-und-schmeckstorungen#trig%20system>

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<https://www.google.com/search?q=nose+medical++tools&tbm=isch>

<https://www.google.com/search?q=throat+medical++tools&tbm=isch>

<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/psychologie/geruchswahrnehmung/5775>