David Rose in his book *Enchanted Object--Design, Human Desire, and the Internet of Things* puts forth the idea that we have reached the future whereby we have become magicians, in its positive sense of the word. We can transform everyday items into enchanted objects that are designed to be functional and aesthetic (Rose, 2018) in a non-obtrusive way. In fact, he goes on to claim that the "ordinary thing is then augmented and enhanced through the use of emerging technologies—sensors, actuators, wireless connection, and embedded processing—so that it becomes extraordinary (p. 52)." Rose concludes that these augmented objects can evoke an emotional response when you come into contact with them ergo these enchanted objects will enhance your life.

How does this happen? Rose claims that a successful enchanted object possesses "seven abilities of enchantment (p. 286)" which can fulfill any or all of six human drives: Omniscience, Telepathy, Safekeeping, Immortality, Teleportation and Expression (p. 114).

Over the last two decades, I find myself anthropomorphizing objects including the three things that resonate with me at this time: jewelry, plants and the IRobot Roomba.

The first object that is meaningful to me is under the category of jewelry. Precisely, inherited or gifted jewelry (figure 2) is a meaningful object to me. I am convinced that wearing a ring, which has traveled in many places of the world throughout the 20th century and that was worn by both my grandmother and mother gives me the impression of a direct connection to moments in time and place. The ring is embodied with the unique energy of each of these powerful women and I am convinced that this energy is palpable. I will purposely choose an appropriate piece, not only for its beauty and exquisite workmanship, but also to engage with a particular attribute of the former wearer. For example, real or not, I am convinced my grandmother's ring is imbued with a vitality that made it possible for her to live through WWII moving from a communist to a non-communist country.

The latest object that resonates with me, I baptized "The Great Gazoo" inspired by a character from the animated TV show, The Flintstones. Yes, it is the iRobot Roomba (figure 3) which more than likely is one of the enchanted objects that David Rose is talking about.

The first things that I anthropomorphized were plants. Currently, Tom the pine and Daisy the orchid (figure 4) are the latest plants that I take care of. Orchids are such fussy plants and naming her Daisy was intentional so that she does not take herself too seriously. Is there anything wrong with speaking with plants ? trees ? They are a solid, steady reminder of the importance of the living and changing beauty in our environment.

This brings me to the storyboard (IDEO.org, 2015, p. 113) to enchant Daisy with a switch:

As an orchid, Daisy requires a special watering process. This means that once a week, she sits in water for 20 minutes which is then removed because orchids do not like their roots wet. With the addition of a humidity sensor and appropriate circuitry, Daisy can activate her chosen song to play on any WIFI connected device nearest to her to communicate that it is time for her 20-minute water bath. This way, she can control when her humidity levels are at the right setting instead of an arbitrary weekly routine which may or may not be optimal for her well-being.
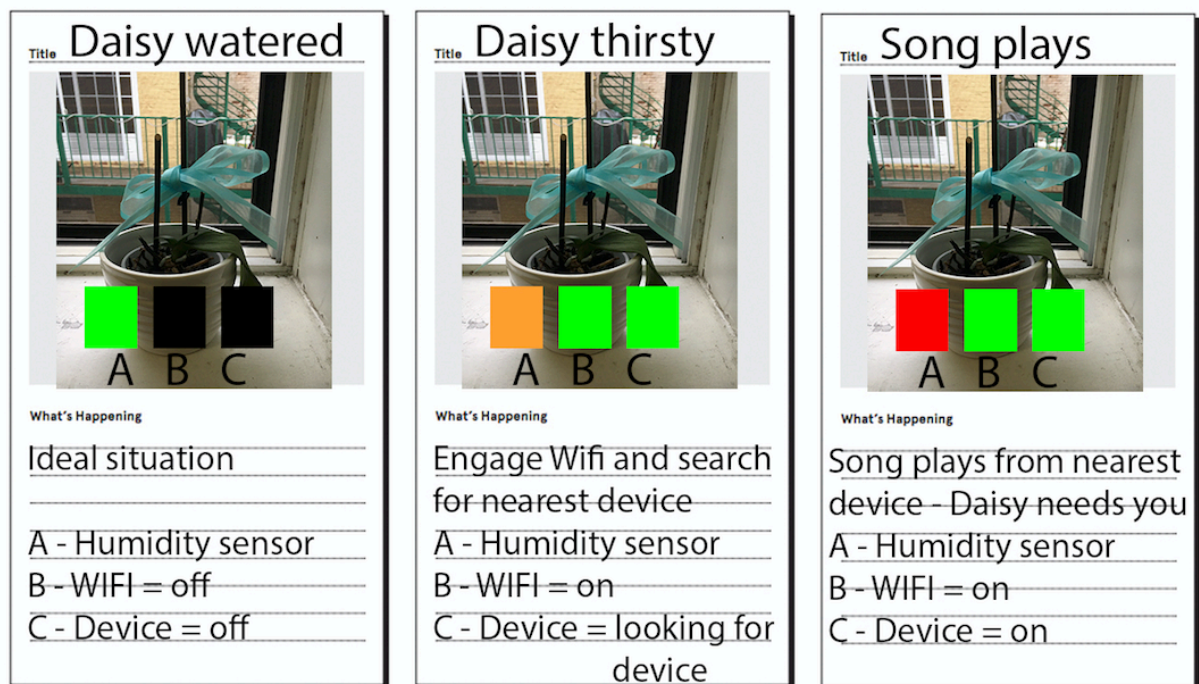

Figure 1- Storyboard - Enchanted Daisy – format sourced from (IDEO.org, 2015, p. 178)

Figure 2- The Muse Earing by Birks, gift from mom.

Figure 3 - iRobot Roomba source www.amazon.ca

Figure 4 - Daisy the orchid

Works Cited

(2018). In D. Rose, *Enchanted Objects Design, Human Desire, and the Internet of Things.* London: Scribner at eBookNews.SimonandSchuster.com.

IDEO.org. (2015). *The Field Guide to Human-Centered Design* (First Edition ed.). Canada.