Progress Report 1

Last semester, I had a full running system of my Cyborgiam plant, including Mixed Reality representation, robotic moving system, and human-robot interaction through Leap Motion. The goal this semester is improving the visual representation of the virtual element of the plant and the environment in Mixed Reality, enhancing the appearance of the box which contains the plant, and write an essay about my project targeting an academic conference.

This step, I had research on the plant cell, and decide to choose Chloroplast as the presentation layer replacing the whole plant cell in Mixed Reality. Through sculpting in VR and texturing the 3D Chloroplast model with my one of my previous painting, I incorporated my experiment on the art-making process of from analog to digital in this project. Additionally, I explored the mental feeling of the physical scene by painting golden acrylic in the box container. Keeping the box simple with such mental texture can emphasize the virtual representation and the futurist feeling. By researching on the context of my work related to cyborg, mixed reality, and futurist, I found that Donna Haraway’s A Cyborg Manifesto, as well as the concept of Transhumanist Values from Nick Bostrom is great for me to explore.

Next step, I attempt to find a reasonable concept to design a hybrid virtual and physical object to improve the visual of my plant in Mixed Reality. Also, I will document this project to an essay targeting an academic conference to show my contribution to the art and science community.