

1. Bike

Why meaningful?

I use this bike every day. It becomes an essential exoskeleton to move my soft body around the city. Biking is applied physics, mechanics 101. Converting potential energy every time I climb a hill to kinetic energy once I let myself go down again. My muscles provide the mechanical work to overcome the first part of the hill and gravity takes care of the rest. It's a sinusoidal choreography between the earth's mass and the chemical potential of the food I ingest. If I'm low in calories, it just won't do it.

The repetitive circular movement of the legs reminds me of something of the factory work. You repeat untiringly the same gesture. You sweat a lot. And you often get lost in your thoughts. Sometimes, It feels like that Black Mirror episode, "Fifteen Million Merits", in which citizens pedal on stationary bikes to power their futuristic society of entertainment. But I am just zigzagging between cars and getting my hair in my mouth because of the wind in my face. It brings me back to the undeniable and non-stationary present. It feels maybe more like a solitary rollercoaster. And this intimate experience makes me think that I am the queen of the world or just the street...

Physical Qualities

The frame is in aluminum and the wheel in steel. The wheels are particularly interesting as they have a clear rotation center. There are many spokes allowing the wheel to state straight against the too common holes in the city streets. The tires in rubber are inflated with air at high pressure (around 100 psi), allowing a reduced friction on the bike while keeping a certain bounciness.

The aesthetic value of a bike is not negligible. In the case of [Marcel Duchamp](#), it is about the wheel that he articulates: "I liked the idea of having a bicycle wheel in my studio. I enjoyed looking at it, just as I enjoyed looking at the flames dancing in a fireplace."



Marcel Duchamp. Metal wheel mounted on painted wood stool. 1951. 51 x 25 x 16 1/2".

The artist Roman Signer also uses a bike in his piece "Fahrrad mit Farbe", but here rather as a tool to apply paint than a Readymade object.



Roman Signer. Fahrrad mit Farbe (Bicycle with Paint). 1995-2003.

2. Menstrual blood

Why meaningful?

Because it happens every month, but remains a taboo. We associate blood with illnesses, accidents, and death. And forget that women deal with it on a monthly basis. In our case, it rather means life, the potentiality of birth and stomachaches. A woman sees such a large

quantity of blood in her life. She will bleed around [40 mL](#) during her period. The bleeding will start at 13 years old and will stop at [51 years old](#) on average. Which means...

Quantity of blood evacuated in a lifetime = $0.04 \text{ L} * (51 - 13) * 12 = 18.2 \text{ L}$

A human body contains around [5 L](#) of blood, meaning that the quantity of blood expelled by the uterus implies quite a few “corpses”. It corresponds to almost four full bodies of blood in a lifetime. Kind of crazy to me. But it remains in the intimate realm of each woman. A silent ritual, between the four walls of a restroom. Even menstrual industry advertisements are bragging about the invisibility of their products. But artists have been exhibiting it since a few decades already.

Physical Qualities

Macroscopic

- Red, viscous, variable thickness, liquid.

[Microscopic](#)

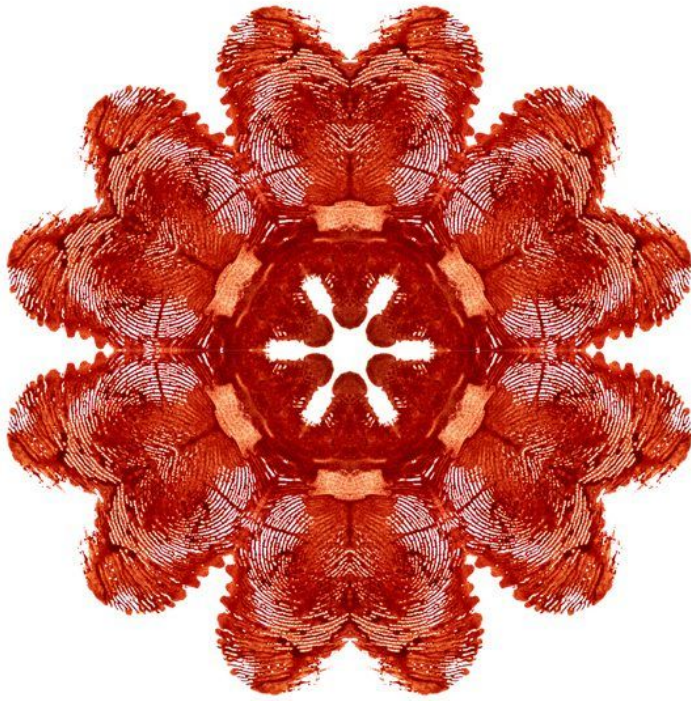
- Water, sodium, calcium, phosphate, iron, and chloride.
- Plasmin, an enzyme that prevents this blood to coagulate.

It can, therefore, conduct electricity, since ionized particles bath in the water constituting the menstrual blood.

Artists such as Judy Chicago and Zanele Muholi have used menstrual blood to make visible what half of the planet deal with every month, and what remains taboo nevertheless.



Judy Chicago. Red Flag. 1971. Photo-lithograph. 20 x 24 in.



Zanele Muholi. Ummeli. 2011. Digital print on cotton rag of a digital collage of Menstrual blood stains.

3. Street lamp

Why meaningful?

It's always there, populates our streets and sidewalks but its function become obvious only at night. For someone new to the urban environment, it might appear odd to see these long necks coming out from the ground. Like giraffes made of metal that turns on when it's dark outside. But even more meaningful are the patterns that they create on the ground. These circles of light, sometimes isolated and sometimes intersecting with one another, trace paths on the nightly ground. They shape our movement according to our intentions, staying visible or hidden from others. They create the mood until the sun rises.

Physical Qualities

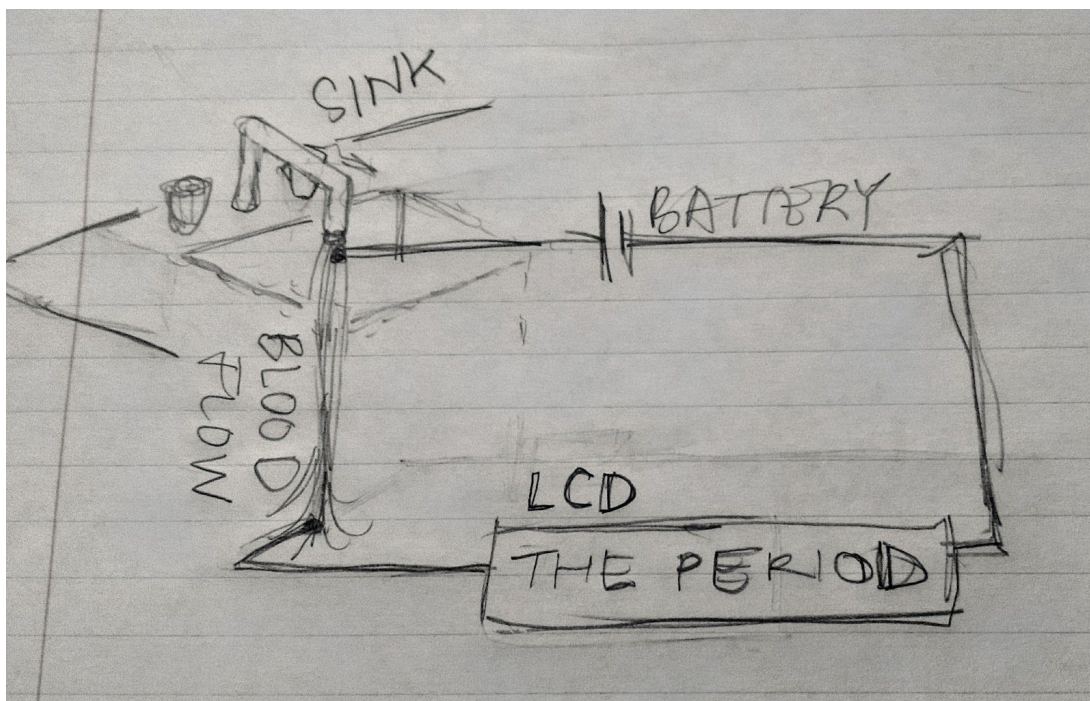
The lamp street that I am thinking of is in metal. Therefore conductive. It's hard to move, as you generally encounter a street lamp when it is already installed. So you can't bring the street lamp to you, you must go to near the street lamp to interact with it. Its use is therefore in situ and contextual.



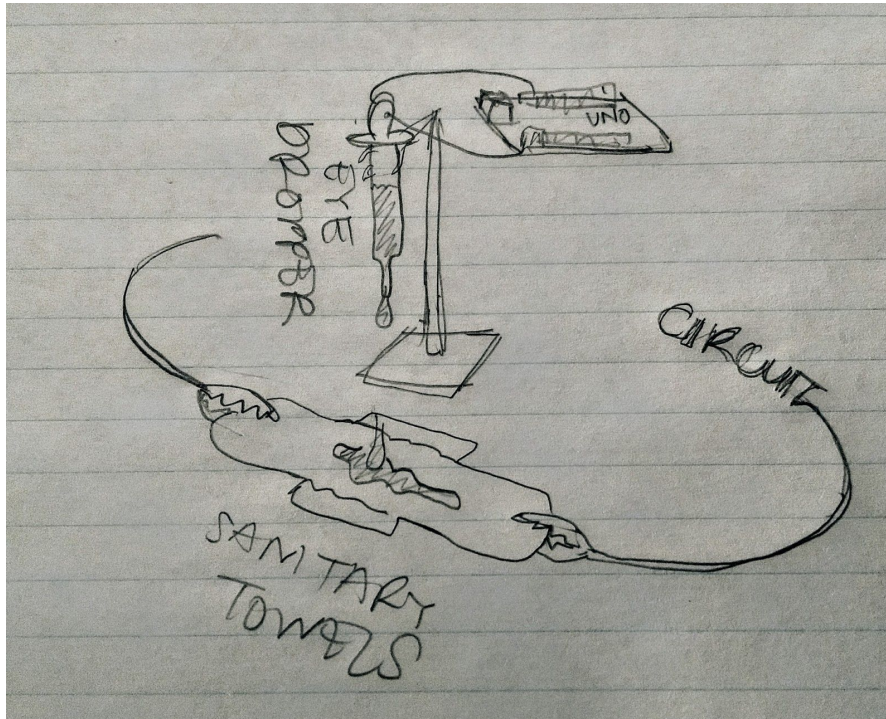


4. How to make a switch with...Menstrual blood! (one day on wikiHow)

1. This switch would work using a faucet connected somehow to a reservoir of menstrual blood (or just water mixed to red pigment..). One extremity of the circuit would be installed near the faucet mouth while the other extremity would stay underneath it, where the flow lands. The switch would be on only when the liquid comes out of the faucet, connecting the two extremities of the circuit together.

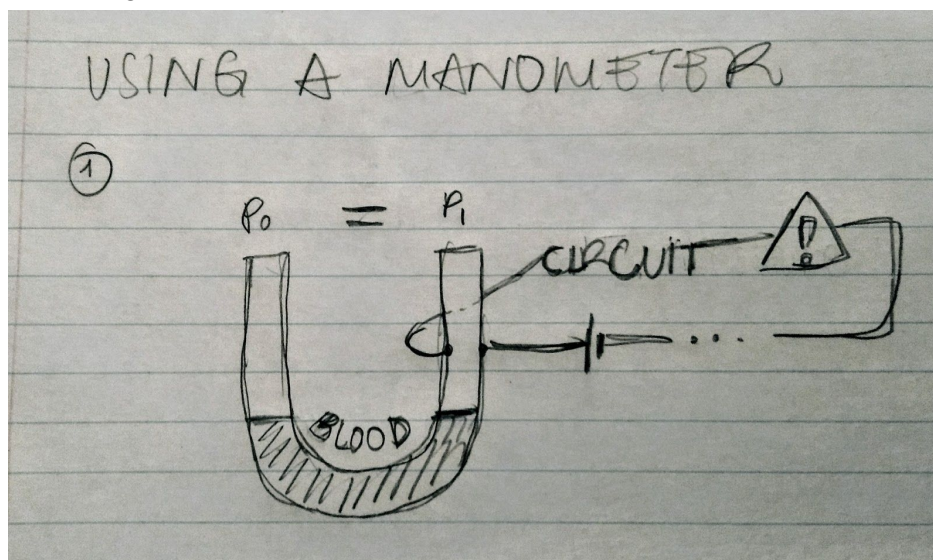


2. This switch would work using an eyedropper that is expulsing one drop at a time on a sanitary towel located underneath. As the menstrual blood in the eyedropper accumulates on the towel, by the principle of diffusion, a wet path would eventually be created and would switch the circuit on. Alligator keys could be used to stabilize and connect the towel to the system.

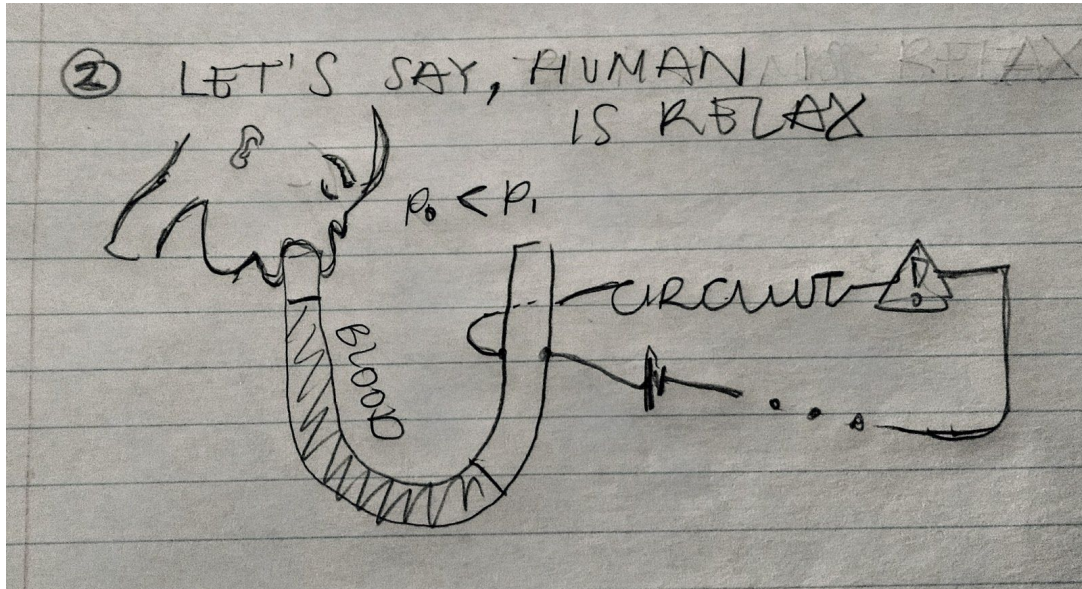


3. The last switch involves a manometer. A basic tool used in physics to calculate the difference in pressure between two recipients. In the “enchanted” world in which the human level of anxiety could be measured by the internal pressure of an individual, this switch would follow these steps:

a) When the neutral state of the switch is off, the menstrual blood in the manometer has the same height on both sides since both sides are in contact with the atmospherical pressure.



b) When a relaxed human being enters in contact with one side of the manometer, since their internal pressure is less than the atmospherical pressure, the blood rises towards them, so the circuit remains closed. Again note that this would happen in an “enchanted” reality.



c) If a stressed individual enters in contact with one extremity of the manometer since their internal pressure is higher than the atmospherical pressure, the blood rises on the opposite side of the manometer and opens the switch, triggering something really intense!!!!!!

