

1. Bike

Why meaningful?

I use this bike every day. It becomes an essential exoskeleton to move my soft body around. Biking is applied physics, mechanics 101. Converting potential energy every time I climb a hill to kinetic energy once I roll down again. My muscles provide the mechanical work 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 movement of the legs has something of the factory work. You repeat untiringly the same gesture. And you sweat a lot. 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, which 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 steel and the wheel in aluminum. The wheels are particularly interesting as they have a clear rotation center.



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



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, which means that the quantity of blood expelled by the uterus implies quite a few corpses. It's almost 4 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.

Physical Qualities

Macroscopic

- Red, viscous, variable thickness, liquid.

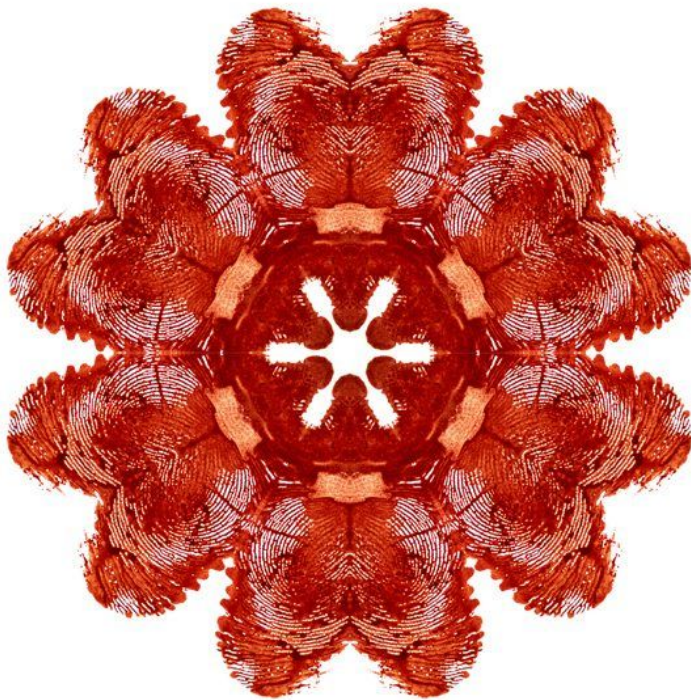
Microscopic

- 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 contained by the menstrual blood.



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

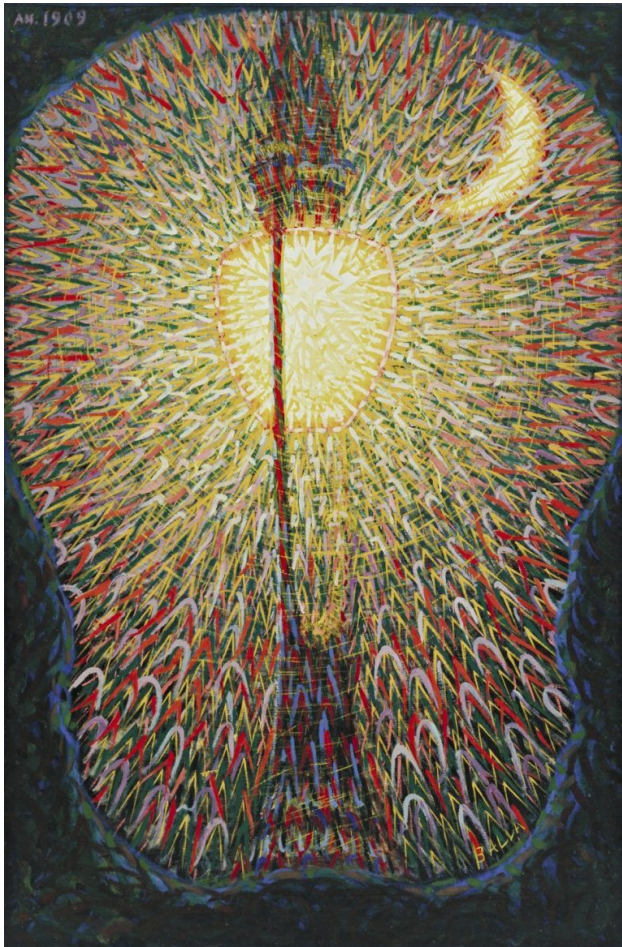
Why meaningful?

It's always there, populate our street and sidewalk but it's function become obvious only at night. For someone new to the urban environment, it might appear odd to see these long neck coming from the ground. Like giraffe 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 other, trace the paths to take or not. They shape your movement according to your intention, staying visible or hidden from others. They definitely create a mood.

Physical Qualities

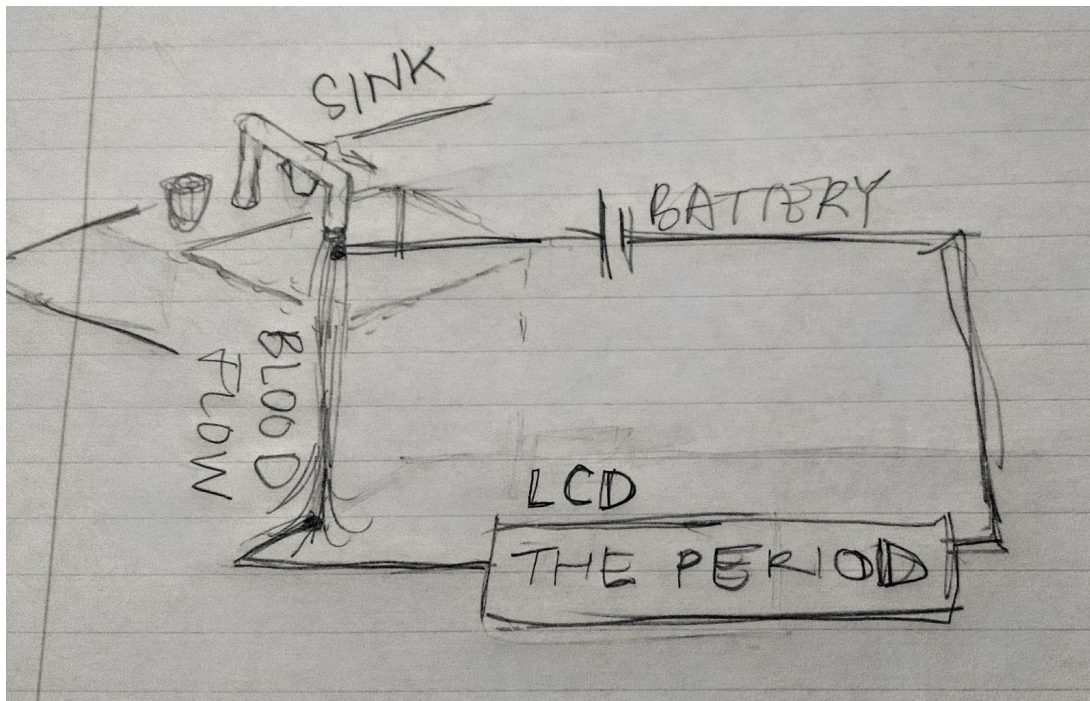
The lamp street that I am thinking of is in metal. Therefore conductive. It's hard to move, as you generally encounter a street lamp when it is already installed. So you can't bring the street lamp to you, you must go to near the street lamp to interact with it. Its use is therefore in situ and contextual.



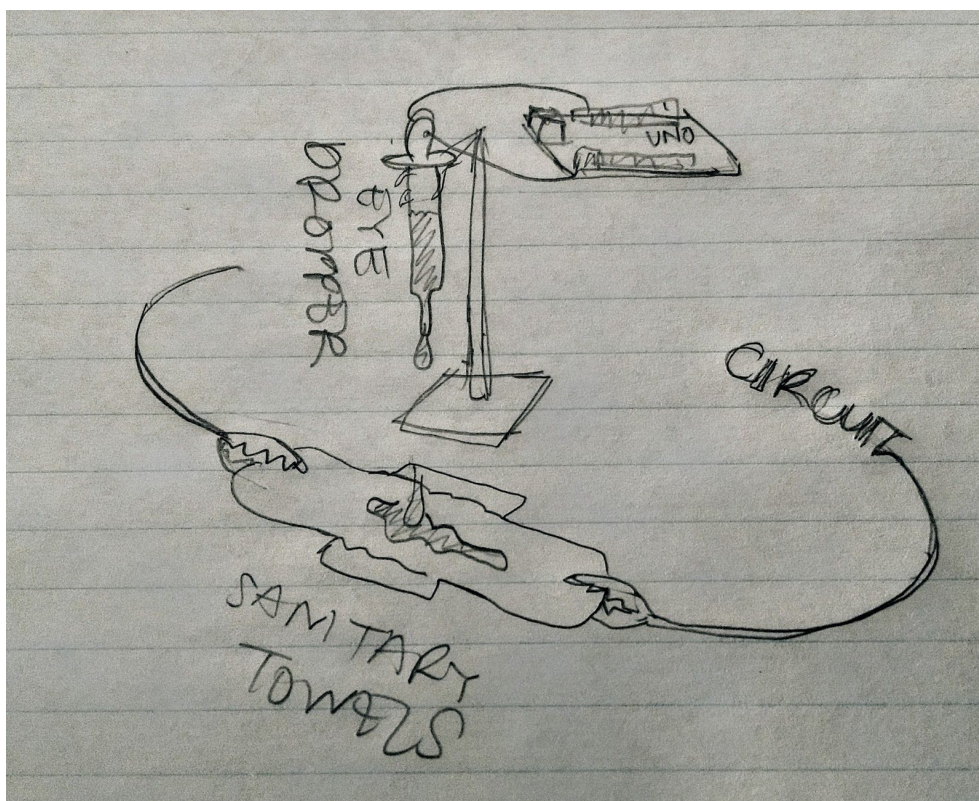
Giacomo Balla. Street Light. c. 1910-11 (dated 1909). Oil on canvas. 174.7 x 114.7 cm

4. How to make a switch with...Menstrual blood

1. This switch would work using a faucet connected somehow to a reservoir of menstrual blood. One extremity of the circuit to trigger would be near the faucet while the other extremity would stay underneath it. The switch would be on only when liquid would come out of the faucet, connecting, therefore, the two extremities of the circuit together.

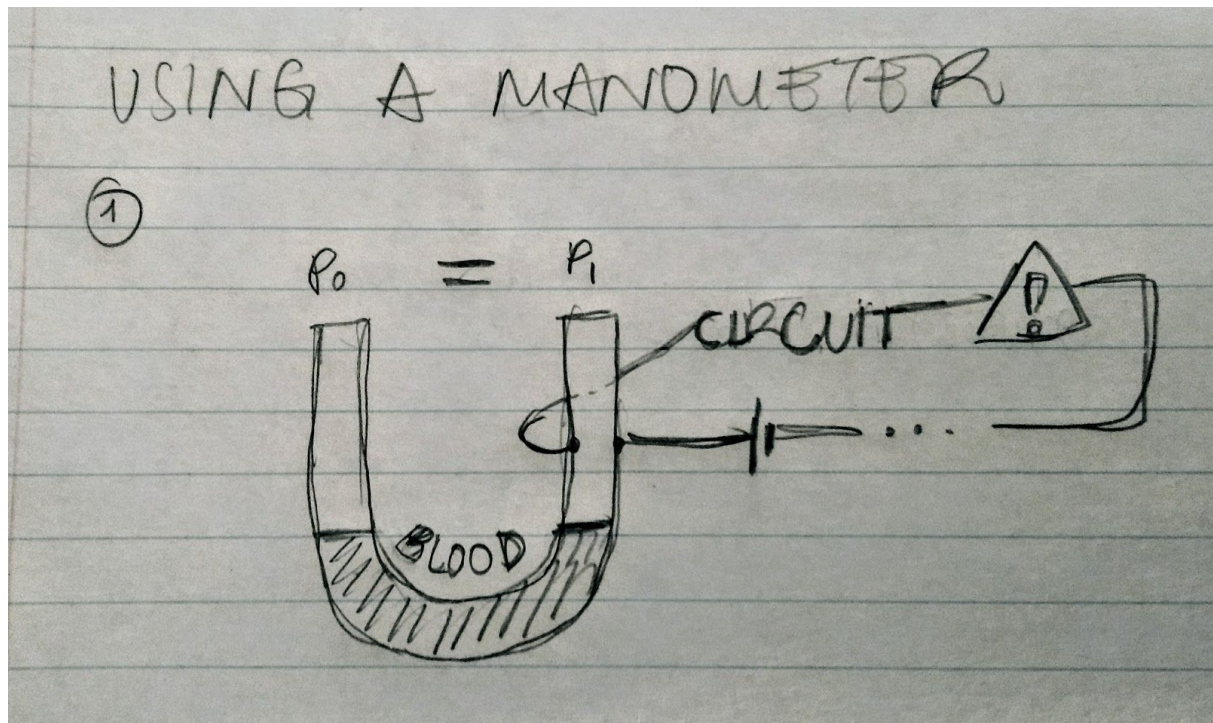


2. This switch would work using an eyedropper that is expelling one drop at a time on a sanitary towel located underneath. As the menstrual blood in the eyedropper would accumulate on the towel, by the principle of diffusion, a wet path would eventually be created and would, therefore, switch the circuit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

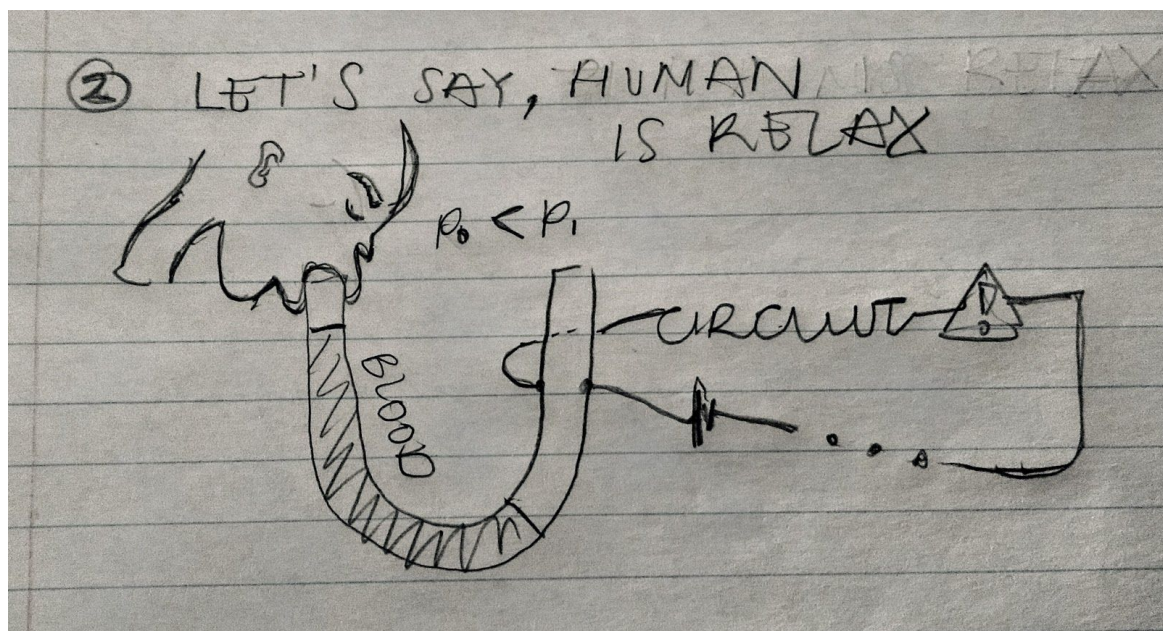


3. The last switch involves a manometer. A basic tool used in physics to calculate the difference in pressure between two containers. In the “enchanted” world in which the human level of anxiety could be measured by the internal pressure, this switch would follow these steps:

a) 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, since its internal pressure is less than the atmospheric pressure, the blood rises towards them, so the circuit remains closed.



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

