

NO EFFECT

Non Flowers belong to a new typology of boundary objects, conceived for humans and pollinators' co-evolution in artificial ecosystems. Their agency lies at the limit between species. They partake in both a natural process (pollination) and the artificial environment of biospheres. Placed amongst other species, Non Flowers attract pollinators towards neighbouring flowers and vegetable crops, which they would otherwise not deem interesting to pollinate. In this sense Non Flowers are 'lures' and 'simulacra'.

RANDOM BASELINE SHIFT

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RANDOM SIZE

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RANDOM SKEW

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SKEW -10 : 10

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SKEW -40 : 40

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SKEW -50 : 50

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SKEW -20,20

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SKEW -30,30

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SKEW -30,30
SIZE 10,14

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BASELINE 0,4
SKEW -25,25
SIZE 10,12

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SKEW -25,25
SIZE 10,12

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TRACKING

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RANDOM ROTATED FRAMES

9 frames
size 10-100

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Can we use design and technology to 'seduce'

other species? This is a crucial question. This publication debates it in the details of the apparatus used for the experiment. But this question also carries an implied anthropocentric prejudice. It ignores the fact

logical decomposition of the morphology of 'natural' flowers that are attractive for Hoverflies: their shapes, geometries, color, scents and movement were ex-

posed first pollinators have bees complex relationship and the morphology of insects, a first principle of understanding their pollination process. Nature has therefore a new chapter in the story of species entanglements and symbiosis. They include human technology

pollinators to propagate. Nature has much more advanced technologies of seduction than ours. Non Flowers are therefore a new chapter in the story of species entanglements and symbiosis. They include human technology

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SKEW -25,25
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4 frames

size 100-200 x 300-400

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The forms of Non Flowers were produced by a methodological decomposition of the morphology of 'natural' flowers that are attractive for Hoverflies: their shapes, geometries, color, scents and movement were exaggerated and abstracted. The resulting prototypes resemble fractal planets, or blown up pollen molecules algorithmically repeating. This research on pollinators perception was carried out with chemical ecologists at the lab of Dr. Shannon Oll-

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Can we use design and technology to 'seduce' other species? This ethical question is crucial. This and counter theories of forms: on Goethe's Gestalt / Bildung theory, the Form / Background discussions in the Phenomenology of Perception of Merleau-Ponty: this is frame 5 this is frame 3

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5 frames
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porary thinking defining
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our
new un-
derstanding of the
emergence of forms and
patterns in data dynamics
are currently being research
by the Non Flowers team.
Collaborating with
pollinators is an
essential

topic
for human survival.
Beekeeping is one of the oldest
story of interspecies collaboratio
Collaborating with machines i
the artificial environ-

spe-
cies dialogues. The
aim is not to replace living
organisms with synthetic ones,
but to invent new forms of symbiosis,
which includes machines and softwares as
well as pollinators and flowers.

Ethics of collaboration (SO)
The inspiration behind this, is that the work
that we are all doing with different meth-
ods is really object identification. This
is such a fundamental concept. It is
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Can *we* use design and *technology* to 'seduce' other species? *This ethical question* is crucial.
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morphology of 'natural' flowers that are attractive for Hoverflies: their shapes, geome-
tries, *color*, scents and movement were exaggerated and abstracted. The re-
sulting *prototypes* resemble fractal planets, or blown up pollen molecules
algorithmically repeating. This research on pollinators perception
was carried out with *chemical* ecologists at the lab of Dr.
Shannon Ollson. It echoes with theories and
counter theories of forms.

Non

Flowers belong to

a new *typology* of boundary objects, conceived for humans and pollinators' co-evolution in *artificial* ecosystems. Their agency lies at the limit between species. *They* partake in both a *natural process* (pollination) and the artificial environment of biospheres. Placed amongst other species, Non *Flowers* attract pollinators towards neighbouring flowers and vegetable crops, which *they* would otherwise not deem interesting to pollinate. In this sense Non *Flowers* are 'lures' and 'simulacra'.

Can we use *artificial* and *technology* to create new species? This *ethical* question also carries an *implication*. It ignores *the fact* that the monopoly of interspecies *seduction* is not new. The *orchid and bees* complex relationship and *their* pollinators have a long history of *mimicry* and play to produce *pseudo-flowers* and *utilize* pollinators to propagate. *Advanced technologies* of *simulation* are therefore a *new* form of interspecies entanglement. *They* include *biology* in the *dark*

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design It echoes with theories and counter theories of
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1. ODOUR OBJECTS / LESS THAN FLOWERS

(SO)

A flower is the reproductive organ of a flowering plant, and contains its male and/ or female gametes (refer Fig. 1). The male gametes are the pollen grains. Pollen is found on the anther of the flower. These grains need to be transferred to the stigma, the female organ, for fertilization to take place. After fertilization, the plant produces seeds that can germinate into new plants. The process by which pollen is transferred from the male to female organs is called pollination. The transfer of pollen within the same flower is called self-pollination, and between different flowers is cross-pollination. Pollination can occur abiotically by wind, water, or even gravitational force; and, biotically through insects, bats, birds and many other animals. Around 90% of flowering plants are pollinated by animals.

The colorful butterflies, buzzing bees, hovering flies, moths, bats, and hummingbirds that you see in your garden are performing this vital job of transferring pollen, day and night. Thus, pollination is what we call an essential 'ecosystem service' or, in other words, a natural process within ecosystems that benefits humankind. Without pollination, there would be no flowering plants. No more fruits and vegetables. Life, as we know it, would not exist. But, have you ever considered how plants attract these animals for pollination in the first place? While walking through a beautiful garden, you are met with a lovely bouquet of fragrances from its many flowers. These smells are so pleasing that we use them in our homes, food, and even on our bodies. Have you ever considered what makes these flowers smell sweet, and how plants might benefit from these scents?

Flower scent Plants attract pollinators using the fragrance and visual characteristics of their flowers, such as color and shape. Odors can travel in the air over several meters. As such, scent is a particularly important cue to attract pollinators to flowers from a distance. All chemical compounds produced by plants can be divided into two categories — primary and secondary metabolites. Glucose, proteins, and lipids that are necessary for the growth and development of the plant are classified as primary metabolites. Compounds produced as byproducts of these metabolites, including terpenoids, flavonoids, steroids, alkaloids, and the many other chemicals not related to growth and development, are known as secondary metabolites. Secondary metabolites can also benefit the plant by protecting them from disease, drought, sun damage, and plant-eating animals (herbivores) through pigments, noxious taste, and water-retaining waxes, among other mechanisms. Floral scents are produced by plants as byproducts of glucose synthesis and are, therefore, considered to be secondary metabolites. The variation of floral scents in plants is produced mainly from three groups of chemical compounds — terpenoids, phenylpropanoids, and fatty acid derivatives. Lavender and rosemary release odours from mostly the terpenoid group, whereas rose, jasmine, and lily have scents produced by all three floral scent groups. Phenylpropanoids are also involved in the production of pigmentation (color) in flowers, whereas terpenoids act as a deterrent against herbivores in other plant parts, such as the leaves and stem³. Floral scents also serve other functions that include warding off non-pollinating flower visitors such as nectar robbers, and inviting natural enemies of the herbivores that feed on the plant. For example, leaves, stems, and flowers of plants release several several meters. As such, scent is a particularly important cue to attract pollinators to flowers from a distance. All chemical compounds produced by plants can be divided into two categories — primary and secondary metabolites. Glucose, proteins, and lipids that are necessary for the growth and development of the plant are classified as primary metabolites. Compounds produced as byproducts of these metabolites, including terpenoids, flavonoids, steroids, alkaloids, and the many other chemicals not related to growth and development, are known as secondary metabolites. You will be familiar with this if you enjoy the smell of fresh cut leaves and grasses. Crab spiders use chemicals like β -ocimene, released by flowers when they are chewed on by insects, to locate and feed on these insects.

2. PSEUDO FLOWERS / VIRTUAL FLOWERS

All species wear masks. Notes by TP based on a discussion between Emanuele Coccia and Vinciane Despret. In the work of French Contemporary Artist Pierre Huygues Untitled (Human Mask) we see a monkey wearing a human mask. This blurring of the boundaries between species creates first a malaise, quickly followed by a relief and joy: the monkey is not aware of the situation, we realise. Monkeys do not act or lie.

This defensive posture, which reaffirms human exceptionalism is precisely what the artist is bringing to light.

However, recent studies question this privilege of the human to deceive and to act 'consciously'. For example in the article Affective Ecologies:

Visuals of pseudo flowers and Images of Flowers in VR mixed together

Quote from Coccia: 'Every species wear masks' (big)

Texts Species and masks Thomas

4. NON FLOWERS FOR A HOVERFLY

(Shannon Olsson with Thomas Pausz & Vikram Pradhan)

SO

Hoverflies are one of the most prominent pollinators on the planet, but unlike bees they are solitary. One **they** hatch, they are on their own with no one to teach them what food source to PREFER. Whether its an individual fly choosing from an array of flowers or a *worldwide* preference by the flies for specific cues, Ollson and Nordström hypothesized that these insect must **have** ✓● innate template *that* helps them find these flowers wherever they ARE They set out to identify what exactly draws these *insects* to their food: is it the color, is the smell, **is** it a *special* chemical, is it a combination? The idea, she says, is to parse the cues TO determine THE minimum amount of information that a flower must contain for a hover fly to recognise it as food. She compares □ to the way a smiley face drawing is the simplest possible representation of a face: 'two dots and a semicircle, thats a face to everybody', OLSSON says. What's the smiley □□□ for a fly?'

TP

The Modern and Anthropogenic periods have seen an **INCREASE** of human interferences ~~www~~ ecosystems: from observing and *collecting data* on life forms and the environment, to actively transforming ecosystems for production, and ultimately designing artificial and controlled *environments* and CLIMATES. *Where* does the Non **Flowers** project operates in this context? As a human intervention in the ~~am~~ of pollination it is □□ anthropogenic gesture. However, the specific ~~an~~ of creating a mutually beneficial environment for humans and nonhumans, based on understanding the needs and Umwelt of non-human species casts this project in a **POST-HUMANIST** paradigm.

7. GREENHOUSES AND POOR ECOSYSTEMS

Ségolene Guinard, philosopher and associate researcher on the Non Flowers project.

SG

''My research investigates the necessity of reintroducing care and redistributing agency within our techno-scientific regimes of existence – for which I coined the term “capsular existence”. As this contemporary condition spreads, impoverishing non-human diversity and presence almost everywhere on Earth, and saturating our environment with artifacts, media, and infrastructures, disciplines, such as crafts, arts and design, which explore human technological entanglements with non-human life in terms that resist the engineers’ need for control and management, may play a crucial role. Could we conceive of technologies and practices that would maximize the possibilities of encounters between humans and non-humans, and make space for untamed, unexpected, and unforeseen interactions - which actually constitute the texture of life? Selection and domestication, for the sake of food production, have shaped living beings, and their species in most sedentary human cultures, culminating in the production and trading of lifeforms as artifacts, and increasing the global power Capital exerts over human and non-human forms of life. To resist the impoverishment of life (a notion I conceive as encompassing both organisms and the multitude of relationships within which they thrive : their milieus), design could work with concepts such as symbiosis (which itself ramifies into notions of partnership, engulfment, parasitism, chimera, dependency, attachment, alliances, queer ecologies, disharmony, etc.), de-domestication and taming. Could design practices be oriented towards the enrichment and multiplication of relationships between living beings rather than shaping and controlling them through the hyper-production of bio-technologies, and the commodification of life? Advocating for the germination of invasive anarchist ecological practices, I wish to investigate within the Non-flowers research project the possibility of a design that would enhance ‘inoperativity’ (Agamben), thus liberating non-human lives from their absorption in the economy and spheres of human profitability, allowing them to thrive through unexpected paths and ways of living, outside the circuits of control, value and capital, in order to enrich human collective and singular existences.’’