

lara

“we

should

smell

more”



HINAKO YUKIMOTO

LARA SZYMANSKI

to reveal different ways of navigating the world.

The work unfolds within this difference,

where direction is not imposed, but discovered through (co)existence.

We do not know where we are heading.

We do not know whether we want to go there, should go there, or need to know the destination at all.

Perhaps we do not need to know.

We simply orient ourselves toward what we sense

through smell, sight, sound, and skin.

Direction does not precede us; it emerges from perception.

This work explores the moment when direction comes into being, rather than a fixed goal.

Ants live within precise systems

pheromone trails, assigned roles, invisible rules.

These unseen structures create boundaries

that organize their society.

I began to see in them

a reflection of our own worlds:

the distances we keep,

the roles we inhabit,

the silent agreements that shape our relationships.

Somewhere in their nature,

I felt something deeply human.

! video link : <https://youtu.be/AZDfNjmSkO0?si=CG9jbLcErCR6R2Ri>

INSPIRATION

Much like humans, ants are social creatures that cooperate, make complex decisions and have specific individual and collective purposes. They communicate and collectively make decisions through the release of chemicals. Foraging ants specifically, release a pheromone trail to lead the colony back to the food source (Czaczkes, T. J., Grüter, C., et al., 2012).

Inspired by the idea that ants smell as a way of orientation and direction, as a way of instinct *towards* or *away from*, are “we” humans smelling enough? Lara and Hinako often feel like nowadays it is not easy to move with and through our intuition. The world around us is designed to tell us what we are expected to do: to look better, work better, function better, fit in better. The speed required to catch up with it all leaves little room to connect, play and gather courage to venture out. To venture out with a purpose but without the expectation attached to it. As artists we ask ourselves, what if our simple roles were not so different from that of the foraging ant? To go out into the world and find “food” for the colony to receive. Or to follow the trail left towards the “food” left by the ones that came before us?

We started the project with an idea for a visual work and ended up with an afternoon looking for ants in the winter (and failing), a social experiment, voice recordings, video and photo material and a dance performance. Is curiosity a pheromone trail? Not knowing where we are headed but silently trusting we are on the path we need to be on. “We are smelling!” said an excited Lara. By listening, smelling and moving through our intuition we are not only creating our own “trail” but also unavoidably perceiving the “trails” made by the ones before us. Including ideas embedded from film, dance, photography, paintings and memories. From a teacher’s guidance to an inspiring conversation, everything comes into our pheromone trail even if it takes physical shape or not.

Smell as an invisible, untouchable, unhearable object. Unable to separate it from the breaths we take, it comes through us whether we choose it or not.

We don’t arrive anywhere but to the ground we lay beneath ourselves as we walk. As we crawl. As we lay upon the soil we fertilize with each step.

Can you generate the memory of a smell?

We propose to “smell more”:

to follow subtle, often unconscious impulses rather than predetermined paths.

Since November, we have been tracing these invisible trajectories.

Instead of constructing a work through fixed plans or rational decisions, we follow sensations, atmospheres, and fleeting intuitions like following a scent.

This process allows the work to emerge from movement, presence, and encounter, rather than from a predefined goal.

INTENTION

During the time in the studio, we strive to continue to investigate how “smell”, scent and intuition can translate into a physical research and function as a compositional tool.

Our methods include improvisation, score-based exploration, and spatial interventions, through which we trace and materialize these invisible paths.

The outcome may take the form of a performance, an open process, or a situational installation, depending on how the work evolves.

Physical Research tools: some ideas.

We are looking for movements, motions that allow for us to “smell” more deeply.

What does it mean to smell movement?

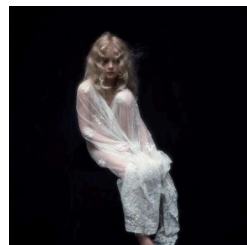
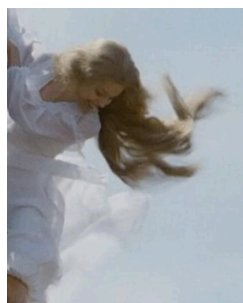
5m Hair

As if we carry 5-meter-long hair.

We feel its weight, and the head naturally tilts side to side, back to front.

The weight of the hair gently pulls us.

We follow where the pull leads.



Tommy's Loop

We sense our arms and the energy moving through them.
From right to left, left to right, through another's arms and body.
We feel the skin, the clothes, the energy of the other.

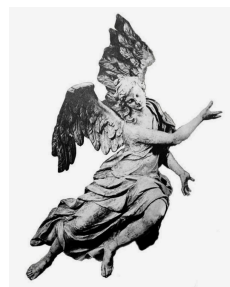
Movement travels in a loop passing, returning, circulating.
We follow this continuous exchange.

! inspired by the movement Tommy Heffer had in the film called "sons & fathers" by Mano



Angels playing

Angels playing. Wings lift you, twist you, make your weight lighter. Two angels fly and play. The heart is filled with the wind carried by their wings. We breathe air into movement.



! To explore this concept, we have already conducted photographic image research.

These images function as visual studies examining the relationship between body, gaze, scale, and the movement of living beings such as the ants.

The project develops from this visual research as its starting point.

! video link : <https://youtu.be/AZDfNjmSkO0?feature=shared>



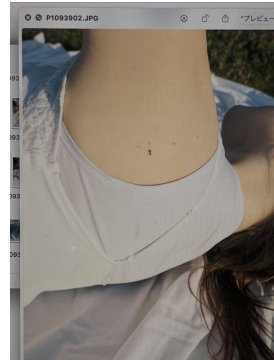








“We should smell more” as a metaphor for “feel your feet against the ground”
“We should smell more” as a metaphor for “focus on your breath”
“We should smell more” as a metaphor for “keep going, you’ll figure it out”
“We should smell more” as a metaphor for “it’s gonna be okay in the end”.
“We should smell more” as a metaphor for “stop and smell the roses”
”We should smell more” as a metaphor for 『あなたは気づかないんでしょうね。』
“We should smell more” as a metaphor for “hey, you’re alive!”
“We should smell more” as a metaphor for “just send that damn application, girl”



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REFERENCES:

Czaczkes, T. J., Grüter, C., Jones, S. M., & Ratnieks, F. L. (2012). Uncovering the complexity of ant foraging trails. *Communicative & integrative biology*, 5(1), 78–80.
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