

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?

We started the project with an idea for a visual project and ended up with an afternoon looking for ants in the winter, 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. Or like the foraging ants, are we making the pheromone trail ourselves?

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.

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.

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.

During the residency, we want to continue to investigate how “smell”, scent and intuition can 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.

“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 “sonríe, que la vida son dos días!”

“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”

Some Tools for Smelling Movement

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

What does it mean to smell movement?

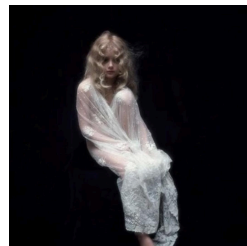
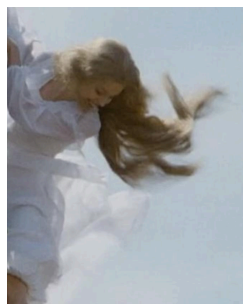
5m Hair

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, through another's arms and body.
We feel the skin, the clothes, the energy of the other.

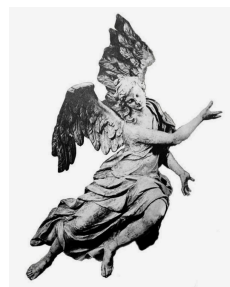
Movement travels in a loop passing, returning, circulating.
We follow this continuous exchange.

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



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>











This project began in November 2025 as a simple image: hinako filming lara at a train station. Through ongoing conversations, this image shifted into a shared landscape of associations including the idea of tracing lines together with ants.

Initially, there was no intention to create a dance piece.

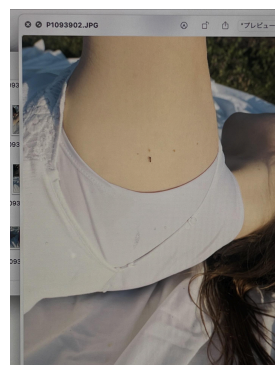
However, over time, the project transformed. By April, I joined not as a photographer, but as a dancer, and the work evolved into a duet between Lara and myself.

We will present the work in progress on May 3rd at c3studio in Rotterdam, and further develop it towards a performance in late June in the context of an event related to the poet Obe Postma.

At the core of this project is the notion of “smell” not only as a sensory experience, but as a way of navigating. We are inspired by the way ants understand the world around them and interact with it. By the idea that they don't need to be told what to do because they naturally/ evolutionarily follow what they are intended to do. Instinctively. They smell as an instinct. We smell instinctively. No, we smell and then instinctively react to it.

Inspired by a way of following a determined path while the path is being made itself. 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.

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