

Studio Aikieue x Coloni

An exhibition that explores and celebrates the life of the undesirable, plants out of place and wild growing species in an urban environment with a sustainable point of view.

Arts / Crafts / Talks / Food experiences / Workshops / Gardening and more.

Plants Out Of Place

16 — 20 Sep. 15

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01 The Project

1.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Plants Out Of Place is an interactive exhibition with a sustainable point of view. Exploring the life of the undesirable and unseen, we want to celebrate species growing beyond the control of humans in an urban environment.

A weed is a plant out of place. An undesirable plant because it is out of human-control. These plants grow in places where they don't belong, places that are governed by us. This simplifying definition reflects our relationship with nature and our desire to control and grow the species that we define as beautiful. As such weeds become disregarded and unseen, all presence removed from our carefully curated spaces. These species are seen as intruders causing anarchy by growing in unwanted spaces. This brings to question on how humans try to control nature but nature has its own agenda. All species have in themselves a value, only by existing, independent of the values humans ascribe to them. As a contribution to overlooked plants, this project is a study of the personal characteristics and life of these plants.

We aim to unveil lost knowledge and narratives to challenge our perceptions of these undesirable species and to facilitate the celebration of the unwanted and the unseen. Our project seeks to engage with the wider communities to reconsider the value of wild plants and how we may utilise them to design for a more sustainable future.

Working in collaboration with a series of creative practitioners from different fields to explore how we can create a more sustainable way of living in the 21st century. Examining how we can minimise our impact on our ecological environment through the sharing of knowledge, ideas and taking an experimental approach to design for a more sustainable future.

1.2 WHY PROMOTE WEEDS?

Weeds played a significant role in our environment, but they are often overlooked due to the negative nuances placed upon them. This has led to a misguided view on the importance of weeds. In other cultures weeds are celebrated and cultivated for their medicinal, edible and material value. Yet in modern society, these wild growing plants are extracted and destroyed. This project seeks to question notions of value in the 21st century and to highlight the importance these species hold for an ecological future.

1.3 WEED DEFINITION

The term weed has no botanical significance, weeds are dependent on the context of where it is grown. If a weed is grown in a situation where it is desired, it is not classified as a weed.

- A weed is a valueless plant growing wild, especially one that grows on cultivated ground.
- A weed is any undesirable or troublesome plant, especially one that grows profusely where it is not wanted.
- A weed is a plant not valued for use or beauty.
- A weed is a plant growing in the wrong place.



02 Kirlian Photography

2.1 AN OVERVIEW OF KIRLIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

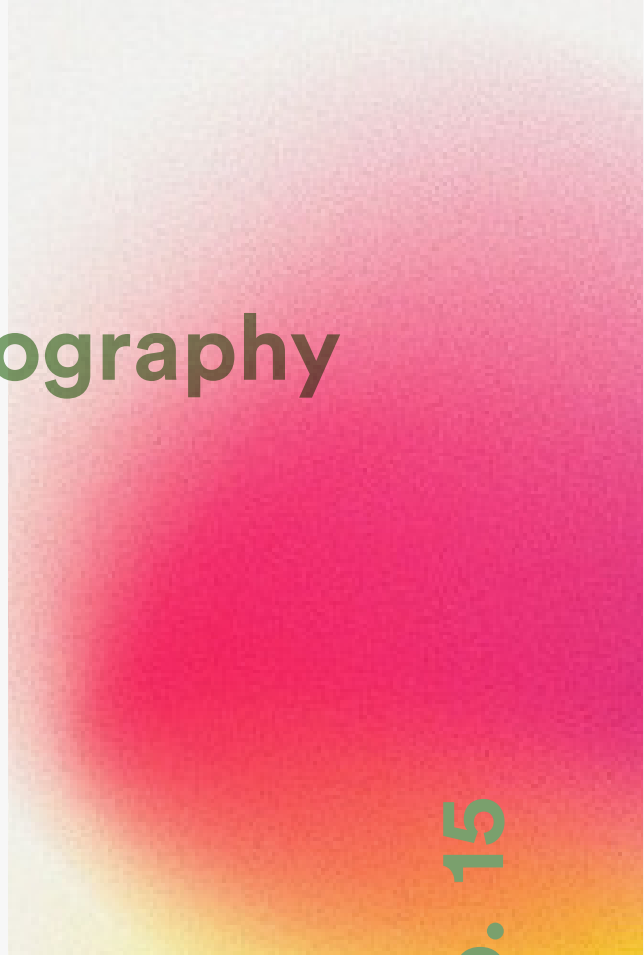
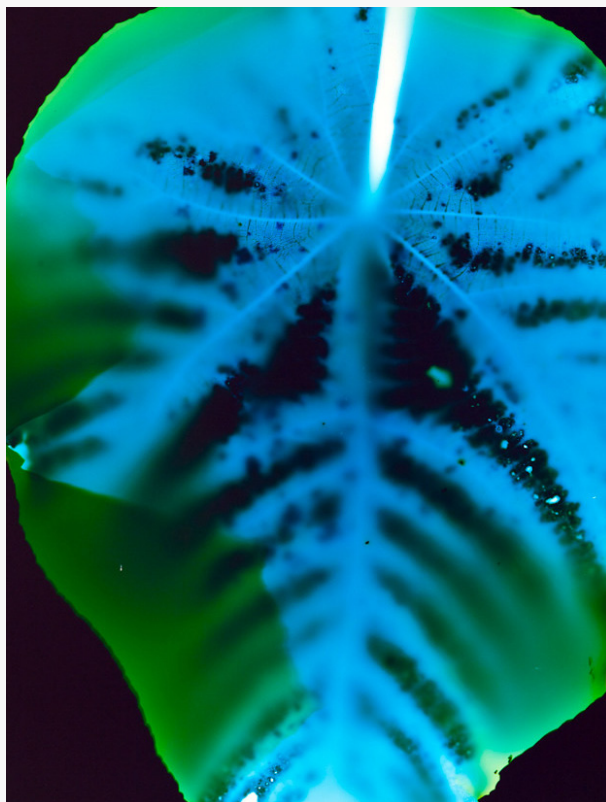
Kirlian photography is a method that uses electrical fields to capture the phenomenon of electrical coronal discharges. This technique was discovered by accident by Semyon Davidovich Kirlian (1939–78) who firmly believed that the images revealed the aura of living species, the vivid colours produced on the photographic plate reflected the physical and emotional states of living species. A prime example of this was showcasing the aura state of a torn leaf at various intervals, the intensity of the energy field represented the decline in strength of the aura based on the withering state of the torn leaf. This notion of being able to reveal living species auras are still speculative and yet to be proven scientifically.

2.2 HOW KIRLIAN PHOTOGRAPHY WORKS

Kirlian photography is a technique for creating contact print photographs using high voltage. The process entails placing sheet photographic film on top of a metal discharge plate. The living species to be photographed is then placed directly on top of the film. High voltage is momentarily applied to the metal plate, thus creating an exposure. The corona discharge between the living species and the high voltage plate is captured by the film. The developed film results in a Kirlian photograph of the aura of the living species. Since this technique captures the aura in both plants and human beings, this is an interesting way of connecting those two. By experimenting with kirlian photography we aim to reveal the emotional and physical state of living plants and to build an emotional connection between humans and plants.

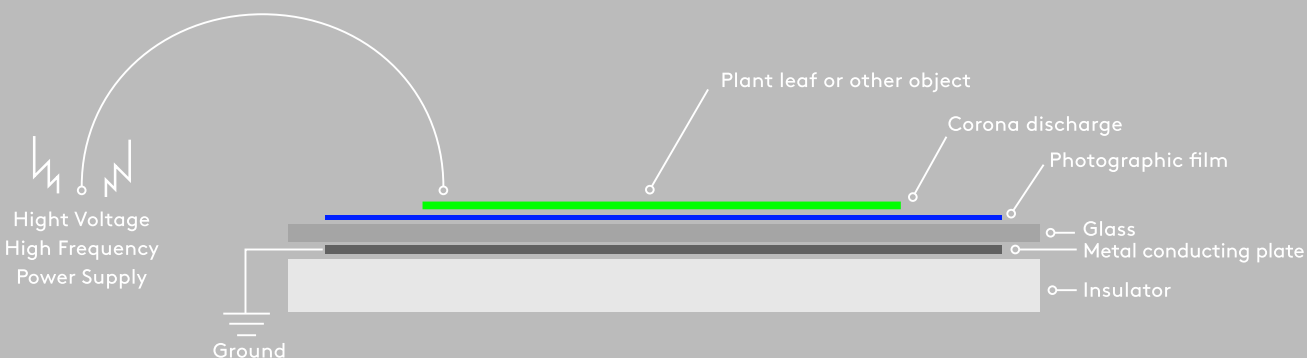
02 Kirlian Photography

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TYPICAL KIRLIAN PHOTOGRAPHY SETUP (CROSS SECTION)



03 The Collaboration

3.1 THE COLLABORATION

We are interested in collaborating with innovative designers who demonstrate strong technical ability and conceptual drive. We believe that this project would result in unexpected, creative results between our studios that would be beneficial for all parties involved.

3.2 THE CONCEPT

Our concept is focused on exploring the age-old technique Kirlian to create our own technological device that enables us to reveal the aura of a plant. We envisage a collaboration of minds, whereby we explore the parameters of kirlian photography to create a device that captures the aura of a plant in a digital format that can then be transferred and printed onto textiles.

3.3 THE OUTCOME

The outcome of this collaboration will be to create a device that will enable the public to come and capture the aura of their plants. These aura images can then be printed onto paper as a piece of artwork that the public can purchase and keep or they can go a step further and order it as a bespoke piece of textiles.

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04 The Process

4.1 THE PROCESS

Studio Aikieu and Coloni will deliver research, design, concept and aesthetic of the project.

We hope that You will oversee the technical side of the project, creating the kirlian device to capture the aura of the plant in a digital format which can then be printed onto paper or transferred for digital printing on fabrics.

4.2 THE COST

Studio Aikieu and Coloni will cover the cost of the making of the kirlian device.

4.3 THE EVENT

Studio Aikieu and Coloni will oversee the set up and invigilation of the project during the exhibition. All we ask from you is to help us set up the technical aspect if any or alternatively send us a how to guide and we will set this up.

4.4 DATES AND DEADLINES

We require the product to be fully realised by end of July/beginning of August. There will be some flexibility if required but ideally ready by those dates so that we can market the project 2 months in advance to ensure as wide exposure as possible for our collaborators.