

Commoning Human Waste as Preliminary Exploration into Enlivening Design

WERNLI Markus^{a*}

^a Urban Environment Lab, School of Design, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

* Corresponding author e-mail: markus.wernli@connect.polyu.hk

Enlivening design is a novel concept where citizen-designers promote simultaneously living organisms and revelatory ways of subjectivity development. Here the vital tension of mutually asserting relationships, desirability, and freedom of choice can help validate the technical and relational activities involved. This practice conjoins citizen-designers and scientists around the ecological reintegration of metabolic wastes and is aimed at bridging our prevalent nature-culture disconnect. The case study presented explores the transpersonal dynamics behind accepting visceral materiality and durational commitment which are little understood. This paper introduces a theoretical and applied understanding of participation design that embraces aliveness and outlines how in the face of complex issues creative potentials can be unlocked.

Enlivening design; commoning; human urine; fermentation; Hong Kong

About the Author:

Markus Wernli's research sits in the activist space between design, education, and bio-restorative practices for exploring socially transformative methods. His particular interest is how indigenous resource cultivating models can be contemporized for bolstering adaptation and leadership in wider social context. Markus is currently completing his doctoral studies with the School of Design of Hong Kong Polytechnic University and previously held academic appointments at Australian National University and Zokei University of Art and Design in Kyoto.