

BLOOM

THE WORLD IS A GARDEN

In this interactive environment, responsive flowers expand or contract according to fluctuations in a particular category of environmental data. As participants walk through the installation, their immediate presence affects the plants and lighting near them, which is triggered when the plants assess the person's environmental profile via the light gloves. These "gardeners" are then able to tend to the plants by placing their gloved hands around the plant in different ways.



The World is a Garden.



RESPONSE TO DATA

Each plants reacts to a particular environmental data set that is constantly updating- therefore changing the form, color, and lighting of the plant. There are 5 types of plants: water, air, power, petroleum, and agriculture. Each tracks certain types of data sets.

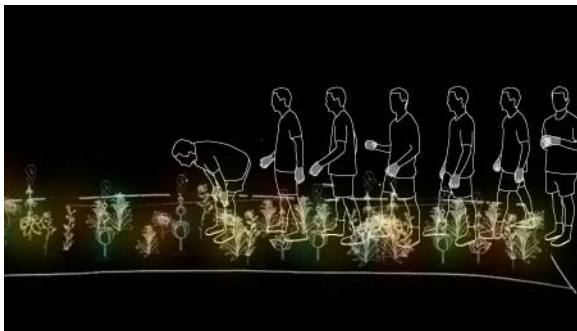
WATER PLANT (LOTUS) - water consumption, water pollutions, sea levels, % of drinkable water, and water temperature.

AIR PLANT (BROMELIAD) - gas emissions, aerosol production, and growth of garbage and sewage.

POWER PLANT (SUNFLOWER) - electric consumption, solar power, wind power, water power

PETROLEUM PLANT (FLAX) - prices of oil and gas, the number of hybrid car owners, emission levels, and plastic production

AGRICULTURE PLANT (MUSTARD) - growth of landfills, % of domestic grown crops vs foreign, increasing numbers of deserts, and deforestation.



RESPONSE TO HUMANS

GARDEN GLOVES

- Accesses information through mobile device- i.e. cellphone.
- Formats data in .EAP file (Environmental Assessment Profile)
 - Tracks: carbon footprint, groceries, electronic billing vs. paper billing, water, gas, electric, type of transport, how many miles of driving or flying per year, recycling
- In addition, the information determines the efficacy of the gardener's actions depending on his environmental background compared to the average of the country.

NURTURING

- Placing gloved hands around plant offers different results
- Types of interactions: support, expand/contract, & lower



THE EXHIBITION

As participant arrive to the dimly lit art space, they are asked to put on these light gloves that allow them to enter this social space of "gardeners." At the center of the gallery, a patch of luminous responsive flowers grow. As gardeners walk through, they notice that plants around them begin to grow and die. With the help of the light gloves, participants able to tend to the plants by placing their gloved hands around the flower. As participants leave the exhibition, it is the hope that they foster an emotional connection with how their actions affects the environment.

EXTENSION

After the exhibition, participants can take home their own potted plant so they can actually see their real environmental progress from day to day. Each plant will have an online avatar that creates these communities. From there, one can compare these site specific communities in a global perspective. This artistic experiment allows people to directly witness their effect on the immediate environment, as well as the world at large. It is meant to spawn a change in people to consciously improve their relationship with the planet.