

## MENSES ANTIDOTE MEANING ASSEMBLY MANUAL

2018 - 2028 “What we are doing to the Planet Earth we are doing to life”. As the Earth is being remodeled by technological exploitation, the female organs and human existence are being dissolved from their original nature. Today, Bio-medical tissue engineering aims at mimicking the inner architecture of complex organs. And, on the other hand, CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) genome editing technology can be programmed to edit DNA at precise locations, to permanently modify genes in living cells and organisms. In the future, this may make it possible to correct mutations at precise locations in the human genome in order to treat genetic causes of disease.

We are a few steps away from re-codifying the DNA information of a human embryo, and why not edit the genetic traits of neonates and birth them through an artificial uterus in the lab? Therefore, “Menses Antidote Electronic Totem” stands here invoking the Womb’s tutelary vital sparks to shield the magic held in the organs that birth us into life, as they and as we are becoming artificially engineered in the hands of our neo-Gods minds.

This auto-performative bio-sculpture is composed of a “Central nervous system”, that contains an assemblage of electronic devices and circuitry, interconnected through the weaving of a “Circulatory system”, made of thick and thin cables, that provide the power to activate the life of a “Frozen Womb”, made of the artist’s menstrual blood. This “Frozen Womb” never disappears and can only be transformed in to a cure tonic that the artist drinks, recycling back to her body the medicine it produces (Please read the label of the sculpture, once this text is over, in a few minutes).

Menses antidote is constituted of three levels of genuineness and “open wings”, a story that reads from the bottom of the totem to top.

Level 1 Unconsciousness - Sound Vibration:

The bottom is a sound system composed of an “Axoloti Core”. This is a circuit board with stereo audio in- and output, audio analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog converters and a microcontroller suitable for digital audio processing. The Axoloti Core is connected to a Velleman K4003 2x30Watt, 12 v AC amplifier circuit, powered with a Thoroidal power transformer (inductor). When the “Frozen Womb” melts, droplets fall into the flusk below.

These falling of droplets are detected with a Piezo sensor, which provides an electrical signal to the Axoloti Core board, where a custom software interprets the signal, identifies impulses and uses them as triggers for generating a sonification of the melting process.

A single speaker cone is used (monaural signal) to produce the sound of the sonification generated by the Axoloti Core.

Level 2 Digestive and/or Mind System - Alchemical apparatus:

The alchemical glass apparatus uses a tailored funnel and lab tubes that conduct the systematic dripping of the “Frozen Womb” into a flask. Through a lateral tubal dispenser a secret ingredient is poured into the flask where it mixes up with the melted blood, becoming the antidote. The antidote is evacuated through a valve dispenser. The artist collects the cure tonic in a lab measure cup, and drinks it.

Level 3 The Soul - Temperature Controller and the system of light:

The temperature for the freezing compartment containing the “Frozen Womb” is kept at the required temperature by 3 peltier thermoelectric coolers (TEC). Each of these TECs is a 6 Amp unit, running at ~15 volts DC, totaling around 270 watts total. The peltiers' hot sides are cooled with 3 large CPU coolers, boasting large fans (reducing the produced noise) running at 12v DC. For each peltier module, a separate power supply is used, set to just below 15 volt. All 12v fans (of the coolers as well as the fan inside the freezing compartment) run off an additional 120Watt, 12 volt power supply. An electronic thermometer and thermostat are used to set the temperature range for obtaining specific durations for the melting the “Frozen womb”. A white light LED strip is mounted in front of the freezing compartment to facilitate inside visioning through the front visor window of the installation.

The “Frozen Womb’s” design is based on 2d medical representations of the female sexual organs’ internal parts: the uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries and vagina. It is sculpted through a 3d printing and silicone mold processes. Prior to each exhibition the artist’s menstrual blood is placed into the mold, frozen, transported and installed inside the tailored glass funnel.