

YARDEN



Purple fractal cabbage. Google image.

SHRINES

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BOLS TO 3D



Yarden's shrine. Photo by Marc Ramsey.

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I envision a peaceful world where people are happy, healthy, and in harmony with themselves and others. I believe that human consciousness can be restored to a more positive, loving vibration by connecting us to our higher selves, and the more optimal ways of being. We are already masters of our universe, we already have the full potential to be great people and live in peace, but most of us get caught in some of the many negative and destructive forces in our environment around us. There is many healing paths to take that will significantly benefit ourselves and the greater good of our universe, but I believe some paths are more powerful and easily accessed than others. In my life, I have experimented with some of these spiritual pathways, (paganism, wicca, buddhism, taoism, hinduism, vipassana, TM and various yogic techniques and styles) and found them all profound in different lights. But, one aspect that all of these practices shared was an emphasis on meditation. Through my personal experiences and research of others experiences, I have come to the belief that a meditation practice is key to improving one's way of living, and is key to bringing unity between humans, earth, and the universe. The journey of these past few weeks started with the question, "In a world saturated with so much stuff, what idea is worth making?" Then, students were to choose an object to 3d print. Before being asked this question, I had never fully considered how the things I make are interconnected and affected by the earth and the collective consciousness. I realized that when you create something, whether it's material or non-material, you are really spreading an aspect of yourself out into the world. When ideas become material, it is immediately easier for people to access and share. I want to spread and share the benefits that meditation and yoga has blessed me with, and help people create a space in their homes where they can feel connected to the earth, their higher selves, and practice their meditation. Thus, the journey is ending with the creation of my shrine.

"Meanwhile, the popular revolution in modern culture grounded in spirituality and consciousness is having a growing impact on traditional institutions such as medicine, religion, mental health, corporate management strategies, concepts of marriage, child rearing, and the family, and more." (Taylor, 6)



Terrarium. Google Images.

My first iteration of the project was to make terrariums. I wanted to demonstrate in a beautiful way how we have moved into a makers world instead of a grow earth.

"The true matrix of human life is the greensward covering mother earth. Without green plants we would neither breathe nor eat." (Tomkins, Intro viii)

My original picture for the terrariums was a series of three terrariums. I had intended the first terrarium to be completely filled with plants and pieces from the earth, to shape a romantic, natural setting. The second a mix of earth objects and 3D printed objects, to form a setting that we are more accustomed too; the mix of plants and our man-made objects. The third a terrarium of entirely 3D printed objects, creating an artificial and hopefully futuristic scene. Looking at the sequence of the three terrariums, the intention was for the audience to experience the beauty of the natural world and the man made world, and see we must stay in the middle terrarium, where the man- made and earth-made is balanced.

That fantasy never manifested. I had some really interesting designs planned for the three terrariums and I had big dreams for the project, and was excited to make these little worlds. But, the project needed refinement. Making things seems to take much more time and energy than thinking about things, and I decided that making one terrarium was a better idea.

While pondering this transformation, geodesic domes came to mind, and I played with the idea for awhile. I like the shape because it is rounded and dome-like, but at the same time edgy



Geodesic dome home. Google Image.

and fractal. Over the summer I experienced a yoga class inside of a geodesic dome, and was perplexed at how the dome completely altered the energy inside the space and intensified the yoga experience. I thought that if I created a geodesic dome, I may re-generate the energy experienced in the yoga class, by symbolizing it. I started designing the object on tinkercad and exploring other designs made on thingiverse, but in the midst of tinkering became bored of the idea and opened my mind up for new ideas. I think it would have turned out beautiful, but it wasn't calling me anymore.

My last iteration came through a conversation with Arlen. As winter approached, I sort of internalized the project and felt that I wanted to strengthen the meditation aspect. Throughout the whole process the image of the Buddha, especially the buddha head was popping up here and there, and I decided that I really wanted to

incorporate the image. Somehow through our conversation, all the pieces started to fit together and my material iteration unfolded. I created a figure sitting and meditating with an earth object in the lap, by scanning my body, and attaching the buddha head on top. The figure is sitting on the seed of life, which is a symbol I find very powerful and recurring in my life. As I delved into the shrine, I was amazed at some of the connections I could make and how this idea complemented the ideas discussed in class.

Shrines, and the temples that house them, are some of the most important material objects to ever exist. We can think of shrines as the focal point or points inside the temple, church, monastery, home, etc, that gather and pinpoint our attention to that specific spot, while symbolizing and/or radiating some image and idea. They are windows into the ancient world that carry stories and knowledge, and could be thought of as a form of the earliest technologies. Shrines and temples are spaces to gather and collect people and information, and spread out intentions and beliefs, while often being used as energetic portals or paths of connecting people to other states of consciousness. While concocting this description, I noticed how this could fit well with the description of computers. We cherish, value, and use our computers and technological material more than anything else, and with time this is becoming more and more valid. We use



Buddha Shrine In Luang Prabang, Laos. Captured by Yarden Solomon.

computers for virtually every aspect of life, and

many people carry them at all times.

It seems the value of shrines and sacred objects and the value of computers and technology are hand in hand. In the American families portion of the book *the Material World*, the father and mother both reported that the most valuable possessions they owned were the Bible, (Menzel, 138). In the chapter on a Mongolian family, the father reported his most valuable possession was the TV, while the mother said the statue of buddha inherited from grandfather. (Menzel, 45). In the India chapter, the most valued possessions were "Print of Hindu Gods (Father)... Sculptures of gods and goddesses of power of strength, who will protect family and home." (Menzel, 71) In the Guatemala chapter, The most valued possessions was "Religious painting, Bible (Mother)...Portable tape player (Father)." (Menzel, 119). These similarities are more than coincidence and seem to point to something quite profound. Are shrines and computers in a sense the same thing, just different ways of accessing different qualities of information? One way to think of it is computers access data, information, and much more, while shrines access energetic data, and mystical information.

This is the concept I end my project on. As you have read, one question can lead to many ideas and concepts that stray from one realm to another. I think that my subconscious wanted me to understand how technology and spirituality connect, and that they are one in many aspects. I learned the lesson, and my view of technology has been completely altered.



Fushimi Inari Taisha is the head shrine of Inari, located in Fushimi-ku, Kyoto, Japan



Computer. Google image.



Unkown old photo I have had for a long time.

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FLORA AND FAUNA

“Hence, with nanotechnology, matter has become programmable only to the extent that nano systems actualize new atomic functions whose future potentials are unpredictable because their movement and position in space cannot be anticipated and thus measured a priori.” (Niet Normaal Foundation, 157)

The article Synthetic Nature, A Nanotechnological Future, from Yes Naturally opened my eyes to the idea of matter, and the relationship between natural and synthetic matter. Through time and evolution it seems that our beliefs around matter has changed and become something completely tangible. People have tapped into the atomic world and now are manipulating it, and in a sense a playing a prime creator. I see how humans are a part of the earths evolution, and how there is nothing unnatural about the way the evolution occurs, but I can't help but feel discomfort at the idea of a synthetic future. Because we are a part of evolution, does that make our chaos and corruption acceptable? There are many visions of the future that have potential to manifest, but which ones do we really want to see happen? Are we treating ourselves like the machine we create? Are we programming ourselves?



DNA. Google Image.