

## Contextual Statement

Fractal is a public installation which is created from the conceptual idea involved around floral. This has been developed after coming across Maggie West's photography project titled FLORA (Pinterest, 2017). After viewing this art piece, this was an inspiration for us to start our project and experiment with flora shapes, forms, and patterns. This idea gradually shifted to a motion to articulate an artefact involved around the great circle of life. Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality. – there are no limits for creativity to end, therefore there is an infinite ability for creating things.

The circle of life, this means that "Circle of life is the Nature's way of taking and giving back life to earth. It symbolizes the universe is sacred and divine. It represents the infinite nature of energy, meaning if something dies it gives new life to another". (Collins Dictionary. (2017). This is the exact dictionary definition, though, with further research, we found that it does not only consist this. The circle of life means that there are numerous chances of giving and taking in this universe, as well as creating and producing. This means that there is an ongoing infinity and it will never go towards an end. This also means the thought of being one (bringing all in one). When it stops its separated while moving together, touching one another (connecting), they are all one and they keep forming new forms within themselves. There is a quote that I run by, Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality, there are no limits for creativity to end, therefore there is an infinite ability for creating things. This was another inspiration that made us think in such way for our installation. Our sculpture really does signify the infinite forms and shapes it creates within the continuous motion. In terms of the religious significance, the circle of life articulates that everyone and everything is equal. No one is better or beyond superior to another creature. "Mankind realizes that it is only a mere different form of creation, no more or lesser in importance than other forms, but is somehow related to all things who are seen as brothers and sisters, all relatives of mankind".

Our project's delineation has been outlined since the Great Circle of Life fragments of balance. In the harmonious system things like harmony, continuous loop, coexist, balance, growth, and evaluation are the concepts. We have been concentrating on having a mixture of the different senses and their meaning for this sculpture. Mainly focused on sacred geometry, fractals, spiral, and Ying-Yang.

## Sacred Geometry

"The flower of life is one of the strongest sacred geometric shapes" Andrew M, states that the complete ancient flower of life is an inter-dimensional tool, a portal, a stargate and a window into what some call the inter space plains. This symbolized life and harmony. Geometry is everywhere we go, from angles, shapes, lines, and curves. (World Mysteries, 2013) Mankind craves the geometrical principles and to explain event occurring within the natural world, many individuals take inspiration from these geometric principles and use them in their daily lives. The Greek Philosopher, Plato, has said: "Geometry is knowledge of the eternally existent. Numbers are the highest degree of knowledge. It is knowledge itself"

## Fractals

A Fractal is a curve or a geometric figure, which has the same statistics of each part and is equally the same as a whole. A geometric pattern that is repeated (iterated) at ever smaller (or larger) scales to produce (self-similar) irregular shapes and surfaces that cannot be represented by classical (Euclidian) geometry. (Dictionary.com)

This has been incorporated in our sculpture and is an immense reinforcement to what we are trying to convey. Our disks are fractals and even though we have made them in different sizes, the shapes still remain the same and they do all still connect together when spinning, it has the ability to create that pattern of the infinity development of lines and forms while rotating.

### Spiral

Spirals are one of the oldest symbols, this symbolizes growth and evolution. The spiritual meaning behind this is generally around expansion and due to it being connected to a circle, this represents a constant change in many forms and this connects to the concept of the circle of life as it develops and contains the same principles of humans developing.

Fractal has been developed into a sculpture similarly to convey spirituality. From prototyping, we found that having colour and changing the idea of “all natural elements” we decided to try and use bright colours to change the views on these wooden sculptures for it to be shown in a different perspective. Spirituality includes a belief in a quest to a sacred meaning.

“Spirituality can be thought of as the ‘active ingredient’ of major world religions (and some humanistic ideologies too). Why not think of the spiritual dimension as a kind of adventure playground, a place to learn in and have fun, a place in which to extend yourself, to grow?”. (PSYCHOLOGY TODAY, 2011) Fractal has been developed to be based around spirituality, for humans to connect and interact with the sculpture. We designed this piece to create a stimulating and surreal experience for the audience. This could be considered for settings in places such as art, light festivals. (<https://wanderlust.com/esp/festivals/>), Lux Light Festival (<https://www.lux.org.nz>) and Luminate Festival (<http://www.luminatefestival.co.nz/>).

Fractal is designed to be exhibited in the dark, so the viewers could have the full experience and see the patterns glow as they move. The colours all have a sort of symbolism, which is connected to nature. Green, symbolizes nature and growth (Project, S., Bourn, J., & Bourn, J. (2011), blue symbolizes sky, water and the balance (Project, S., Bourn, J., & Bourn, J. (2011), pink signifies care, love, and compassion (Color-Meanings.com.(2013), and orange represents the brightness in life, like sun and fire (Morton, J. (2017).

## Conceptual Statement

This semester I was purely going to focus on making an installation evolving around kinetic art. Though since it is our last semester of the final year, I just decided to team up with Amy and Karen and work together on making a physical handcrafted sculpture. This was a good idea because I wanted to stay away from coding this semester and only work with a hands-on DIY project.

This project has been changed drastically in terms of the concept idea and overall physical artefact. Initially, the idea was to make some sort of an installation that involves around the ideas of manipulation and changing the perception of colours, shapes, and forms. This was inspired by viewing Maggie West's project, *Flora* (Pinterest, 2017). This was a good starting point personally because we were going to be focusing purely perception and how the audience could change their thinking on the subject matter. The whole idea was to play around with many floral shapes, sizes, forms and most importantly colour. Because then we would have to give the audience a different approach to seeing these things. The idea from that then changed into playing with people's mind and making them basically view a physical artefact using words, but it's a portrait and they have to be able to read the picture out, there is only text, colour and audio. This was just to test their sense of reality, we came across this video and came up with a similar idea. ... "The video focuses on the fundamentals of natural laws and laws of nature themselves"... (Words. (2017)).

This was a very interesting project that I personally did like to experiment with, though the lack of skills and time period of the physical artefact, made it hard for us to image accomplishing a project like that in time. Though we did have difficulties trying to move away with this idea and needed to take a break from all the final artefact. The problem with us was that we lacked in not having enough research and thought put in it, as to why we are making this and what are the connections. We went on a mini adventure to an area surrounded by trees, mountains and waterfalls. After the trip, we discussed and reflected on our experiences and what we all took from it. I felt extremely calm and connected to the trees, as walking past them, having the waterfalls sound also made the experience very soothing. The one thing that I noticed that when I did look at a landscape view of the overall scene. It just looked so complete and if I was to take an element of the picture, e.g., the trees or the water it would have ruined the experience though could have created a different perception towards looking at nature like that. I also realized how important the connection is between nature and a human being, thinking about that we started to feel like many natural things actually resemble human features. E.g. the branches on trees and veins on the leaves essentially are similar to veins on a human being. From there on we decided to build our ideas on how we are all connected and played around with the "Circle of Life" concept. Therefore, we decided to extend this idea and focus on a physical artefact which involved patterns, shapes and forms.

Starting another idea was again very hard. We commenced by looking for inspirations and came across David Roy, who is a kinetic sculpture artist. His sculptures are very mesmerizing to look at and the overall experience that I found while viewing them made me calm and relaxed, just through the simple way of the mechanical functions that are supporting the sculptures to move in such slow motion. One thing that he states about his work is that asymmetric sculpture are more interesting and are pushing the boundaries of going in different direction, and to me this is amazing. I liked the idea of opposite directions, and we could take that of a well-known view of accepting and adapting different ways of thinking/opposite ideas is a good thing because we all do connect very well with different if we go in different routes. This inspired to express our project by thinking about shapes, forms, patterns and motion altogether.

We wanted to create a simple artefact that has all the necessary elements included, such as patterns, different forms, colour and the motion. We started with just simply designing patterns as a prototype. I drew up some designs but they were very intricate which was hard for us to work with because the 3d printer wouldn't cut them properly. After many prototypes, we were still struggling to image this whole sculpture to be visualized as a whole sculpture. Our ideas for the final installation was to have an overall perception of the sculpture looking like a globe, it would form by positioning many disks in layers so when we see from far it's a circle. We were again over complicating things and realized that the disks wouldn't move if they were to be positioned in such ways. Karen decides to simplify the patterns and disks in the program to make it look more therapeutic and we wanted the audience to be calm while experiencing the sculpture. After that, we realized that using motors was a bad idea because our sculpture was very large and making all of the rings move in different speeds was out of our skill level. Thought I liked the idea of having it just plain and simple and making the audience connecting to the physical artefact by playing around with it. This would also link into our idea of connection, which links into the circle of life concept.

There are approximately 70 disks on the stand.

We were having a hard time deciding whether to keep the rings natural or colour them, Amy came up with a good idea of having neon paint and using a UV light to reflect the paint off once it's in the dark. We had tested some and it looked really bad, the overall colours were very bright and it just looked very bold and disturbing. Though hadn't actually tested the light with it. So we didn't experience the lights with the sample disks and when we did the trial in the studio, we found that it just creates a very different experience in the dark when put all together and it was a good experience that many people would like to connect with. It was just a spiritual and surreal sculpture to look at and another way of showing how different colours are formed while the disks move.

In conclusion, I have really enjoyed working on this project, I got to learn and experience with a laser cutting machine and had to work on a hand on the DIY project. This final semester was a positive experience with a fun but stressful project to work with. I finally got to use my artistic side in terms of designing and painting which I hadn't done in years. Developed to understand the importance of communication and collaboration with the fellow team members.

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