

PARALLELUM

A bio-capsule concept where the user is bestowed restorative benefits while giving a consumption break to the planet.

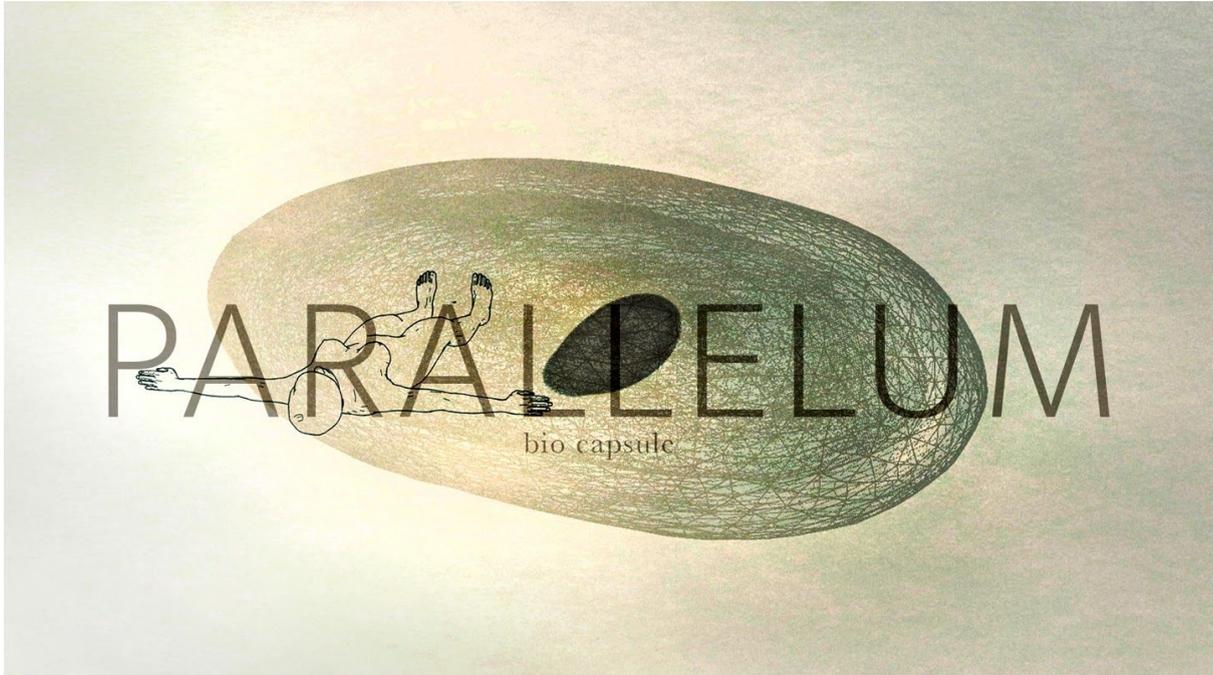


Image 1. [VIMEO LINK](#) AND HERO IMAGE OF THE PARALLELUM PROJECT

PARALLELUM is the story of rebuilding empathy between human and non-human. A speculative video work based on research at Royal College of Art which began by analysing concerns in forestry. As a result of finding conflicting elements in the social perception of human beings as not belonging to nature, this work intends to flip the perspective by placing the subject in a passive position, allowing them to 'charge' their vital strength by simple symbiosis. Absorbing nutritional properties, divesting the environment of the individual's pollution and consumption.

There is a compelling argument that mitigating climate change by reducing deforestation could offer a significant peace dividend, depending on how it is done.¹

¹ Janani Vivekananda, "Forests Can Help Make War Or Peace", International Alert, 2014
<<https://www.international-alert.org/blogs/forests-can-help-make-war-or-peace>> [Accessed 31 May 2020].

PARALLELUM isolation bio-capsule is a nutrient space for two weeks of hibernation. As oxygen and all the necessary particles are delivered to your organism, your body function will slow down to a minimum. Plant-based, antimicrobial properties from different tree species can be chosen, for example *Pinus Sylvestris* [Scots Pine] mode, which brings respiratory and immune system benefits. A hydration system will absorb water into the body and the bio-pod itself will be in a constant process of dissolving. Stress levels and toxins will be eliminated, vitals will return to the optimal capacities of a newborn.

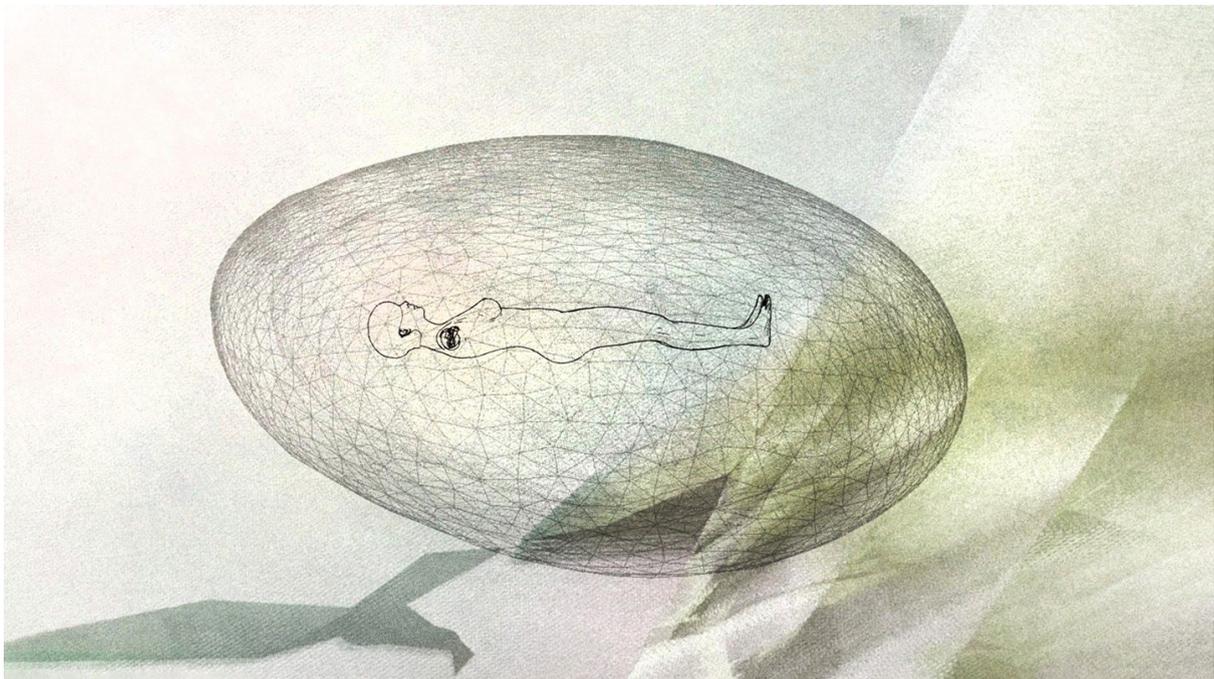


Image 2. STILL FROM THE VIDEO PARALLELUM

Experience a parallel world of letting go of control while being protected at the same time. Like a seed in the soil waiting for its time to grow, like a baby in the womb. The concept is inspired by the idea of stillness, nourishment and the symbiotic relationship and non-hierarchical collaboration between species.



Image 3. SHOWCASE OF: 1:1 PINE SEED, MINIATURE OF BIO-CAPSULE, REMAINS OF BIO-CAPSULE

Human disconnection from nature results in non-empathetic, unsustainable actions, such as deforestation and the extinction of irreplaceable natural habitats. Local forestry conditions can create social imbalance and impact both peace and conflict. *In conflict-affected areas, availability and access to forest resources can either make conflict worse or contribute to peace. If you accept the case, as many do, that the impacts of climate change make it harder to build peace.*² Paradoxically this work is not about its human subject, but its symbiotic relationship with nature - a valid lesson for society builders.



Image 4. [VIMEO LINK](#) with password: **PARA**, VISUALISATION OF VIDEO AND OBJECTS DISPLAYS

Design is very often guilty of delivering admirable but harmful ‘waste’ for an over-consumptive market on an overcrowded planet, while extracting resources, creating tensions and affecting climate change. Trying to become a responsible designer of the future, I feel an obligation to design for subtraction rather than pollution. At the same time, I want to develop practices that cherish the ecosystem that we cohabit with other organic and inorganic matter. What is needed is a reasoning of the products, services and experiences within local environments, an understanding of how these impact social injustice and create conflict, giving us all their inherent benefits while also improving life and coexistence.

² Janani Vivekananda, "Forests Can Help Make War Or Peace", International Alert, 2014
<<https://www.international-alert.org/blogs/forests-can-help-make-war-or-peace>> [Accessed 31 May 2020].

AFFILIATIONS

Royal College of Art, Design Products unit 'Matters of Concern' dedicated to developing design propositions based on material awareness led by Dr Delfina Fantini van Ditmar.

EXTERNAL LINKS

PARALLELUM on Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/424165096>

Exhibition Proposal Project with password: PARA

<https://vimeo.com/435784958>

PROJECT HISTORY

Part of the “BIO-PARALLELS” lecture at the Tischner European University conference, **In/visible Design of Social Experience 2020**

James Dyson Award 2020 entry level

MIT Museum's Life Sciences exhibition [2022] passed pre-selection level

CONTACT DETAILS

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Product and concept design practitioner, visual artist and non-practising art historian. BA cum laude at Domestic Design, Postgraduate MA student in **Design Products** at **Royal College of Art** in London. **Tate Modern: Staged on Screen** invitee with video performance art summer 2019. Special Prize winner of **Grand Challenge 2020** organised by **Royal College of Art** with **CERN** and **Logitech**. **Creative Conscience 2020** award winner.

Winner of the **Art and Fashion Forum by Grazyna Kulczyk 2015** [Poland] in the Fashion Jewellery category and awarded a summer course at **Central Saint Martins**, Speaker at the **Design INDABA** conference in Cape Town [RSA] in March 2017.