



Figure 57: The current setup with a floaty appearance. It triggers ART and SRT, but does not evoke awe. Refining the appearance of the diver and building a bigger, full size prototype will be the next steps in developing it further.

Summary

This summary will cover the project in short, from its goal till conclusion. The project was initially broadly defined: develop a kinetic artwork that moves by changes in the environmental air pressure, to make its viewers aware of the connection between humans and nature, and present this as an advice to the client. To narrow this down, research was done into why this connection is so important. It turns out that natural environments can bring a number of health benefits. Biophilia hypothesises humans need nature around them to thrive. Part of it, stress reduction theory (SRT) states that natural environments provide a calming effect on humans, while attention restoration theory (ART) theorises that natural environments restore focussed attention in people.

Next to this, research into the behaviour of air pressure returned that we are working with small amounts of energy, below one Joule, and that changes occur over the timespan of a couple of days.

Hence changes are slow, and only noticeable if the artwork is viewed regularly.

With this in mind, office workers were found as the target group. They often experience stress, have to focus and enter/leave their building multiple times per week. So if the artwork was placed in an office lobby it had most potential of achieving its goal. Awe was discovered as an emotion that evokes connectedness among people, hence could bring humans and nature closer. It requires vastness and a need for accommodation to be experienced to be felt. This gives to clear design direction, alongside the client's wishes for the piece to express openness, include natural variation and show the transiency of nature.

The result is a diver system that floats up and down in water in a vase, powered by the changes in environmental air pressure. Its appearance is flowy and light, resembling some sea creature that is floating in water. It is designed to

capture the viewers eye and trigger SRT, ART and awe. The setup can be seen in Figure 57.

User testing showed that people did experience a reduction in stress, found it easy to look at the diver, restoring their focus and reviewed it as open. Awe was not triggered, and further improvements need to be made to do so. Since awe is evoked by vastness, which is dependent on size, it is difficult to test for it with scale models, so a full size model needs to be created to verify the emotion of awe.

The final advice is that the art piece has potential to be successful, but more testing and further development is needed. It has many facets, that could all only be tested marginally in the time scope of this project. Improving the appearance of the diver-fabric and vase, and building a full scale setup would be the next logical iteration.

Thank you for reading this report, I hope you enjoyed.