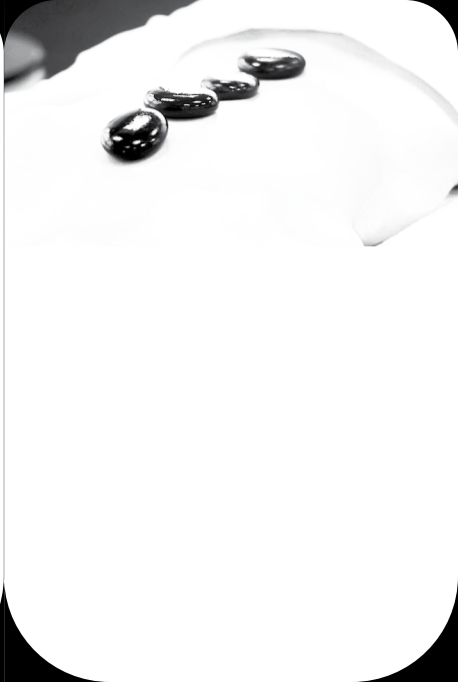


Hold Me Now

Feel and Touch in an Unreal World



0  
love



a

the indefinite article : lasting for an  
unknown or unstated length of time



affect

to touch the feelings of someone (else), to pretend to have feelings and feel (something), to assume (something, pretentiously) to make an impression (on others)



amenity

pleasant, desirable, and functional  
quality of a place or person



art

antiretroviral therapy – drugs that slow down the spread of hiv : human immunodeficiency virus – and its multiplication within the body



autonomy

may occur after a successful liberation from foreign rule and a form of self-control can be established (of a person or people)





autopsy

a posthumous surgery performed for the purpose of establishing cause of death and possible actions leading up to it



bareback

to have sex without a condom



bestial pleasures

taste and touch



blackness

to feel this is to be among the ones  
who cannot own, the ones who have  
nothing and who, in having nothing,  
have everything – a willingness  
to be in the space that has been  
abandoned by colonialism, by rule,  
by order



blindness

unable to see because of injury, disease, or congenital condition, and confused with those unwilling or avoiding to acknowledge something problematic



body

any thing with a volume, and able, seemingly or suggested, to act together as a whole, as one. you will find the body in this lexicon specifically as being plural, able to be present in different places at once, and porous : accessed by an environment and entities (ideas, thoughts, stimuli, air, food, etc.) considered external to our body – a body is always somewhere, and cannot be isolated



button

button it – a way of telling someone  
to stop talking



call

a call-to-order and an interruption





care

from old high german : *chara* 'grief, lament', *charon* 'grieve' and old norse : *kǫr* 'sickbed' – to care for someone or something is inherently associated with mutually inclusive feelings of pain



chemistry

a scientific field dealing with identifying (the composition of substances or) bodies, as well as the complex interactions between them ; also a feeling of energy between people



click

a kind of chemistry, feeling a  
connection



connection

a relationship ; in an informal sense  
specifically to connect with a  
narcotics supplier ; from late middle  
english ' be united physically '



cosmic hobo

someone who is homeless beyond  
conception



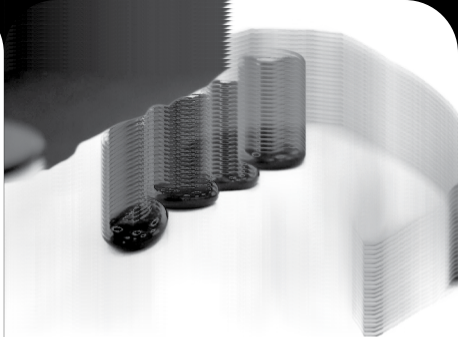
dispossession

a kind of homelessness we seek  
and embrace



e

short for electronic (digital) : electric :  
energy : ecstasy



e-motion

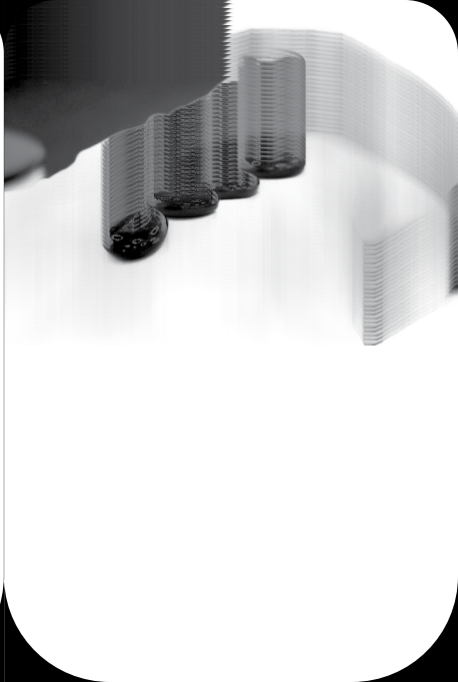
a movement of e





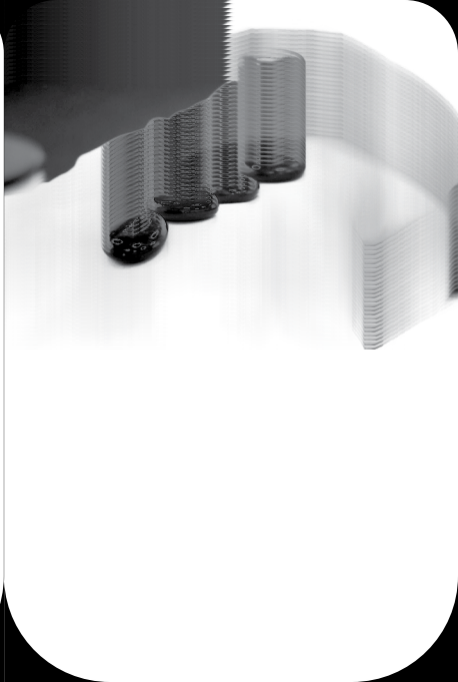
empathy

feeling for someone else as a way of  
drawing near



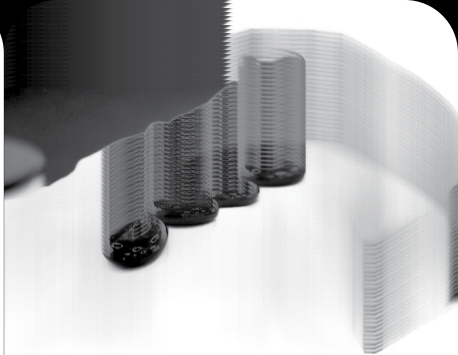
energy

bliss



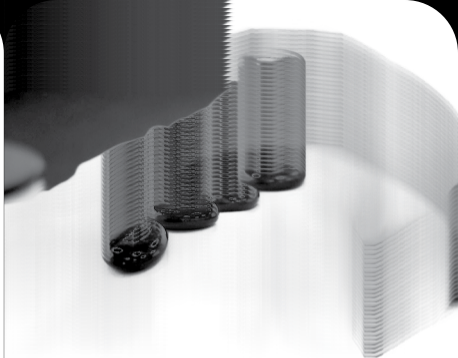
entanglement/s

relation/s of obligation



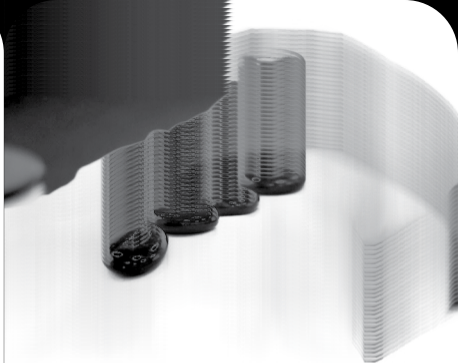
ethicality

a form of hospitality to the stranger  
threaded through oneself



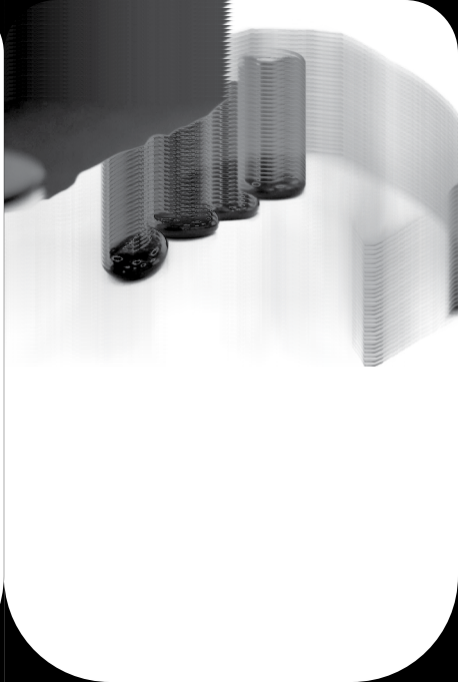
factory

place that produces objects for  
consumption ; in such a dominant  
and forceful manner that its rhythm  
can be felt everywhere



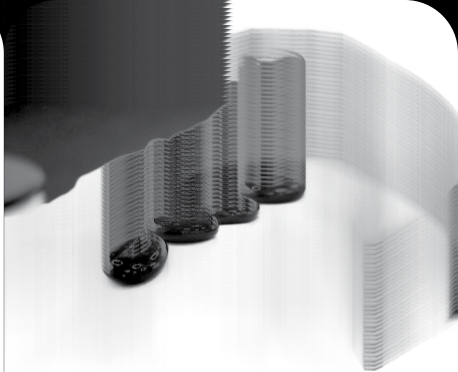
feel

often only the first part of the english  
expression is used : seeing is  
believing, but feeling is the truth



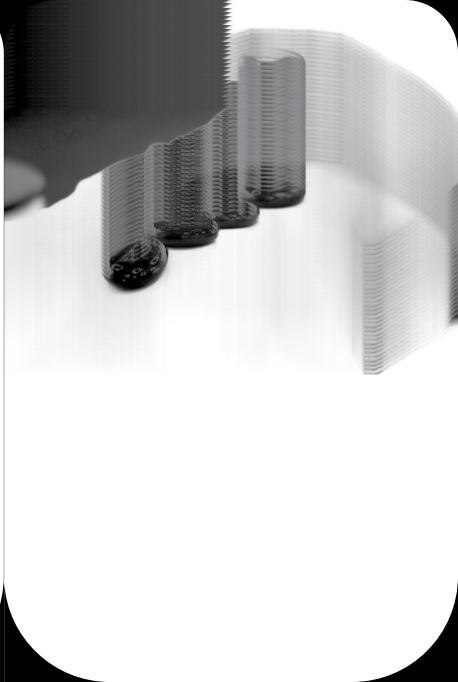
feeling

feeling the feeling : or rather feelin'  
the feelin', lyrics by black  
shadow – asking about a way of  
feeling through others, a feel for  
feeling others feeling you



finger

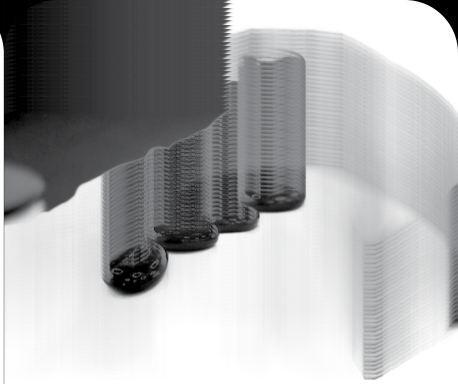
putting your finger on something is a  
means to identify something exactly





gaga-dancing

overexcited or irrational, typically as a result of infatuation or excessive enthusiasm, mentally confused, senile – form of dancing



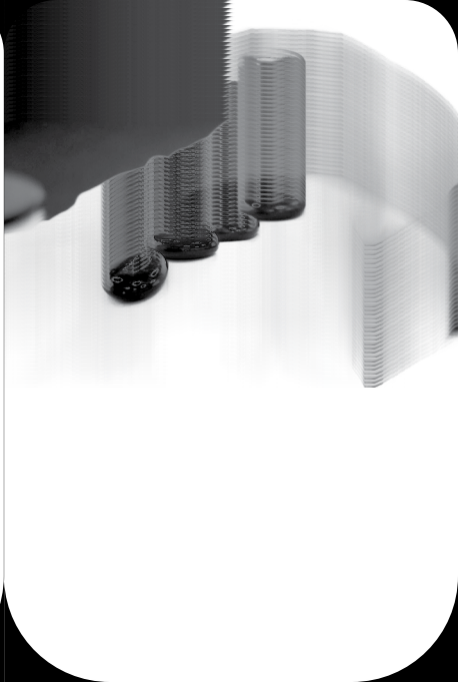
greedoids

are possessive individuals of  
the algorithmic world (that shit is  
genocidal)



guts

the belly and the organs held within  
or without the body and holding the  
essence or character of something



gym

a place for physical education and  
naked exercise



## haptics

from greek *haptikos* 'able to touch or grasp'; we are looking at both external and internal sensations, as well as not necessarily speaking solely of human sensations and including objects and environment – the haptic or hapticality can be used alongside aesthetics and affect (affective media)



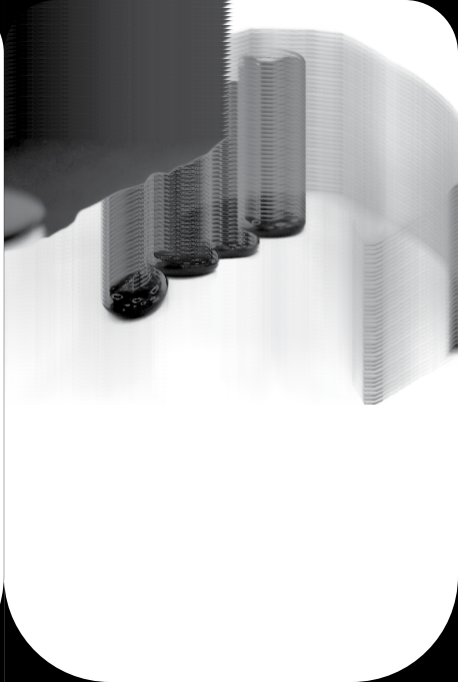
heart

hollow muscular organ



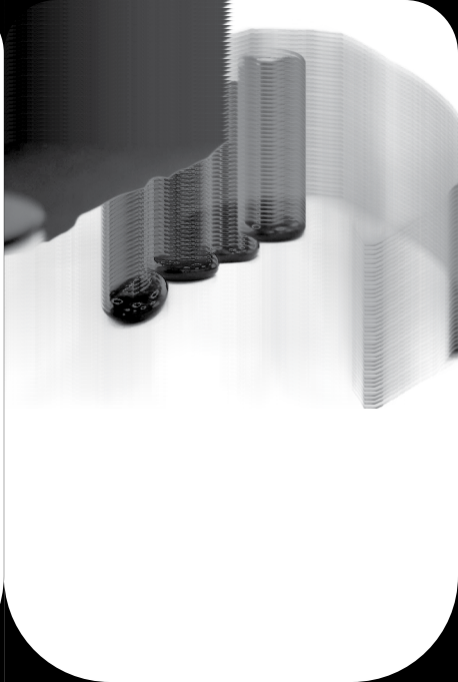
i

suffix forming the plural in latin



-ility

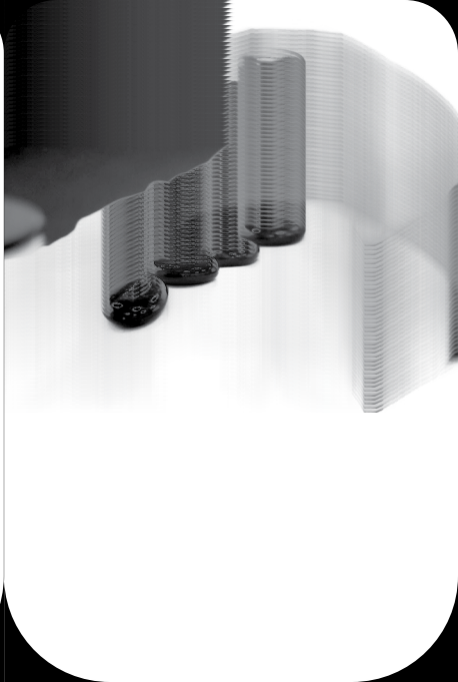
a contemporary variation on (name)  
calling a trend an -ism





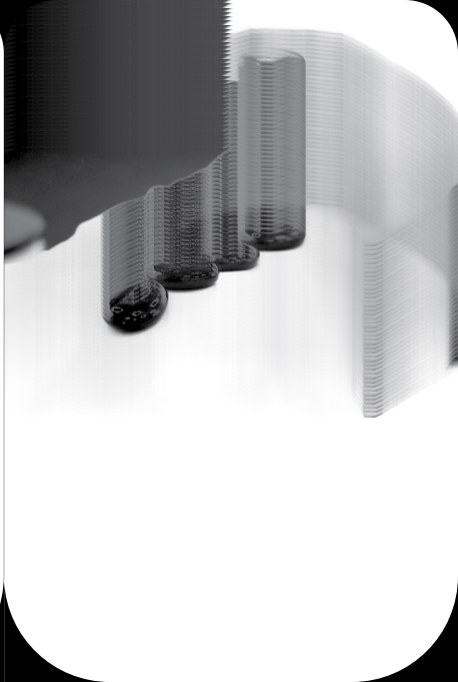
immaterial labour

could easily be mistaken for life



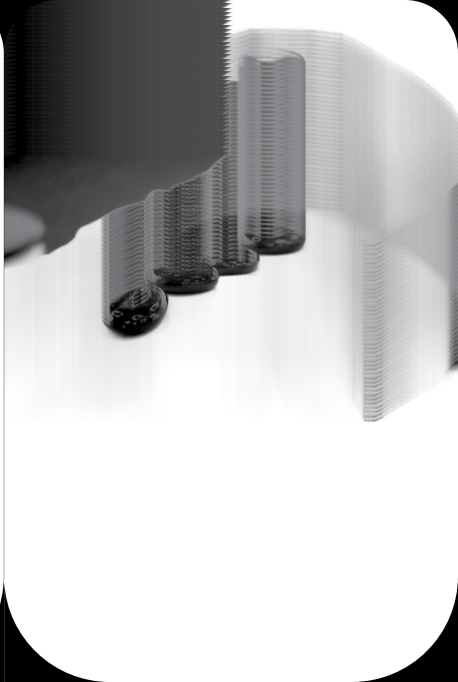
immaturity

there's a kind of fear in the university  
around something like  
amateurism – immaturity, pre-  
maturity, not graduating, not being  
ready somehow ; not being ready,  
is also a kind of openness to being  
affected by others : dispossessed  
and possessed by others



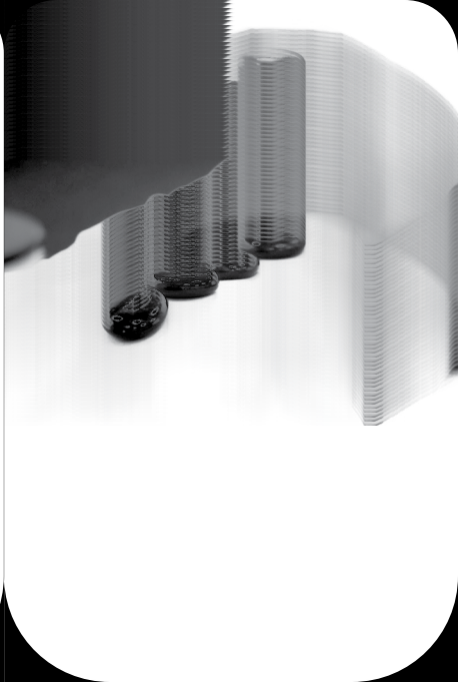
indeterminacy

undecided or virtual – not being one or the other ; an important concept to describe the radical openness of matter itself, completely undoing the way we conceive of identity and being



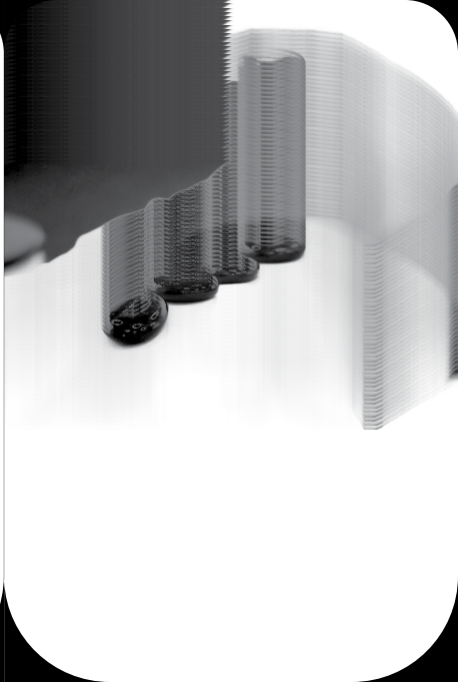
infectious

like an open wound ; likely to be  
transmitted to (living) organisms  
through the environment



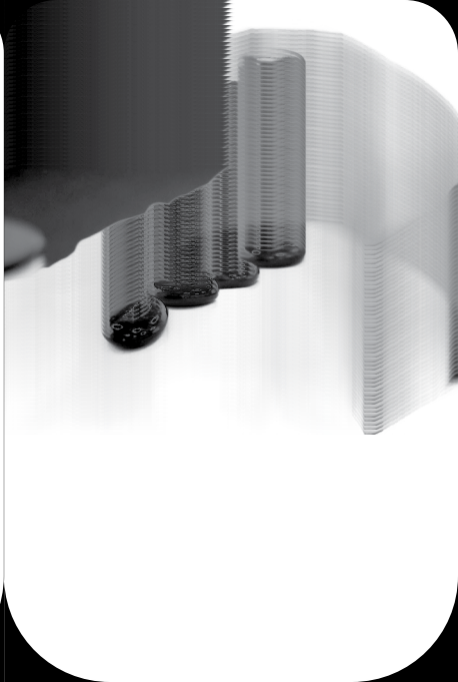
infinity

without end



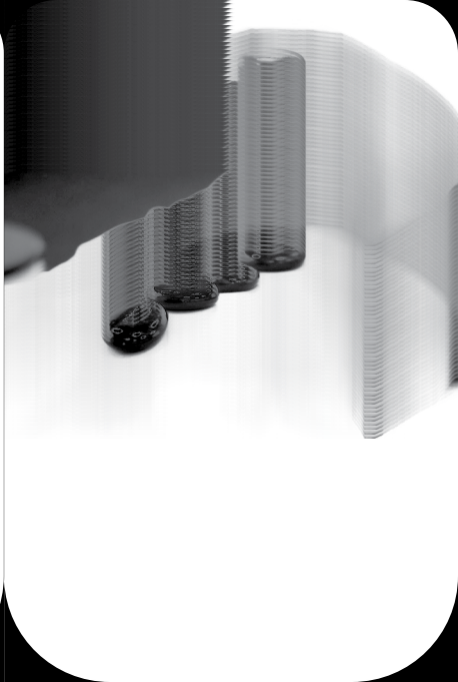
informal

not without a form but rather the giving of form to the already-social quality of time and space, which means that you can simultaneously be in more places, and be more than one, and that seeing things and hearing things is just a way of being with others



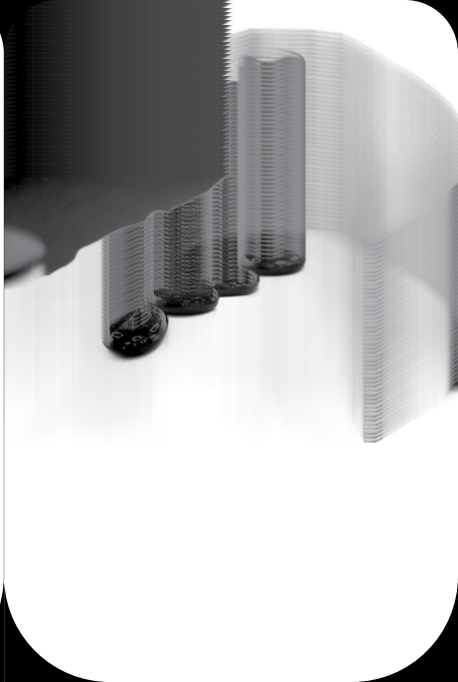
inhuman

our human actions lacking  
compassion ; humanity  
and inhumanity are both deeply  
contradictory notions – only  
the human can be called inhuman,  
effectively describing the absolute  
worst actions and qualities we  
can imagine



intimacy

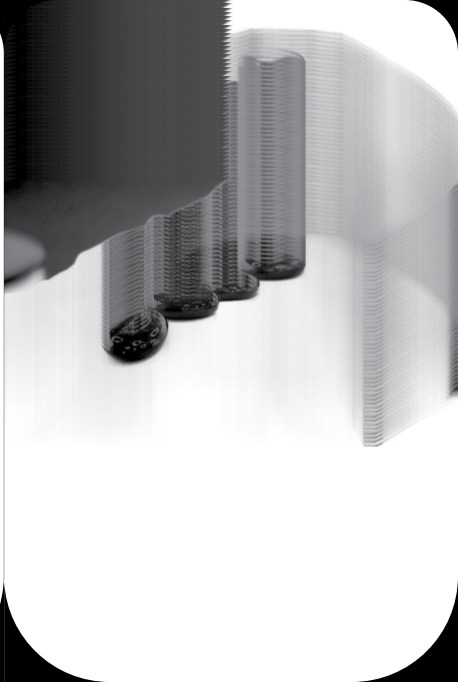
a kind of closeness that may scare  
you profoundly and yet you may long  
for intensely





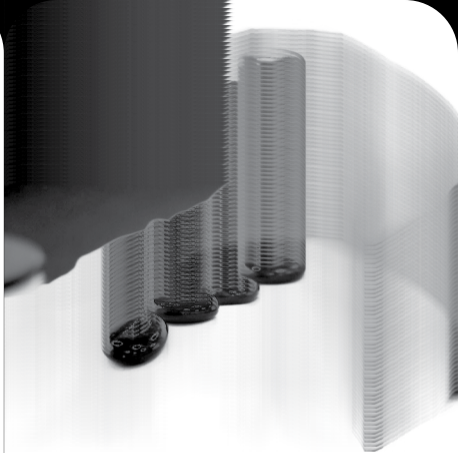
interface

to connect or communicate with a  
computer



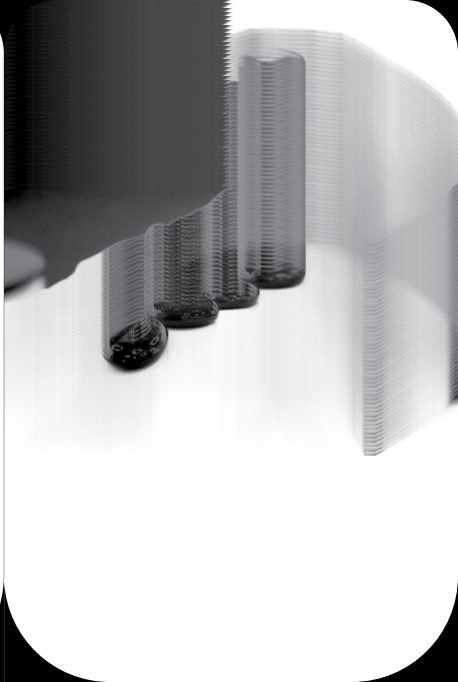
intoxication

when something else is taking over,  
assimilating your body to the degree  
you lose your mind or health over it,  
a form of poisoning



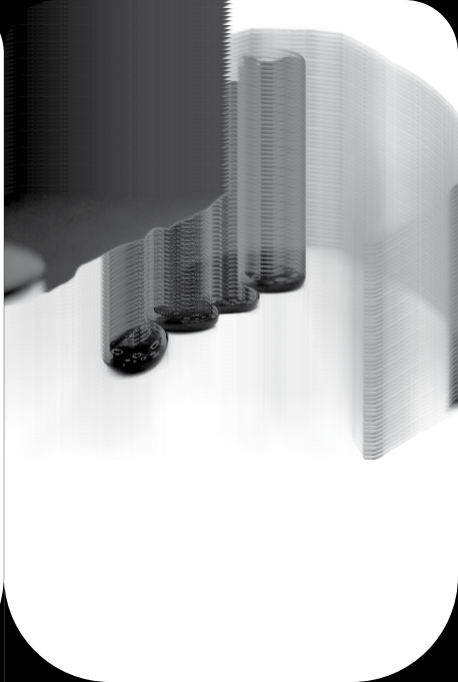
joystick

something in between flying an  
airplane and masturbating



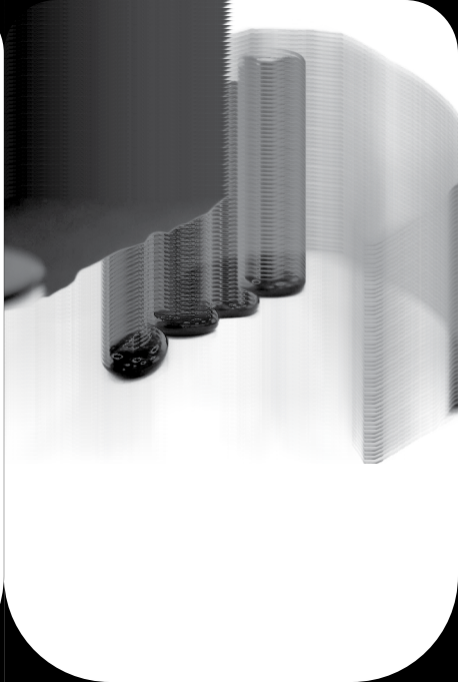
knowledge/s

can be produced and possess all  
kinds of ideological limits



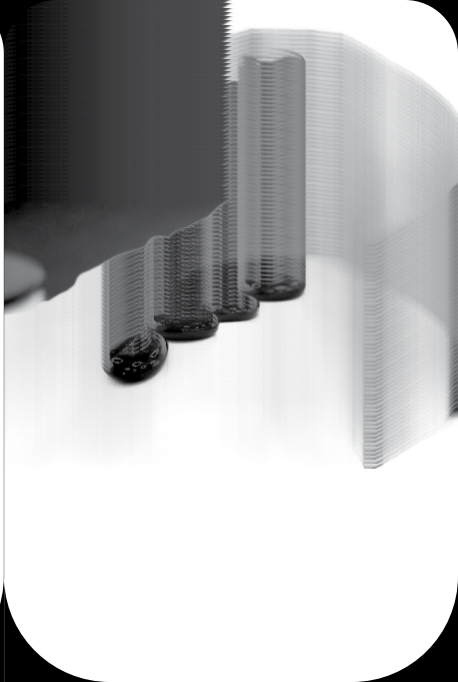
learn

to grow (older)



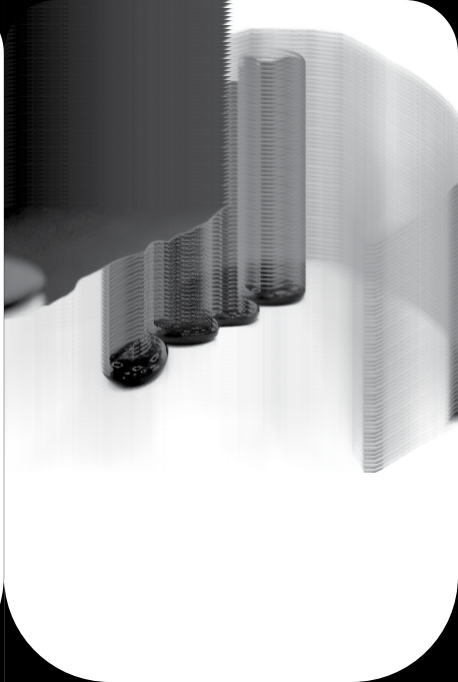
labour

a kind of rhythm that can be called to  
break and kill humans



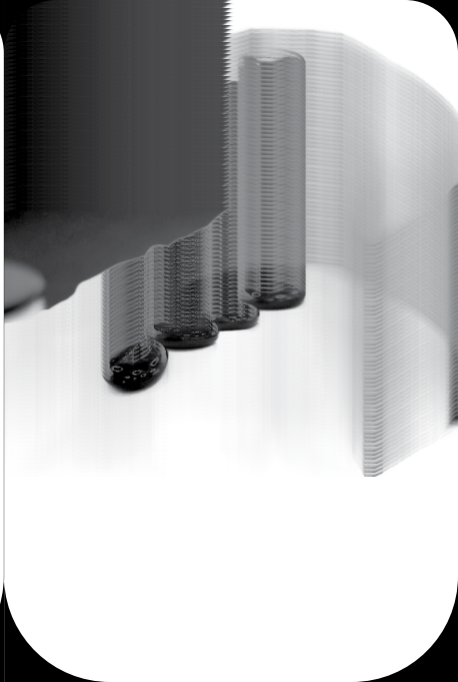
limbo

the art of limbo dance is a trinidadian dance that is performed at wakes, where for nine days the descendants of the dead pass, dancing horizontally, underneath a rope, or underneath someone's leg, performing the passage of the dead towards its new life (a kind of birth) ; and for the dancers to grow accustomed to the phantom-presence of the deceased



line

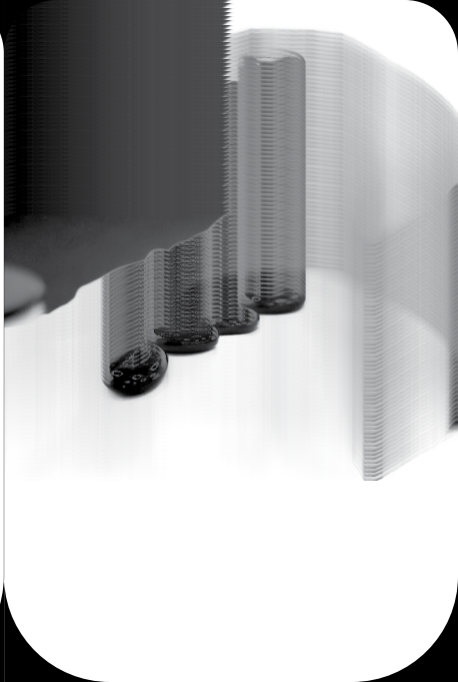
a metonym for the sequence of a production line created in fordism – a production line in which the same movements are made constantly in order to mass produce products for mass consumption





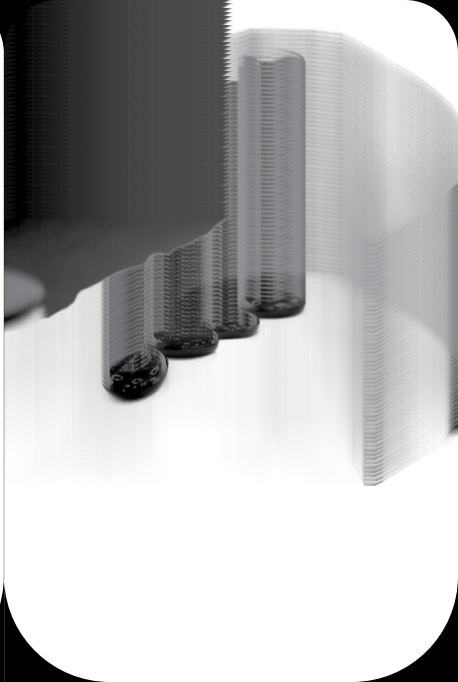
love

0



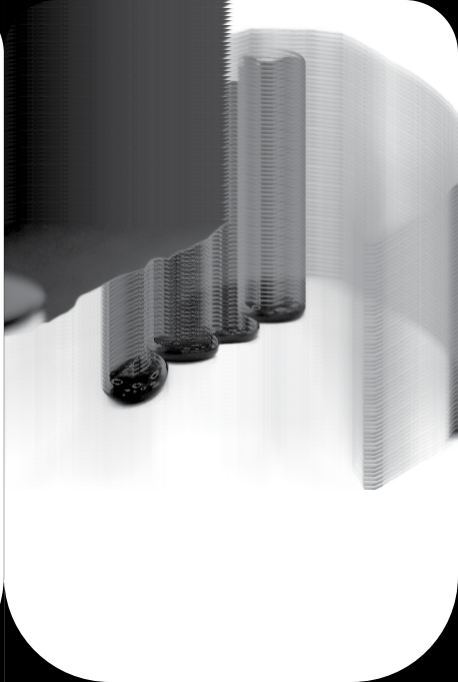
manual

that which is done by hand and on the spot ; often juxtaposed to automation, though within a production line there may be no difference between them



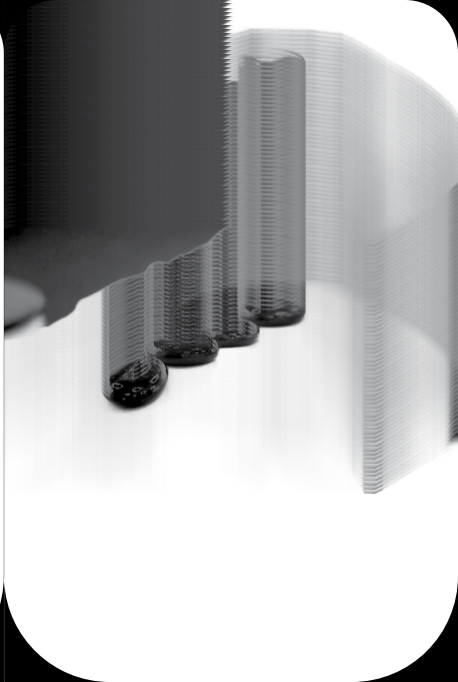
massage

from portuguese : massa 'dough'



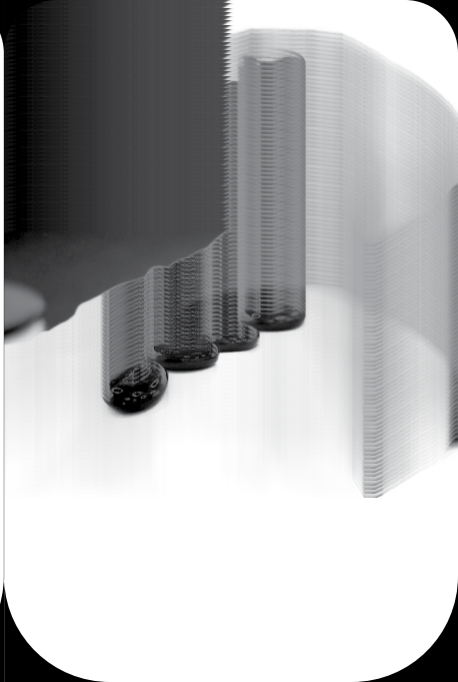
matter

is born, lives, and dies, though we  
tend to speak of matter as being  
lifeless



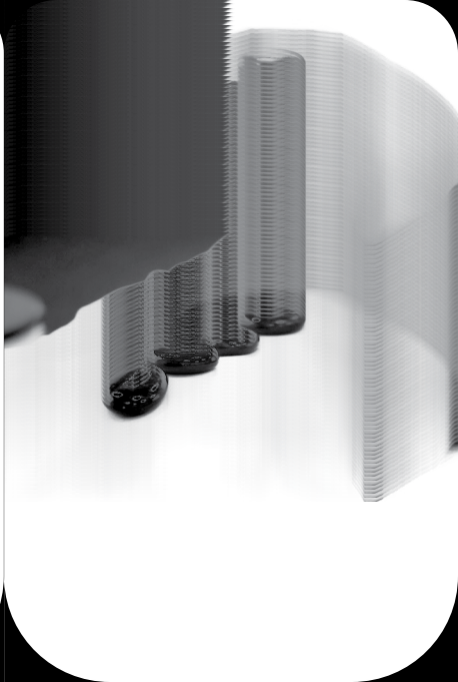
movement

a kind of change, usually physical or  
political



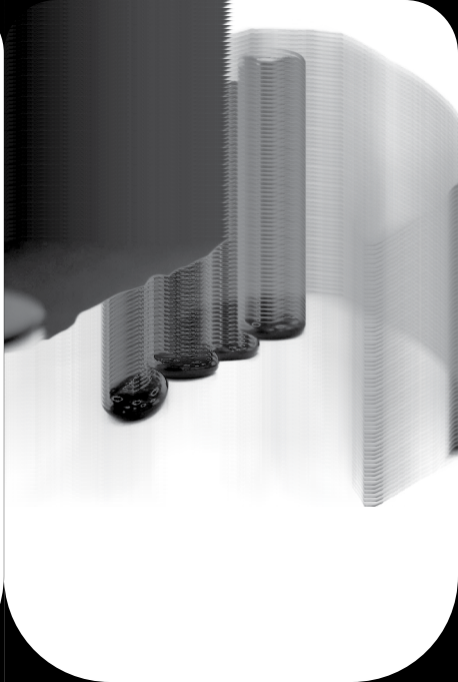
no

not ever



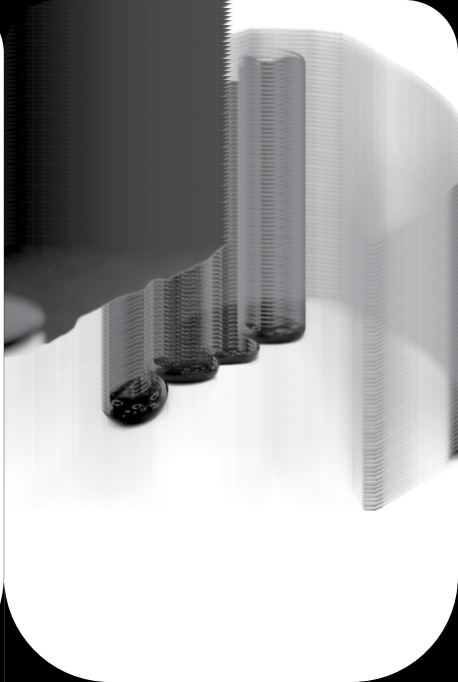
noose

a difficult situation, like a knot  
(pronounce : not)



nous

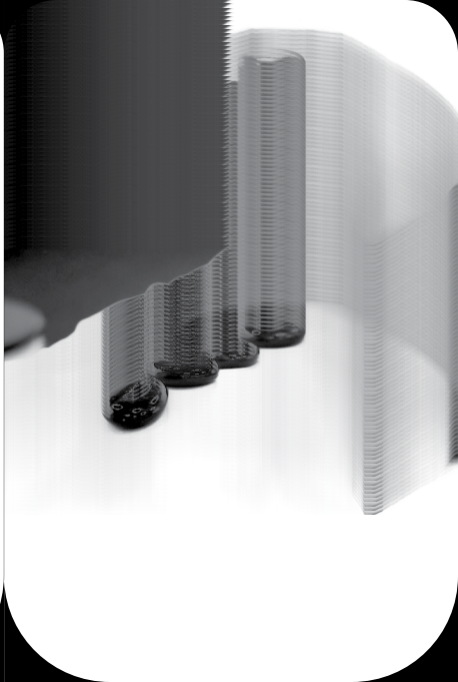
mind, intellect, common  
sense, practical intelligence  
(pronounce : noose)





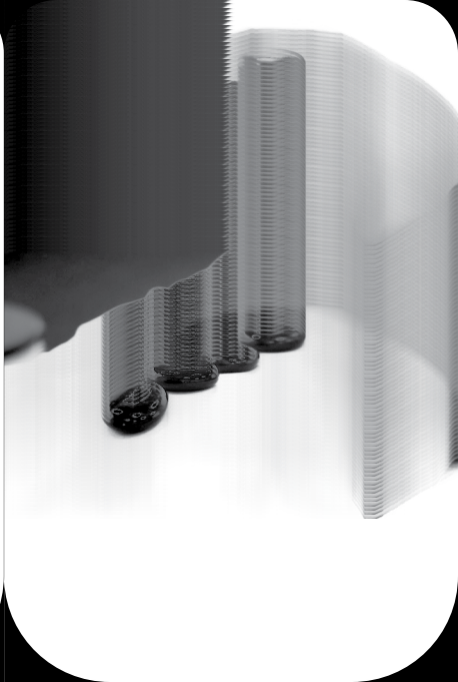
normativity

also heteronormativity : a deeply  
violent separation of what is  
considered a normal and abnormal  
way of living



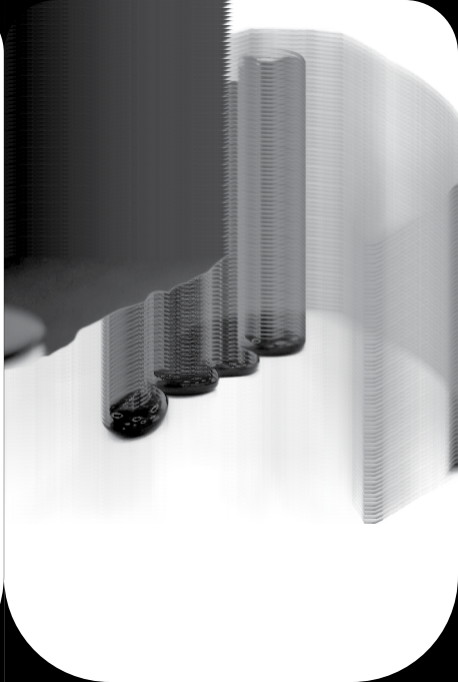
pain

hurt



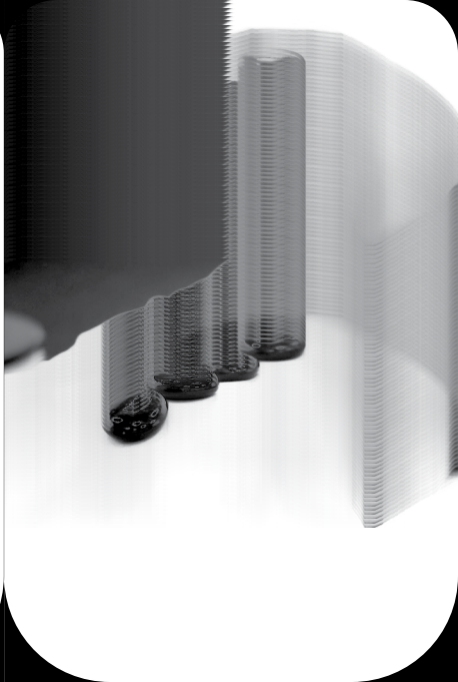
palpable

able to be touched or felt especially  
of a feeling or atmosphere ; feel,  
touch gently



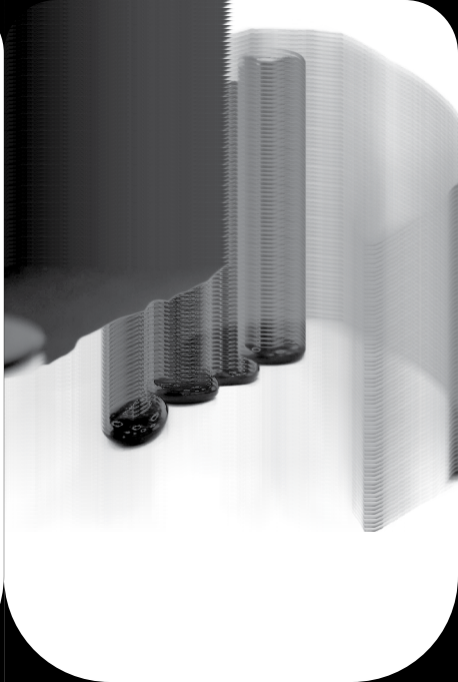
phantom pain

the possibility of feeling pain in a disconnected (through nerve damage) or amputated part of the body



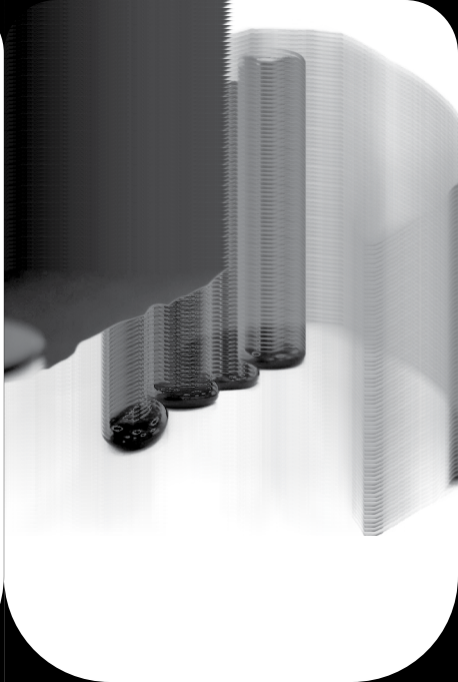
pinch (to)

remove to encourage bushy growth



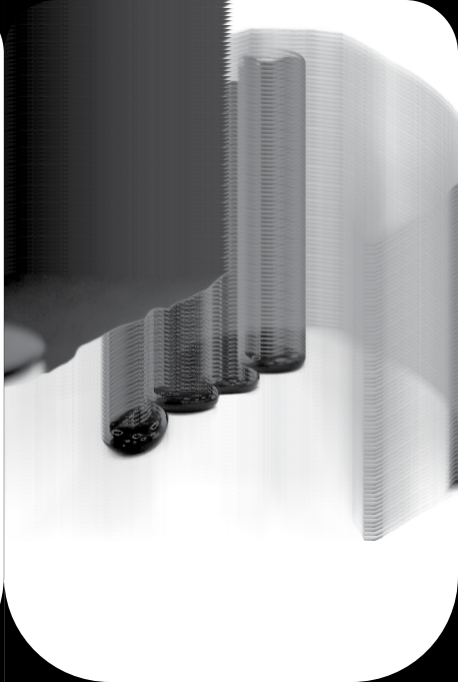
plethora

an excessive amount of a bodily  
fluid ; particularly blood



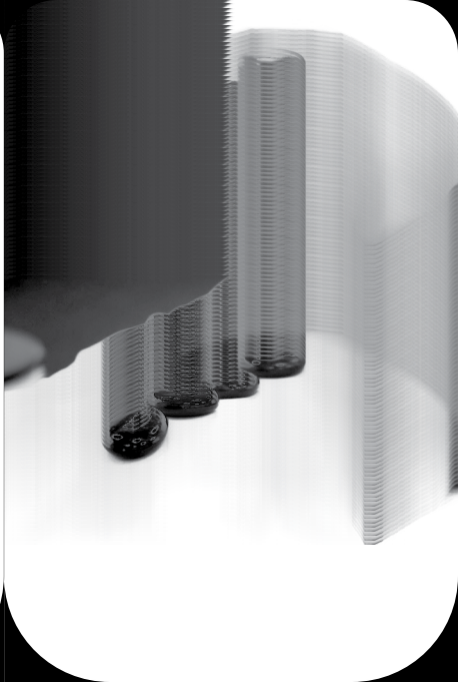
porosity

a kind of accessibility or openness,  
literally : having pores as minute  
openings as tiny passages



possession

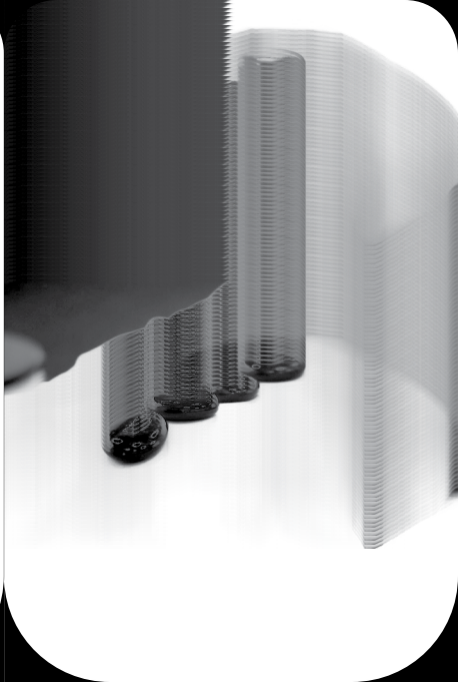
being controlled by something outside oneself such as a person, text, words, ideas, emotions, people, objects, materials, animals, thoughts, or a multitude of— a kind of occupation, and a historically gendered term





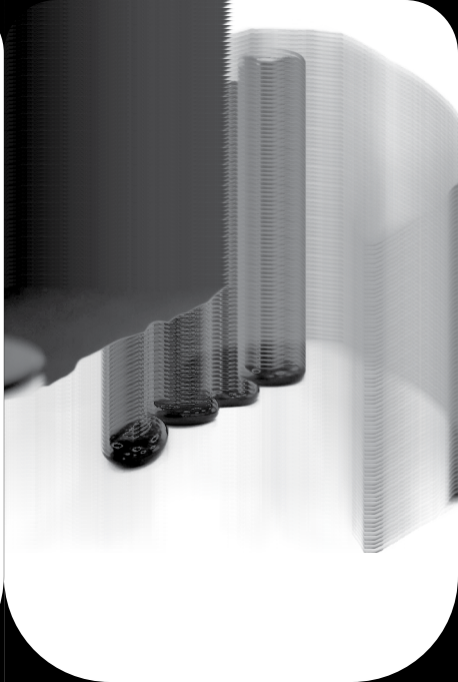
pressure

a feeling of urgency to perform  
within a certain timespan



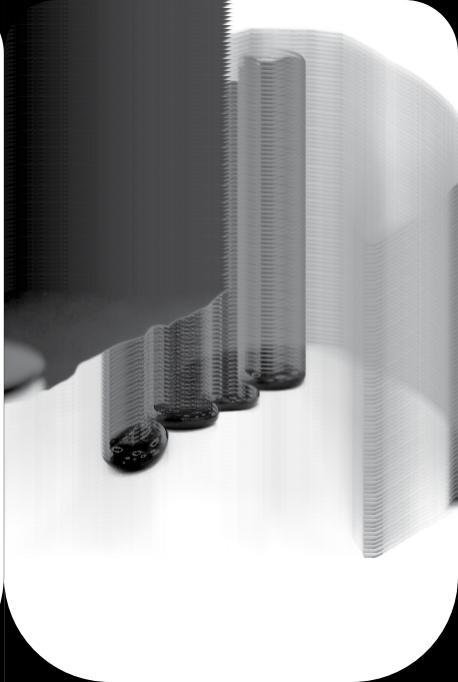
problem

a harmful or unwelcome situation  
and usually one that is difficult to  
solve



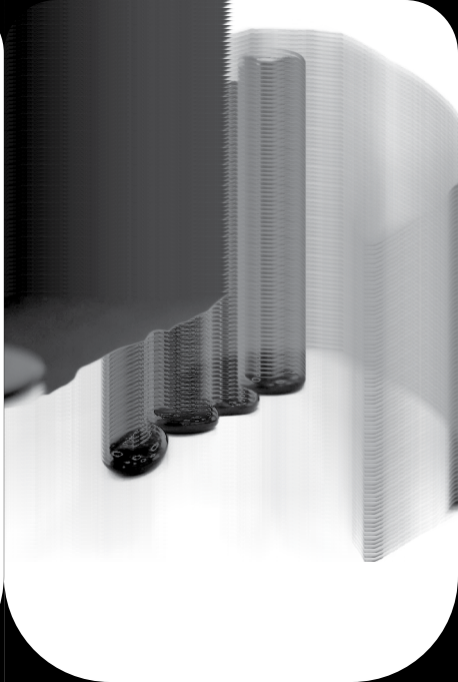
product

may look like a solution but often isn't



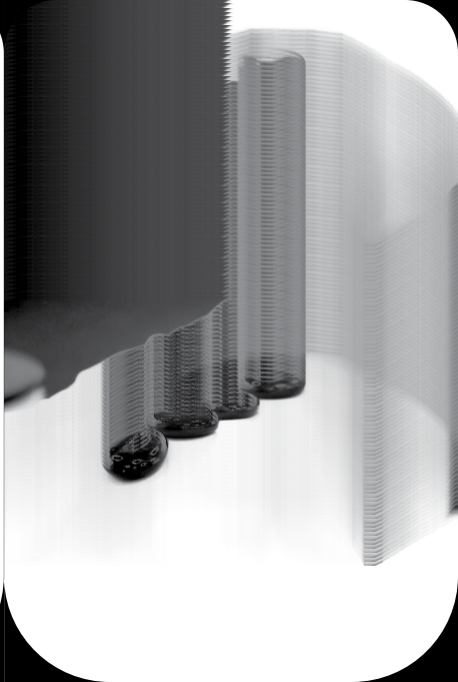
professionalization

why are you here ? to question  
without question ? or to refuse not to  
refuse to become a professional



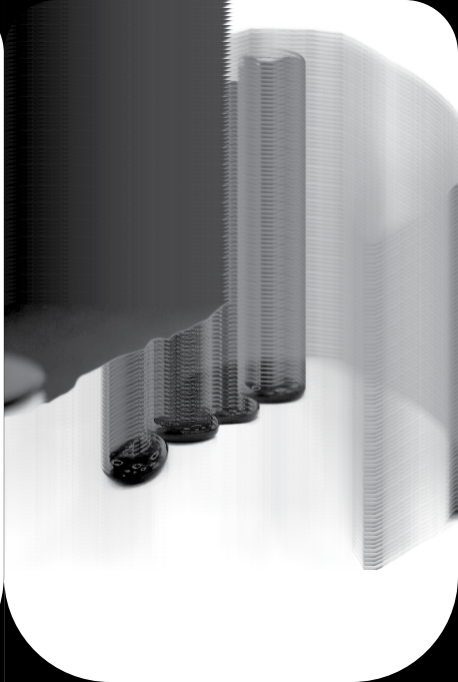
purge

to get rid of an unwanted feeling,  
memory, or condition, in a  
specifically physical way, often  
violently so, has a distinct religious  
christian connotation to purity



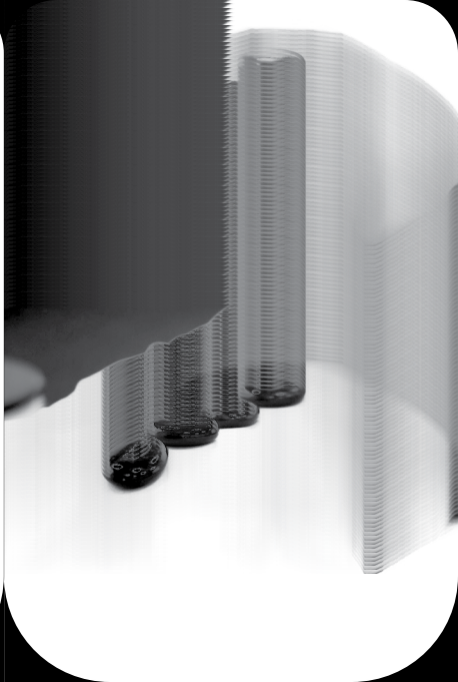
qi/ki/chi

life force, energy



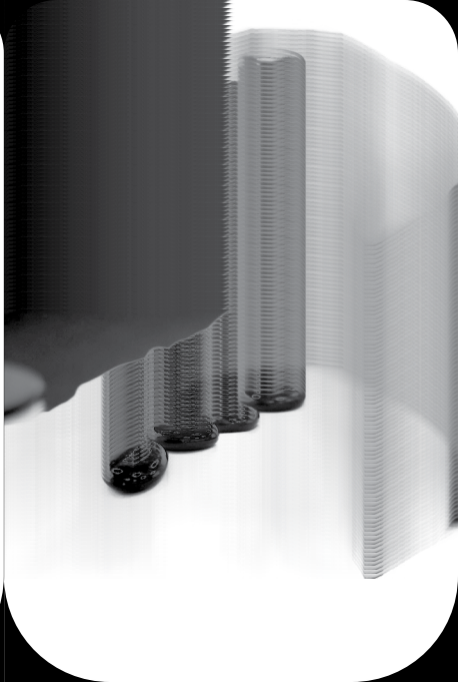
quantum field theory

radically deconstructs the foundations of classical physics by showing (theoretically) that the parts that make up matter are indeterminate or : virtual ; when we cannot identify these parts (particles, fields, voids) consequently this means that identity itself cannot be established



queer

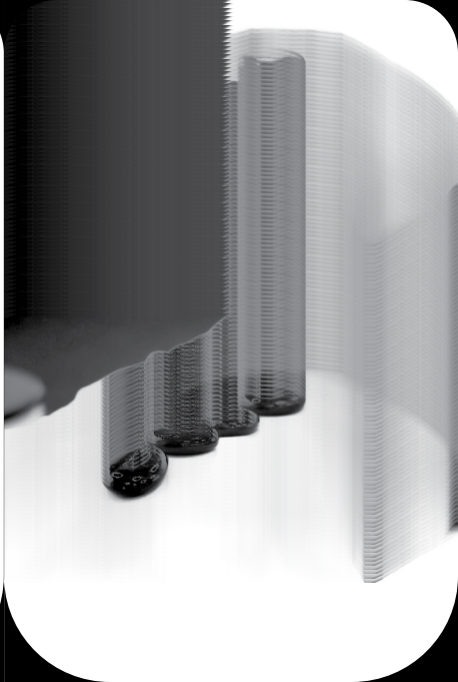
strange or odd – the stranger  
the better : a dutch expression :  
*hoe vreemder, hoe beter*





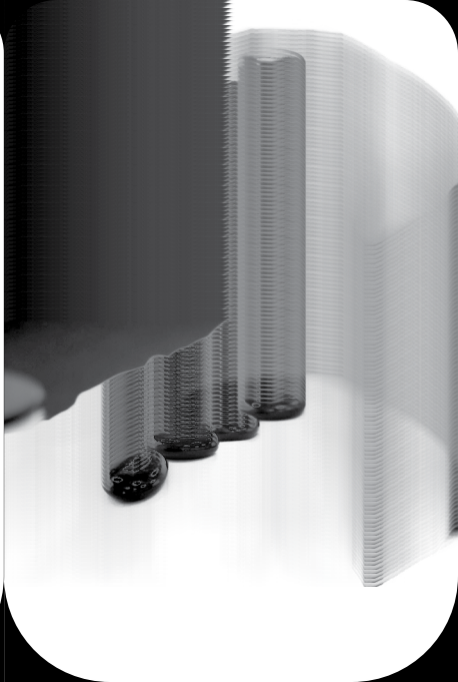
refusal

refusing the logic that stages refusal  
as such is not inactivity



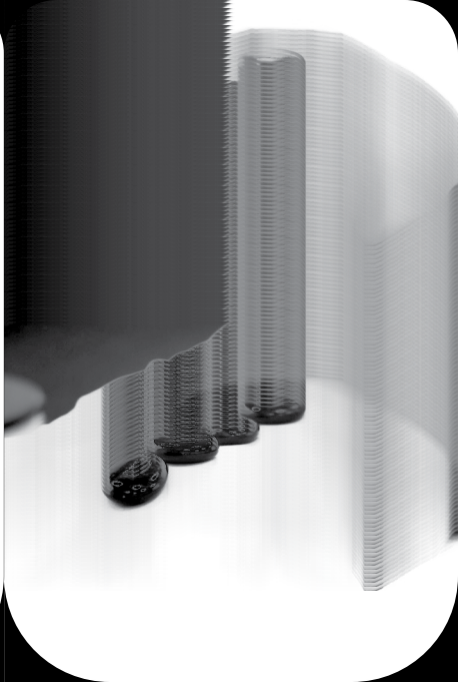
responsability

response-ability, the ability to respond is not an obligation that you choose but rather something we are born with and born into, preceding intention we call consciousness, and impossible to be solved like a calculable equation



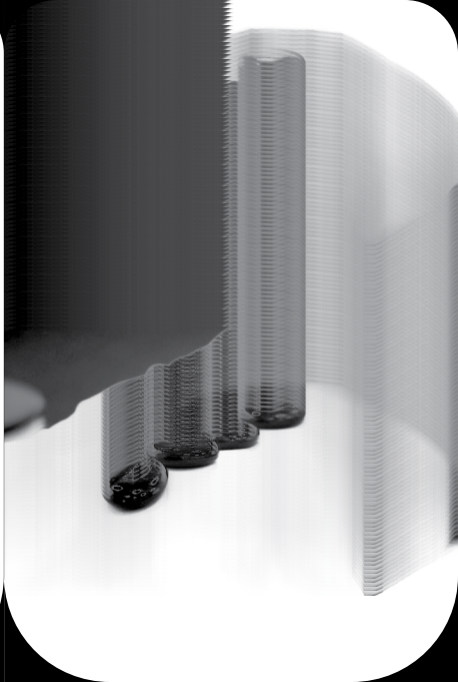
sclerotic

becoming unresponsive, losing the  
ability to adapt



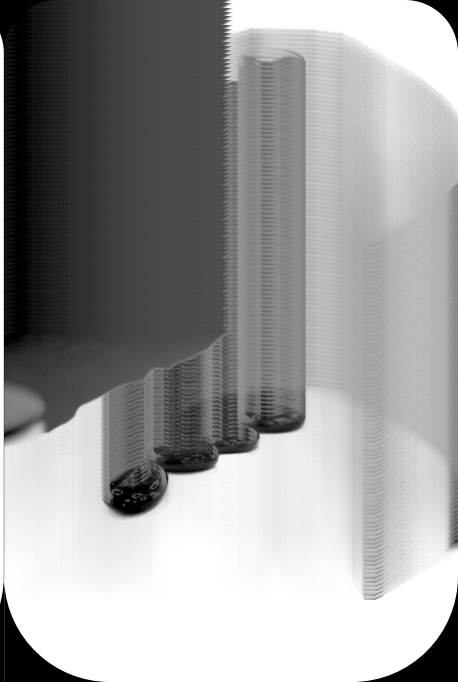
screen

a screen tends to provide some kind  
of concealment or protection



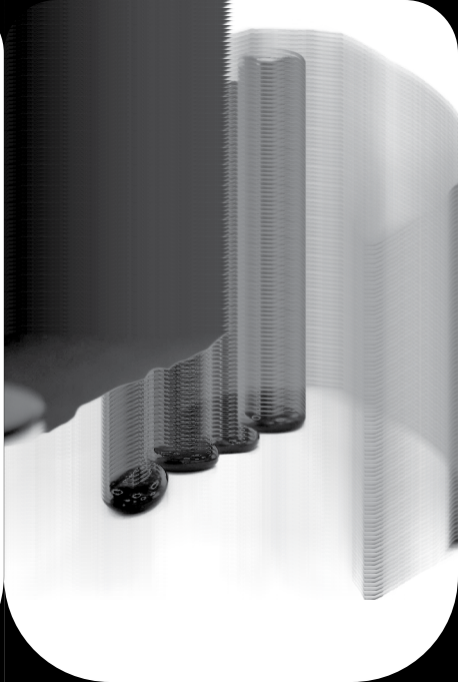
sensory

typically senses and sensations will be referring to external stimuli, though throughout the day we feel a great multitude of organs internally, which also provide stimuli : breathing, eating, sweating, salivating, bleeding, et cetera



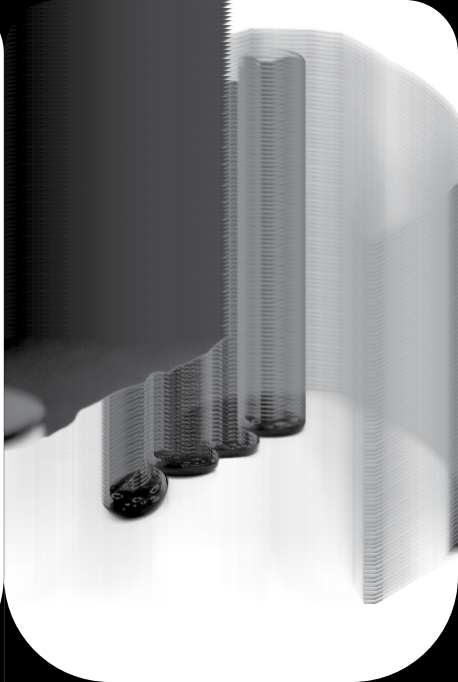
shadow dexterous hand

an anthropocentric robotic hand that reproduces the movement of a hand through a calculated dexterity of twenty movements



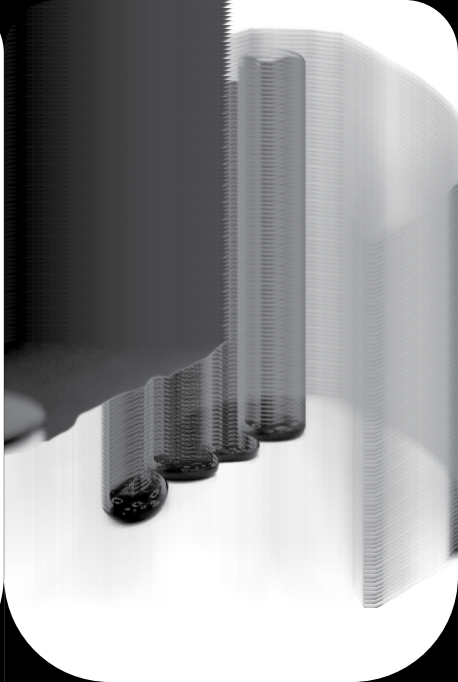
sight

you don't need eyes to see you  
need vision



skin

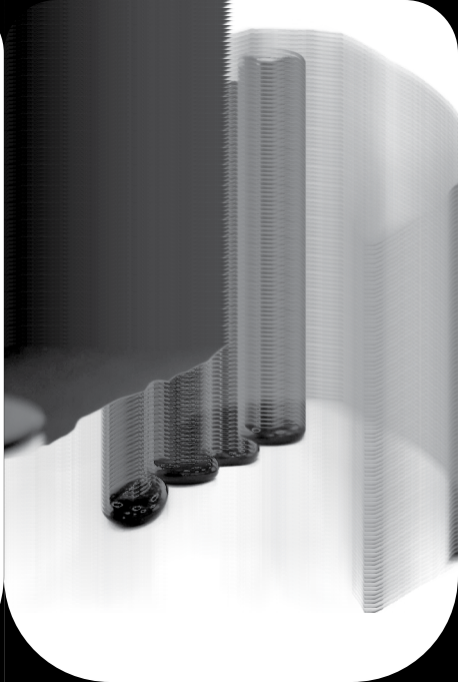
an outer layer, surface, or covering of something ; to skin someone is the removal of this surface





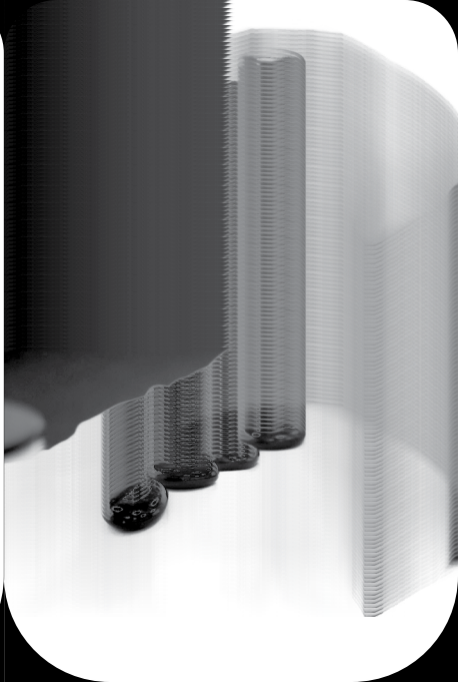
soma

from greek : *soma* 'body' and from latin : *soma* 'sleep' and a drug that is a muscle relaxant used to treat skeletal muscle conditions such as : pain ; in the novel *brave new world* soma is a drug that makes people happy and forgetful



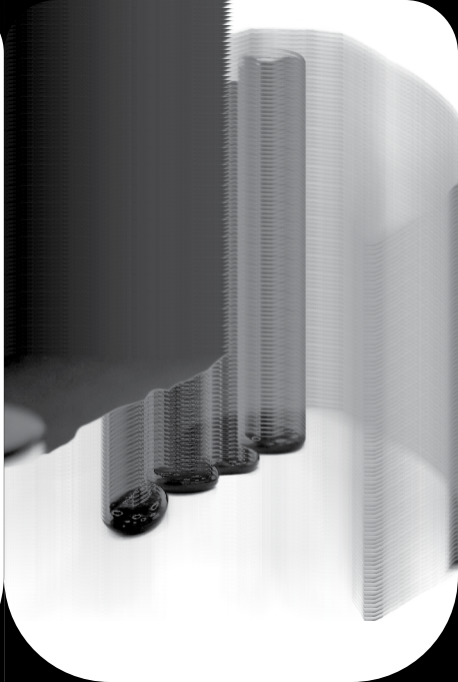
solve

to deal with a problem, literally to  
'loosen, dissolve, untie, unfasten'



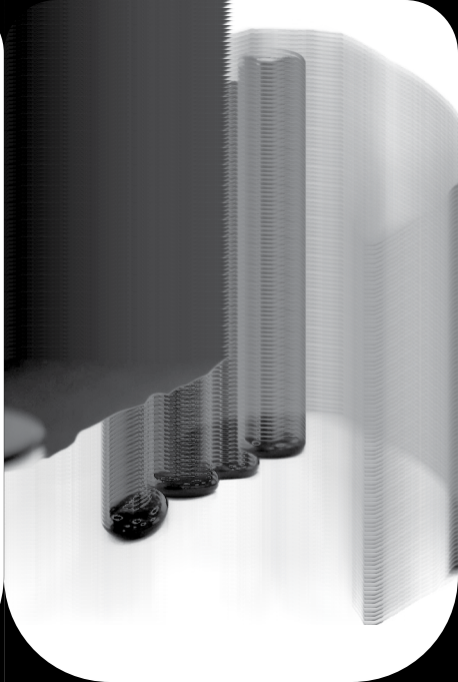
surface (to)

a becoming visible and aware



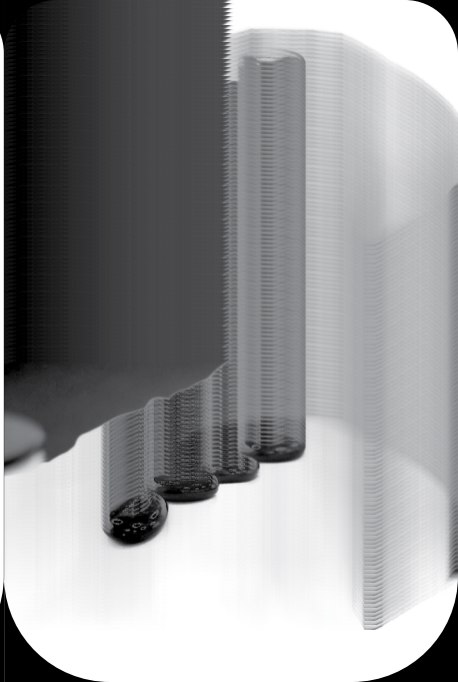
swipe

an attack or criticism, no coincidence  
concerning functions of dating apps



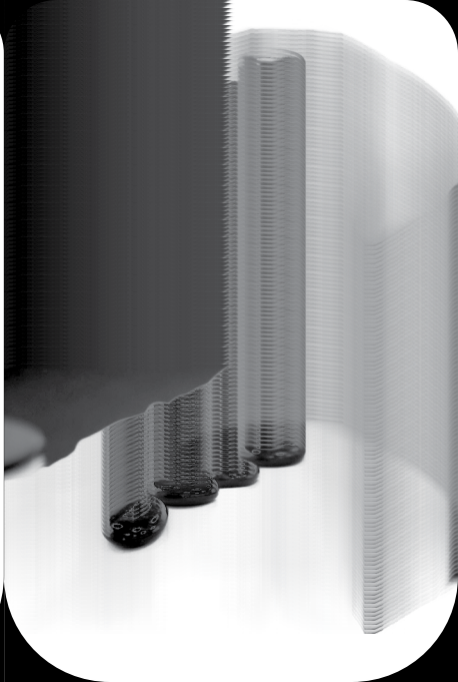
tactile

able to be touched



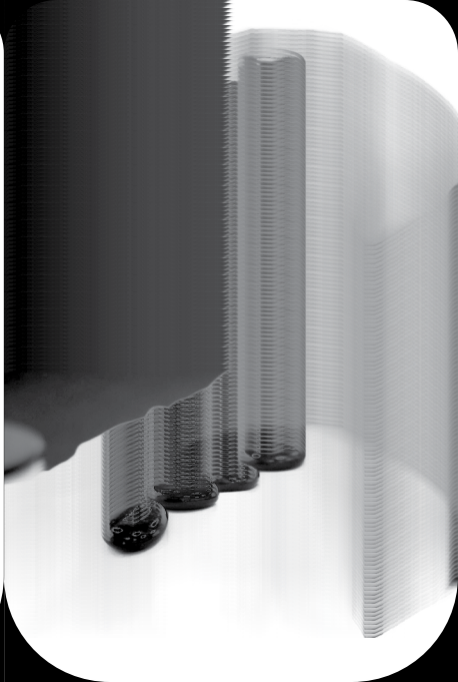
tele-dildonics

recreating sexual relations over  
remote control



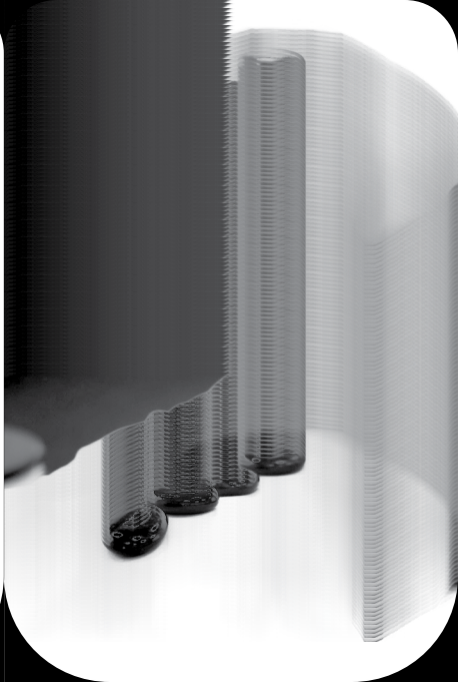
tele-tactility

also tele-haptics : recreating physical  
sensations over remote control



text

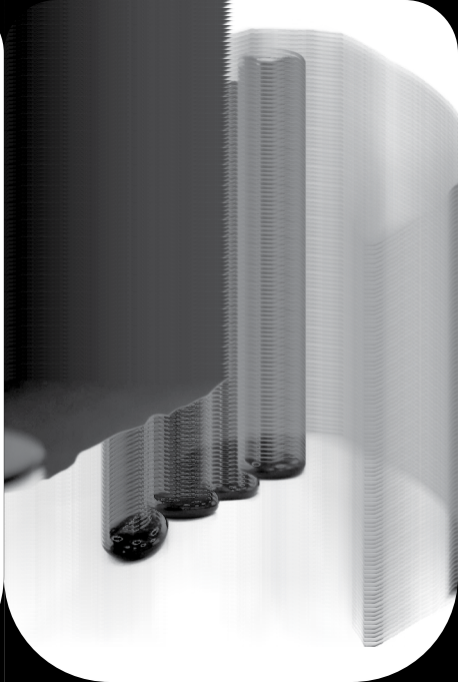
a social space and an occasion to  
be possessed by others – to be  
captivated by someone's words is a  
form of possession





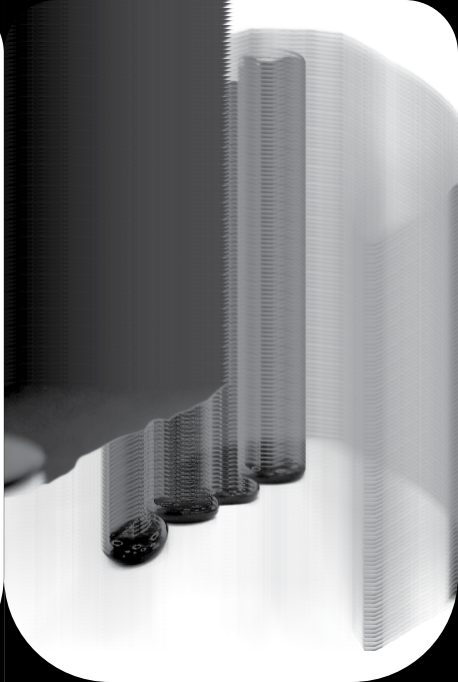
thinking

has never been a disembodied or  
uniquely human activity



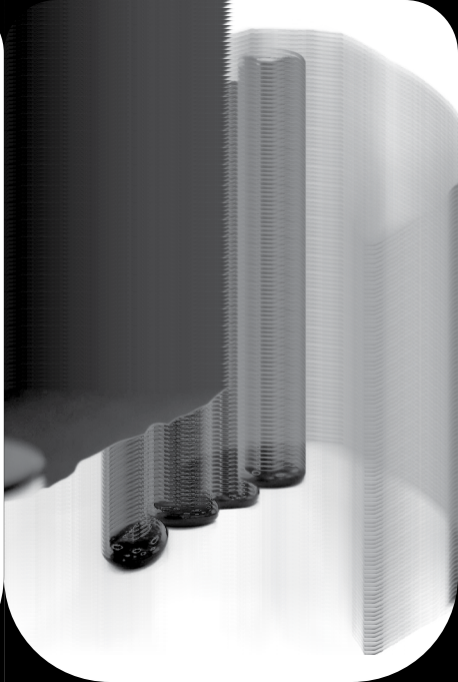
touch

the basis of touch is in an exchange of energy, a constant repulsion and attraction of parts, and a way to feel a sense of togetherness in the world : to touch and be touched is a kind of nearness, proximity, closeness



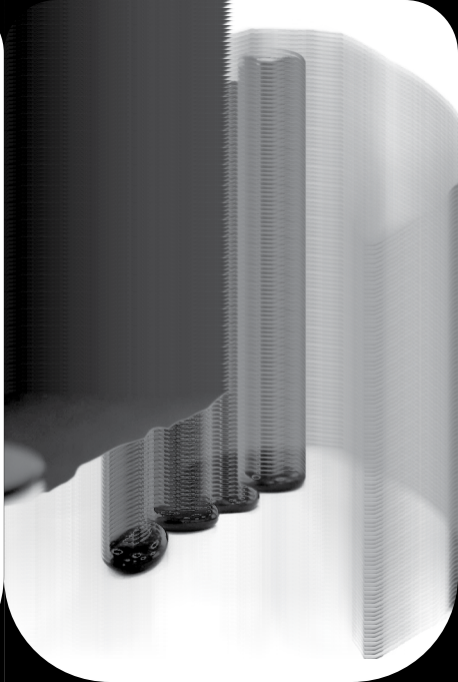
tt

therapeutic touch



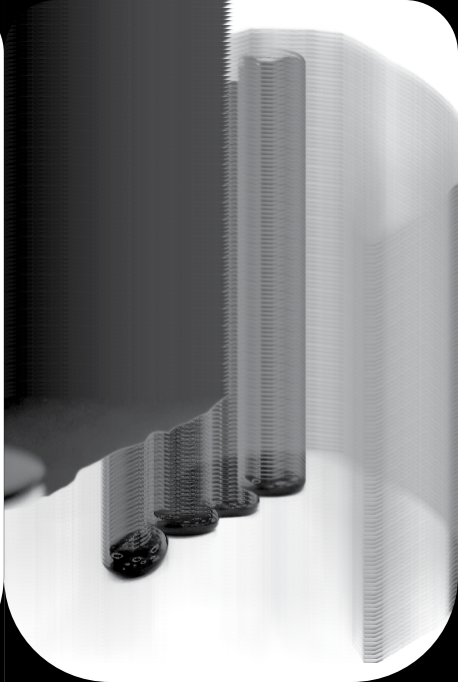
trans

informal portmanteau for someone who is transgender, can indicate both a transition between genders and the transcendence of gender (oppositonality) all together



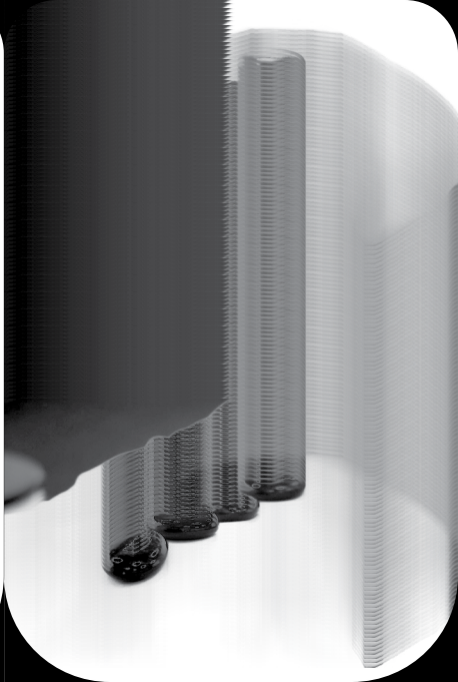
university

can produce a notion that outside of  
the academy and academia study  
does not exist



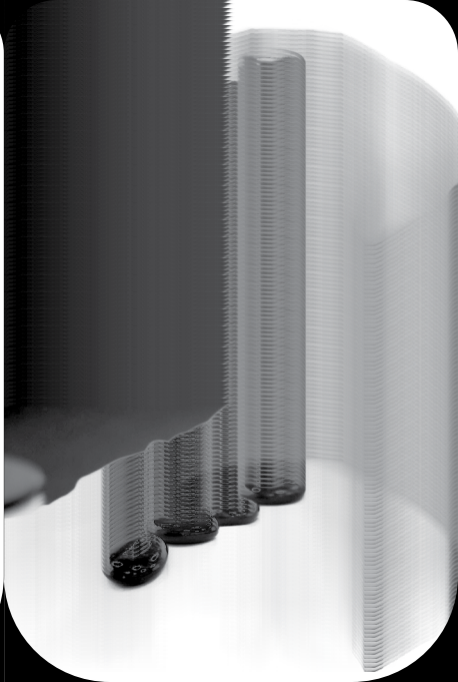
viral dissemination

spreading like a virus—an infectious disease that can only multiply within the living cells of a host—and is often used to describe the workings of social media, replacing the actual word of mouth with e-traffic and other bodily fluids



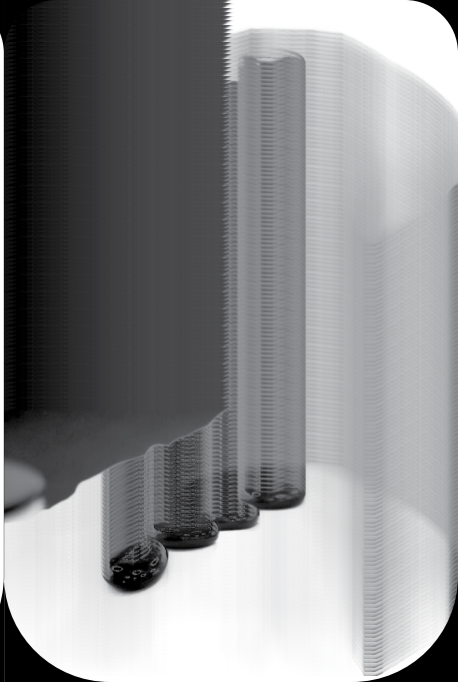
void (the)

living, breathing indeterminacy of  
non/being



US

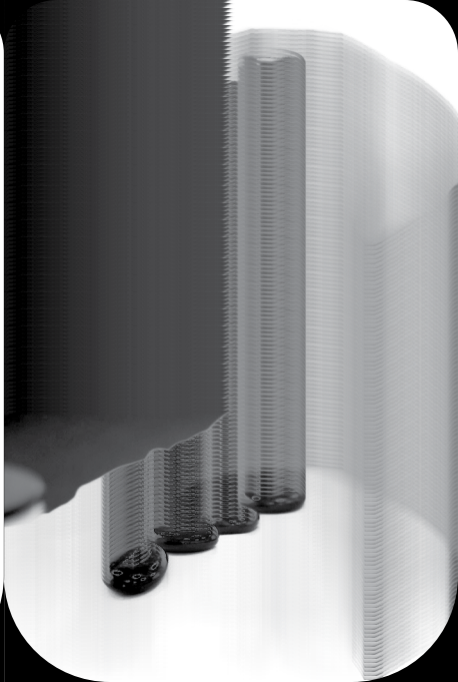
abbreviation for : unserviceable,  
useless





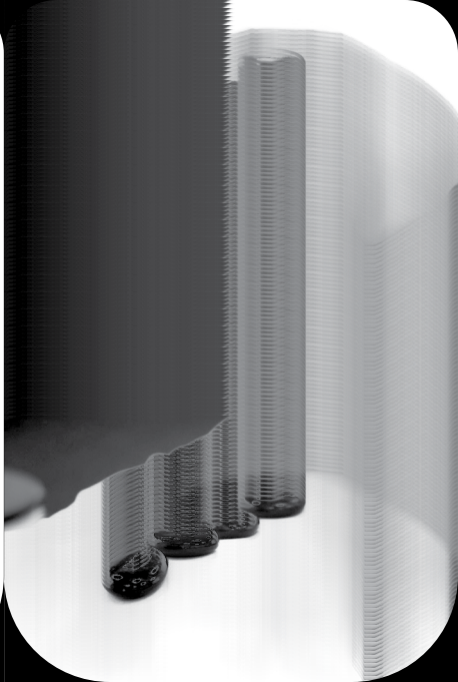
we

used condescendingly to refer to the  
person being addressed : how are  
we doing today ?



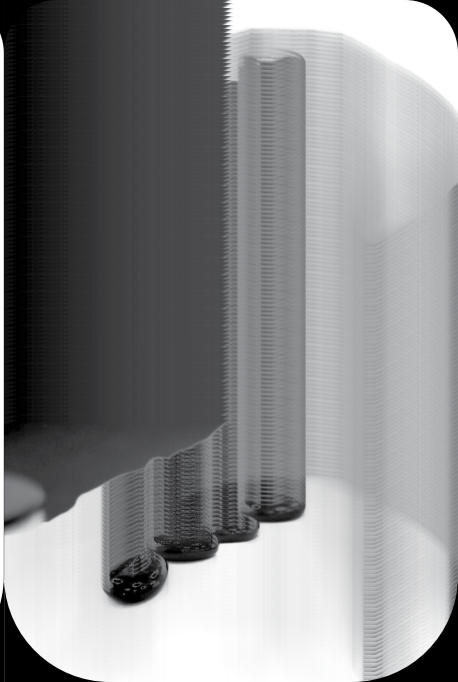
yeastiness

overfermentation, yeasty  
consciousness – a disruptive  
consciousness through  
(altering) microbial life



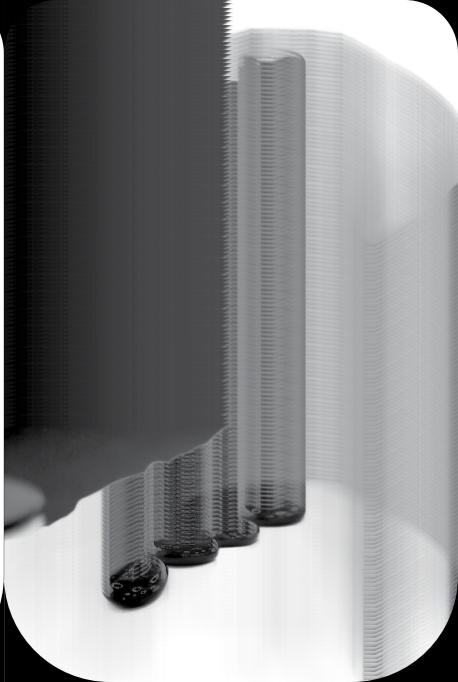
yes

encouraging someone to keep  
on speaking



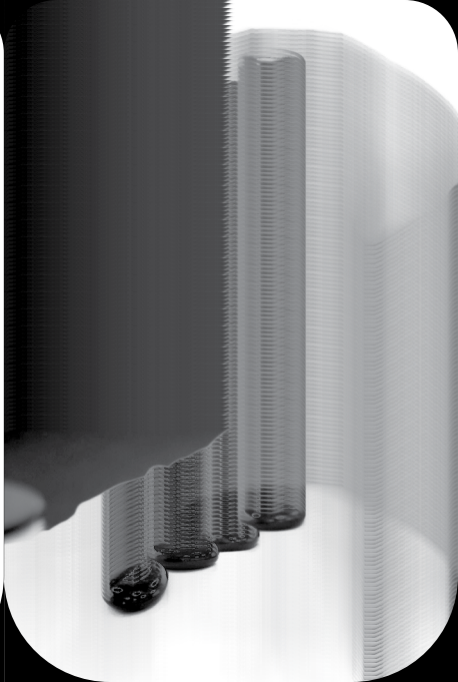
you

s/he, they



zombie

someone who is responsive to their environment without experiencing this consciously



## This lexicon

is written and compiled by Charlotte Rooijackers for a new collaboration and artistic research trajectory by Studium Generale Rietveld Academie and Rietveld Uncut 2017–2018. The programme and lexicon concern how the haptic – relating to or based on touch – is thought and experienced artistically, philosophically, and politically in life, art and design, and theory.

Charlotte Rooijackers works as an artist. Through her practice of performative and collaborative writing, she examines vocabularies in different contexts and disciplines, with a focus on their common under/ground.

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Hold Me Now : Feel and Touch in an Unreal World

How do we feel and more specifically touch in our technologically mediated dematerialized digital cultures? Do we solely stroke and swipe our screens? How are the body and its feel involved? Are we in fact cultivating different tactilities in relation to the world and others? Further, how can we trace the ways in which touch informs and reforms the body with respect to violence, gender, sexuality, democracy, and identity? If art and design have privileged sight and sound, should touch – and all the other senses – be addressed and activated in order to help us stay 'in touch' with our bodies and the material world?

Talks, Readings, Presentations,  
Performances, Screenings :

Karen Archey, Army of Love,  
Marije Baalman, Karen Barad,  
boychild, Rizvana Bradley,  
Sarah Browne, Staci Bu Shea,  
Fiona Candlin, Mel Chen,  
Holly Childs, Yvonne Dröge-Wendel,  
João Florêncio, Ioanna Gerakidi,  
Ine Gevers, Aracelis Girmay,  
Amelia Groom, Jack Halberstam,  
Jort van der Laan, Ligia Lewis,  
Erin Manning, Laura U. Marks,  
Marianna Maruyama, Mark Paterson,  
Paul Preciado, Claudia Rankine,  
Joke Robaard, Eloise Sweetman,  
Wu Tsang, Jeanne Vacarro,  
Hypatia Vourloumis, Eyal Weizman,  
Julia Bryan Wilson, and many others.

Preliminary Programme  
at Gerrit Rietveld Academie :  
10, 17, 31 January ;  
7, 14, 21 February ; 7, 14 March

Conference-festival and exhibition  
at Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam :  
21, 22, 23, 24 March



## Studium Generale Rietveld Academy

is a theory programme that addresses students and faculty across all departments and disciplines at the academy, as well as the general public. It wants to understand how art and design are entangled with other domains (from the personal to the political, from the vernacular to the academic), how 'now' is linked with past and future, 'here' with 'elsewhere'.

## Rietveld Uncut

is an annual presentation of the Gerrit Rietveld Academie. Departments and individual students develop projects in relation to the theoretical framework of Studium Generale. This leads to a simultaneous conference-festival and exhibition, in which 'the making and the thinking' comes together.

## Colophon

Rietveld Uncut

Coordinators/Curators : Tomas Adolfs,  
Tarja Szaraniec

Studium Generale Rietveld Academie

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Editors : Jort van der Laan, Jorinde Seijdel

Copy Editing: Janine Armin

Design : Mikk Jõgi, Zuzana Kostelanská,  
Laslo Strong (under supervision of  
David Bennewith)

Printed by : Wilco, Amersfoort, NL

Edition : 750

Price : 5 Euro

ISBN : 978-90-828138-0-7

Published by the Studium Generale department  
of the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in January  
2018, on the occasion of the programme  
Hold Me Now : Feel and Touch in an Unreal World  
at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and the  
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

this lexicon shows a painful delivery

from queered infinities to  
dis/possessions and energies

may this assemblage of words and  
their terms provide some clarity

and support you in your beautiful  
struggles

you are many !

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