

# This is a spore

*"It matters what matters we use to think other matters with; it matters what stories we tell to tell other stories with; it matters what knots knot knots, what thoughts think thoughts, what descriptions describe descriptions, what ties tie ties. It matters what stories make worlds, what worlds make stories."*

Donna Haraway, *Staying with the Trouble*

Take this spore with you and, together find new spaces to thrive and, as fungi, blossom bountifully, recklessly, and invasively.

Mycological Making is an attempt at eschewing established/legitimated manufacturing practices by embracing fungi as making companions. Fungi have a unique way of living together with other organisms by performing symbiotic strategies of survival as they cycle and exchange nutrients even in the most wretched environments. Why not bring that same quirky and symbiotal spirit to the way we relate to the things we, as humans, have made?

Clive Dilnot (2014) argues that "The paradox of our time is that we have made that which we cannot yet think.". Mycological Making is an attempt at exploring the infinite possible configurations of the artificial, just as an interlude in music can drift, meditate or wander around a single motif. It also helps explore the artifice's condition of mediator between its own substance and two external relations; the human relations that it inherently addresses and the other artifacts and spaces that already constitute the built environment. In that sense, Mycological Making is not only about reconfiguring objects, but reconfiguring our relationship to them

Hopefully, this will also allow for telling stories, speculative realisms that drift from the pervasive anthropocentrism we are inadvertently used to while reconnecting with some of our fellow critters of planet Earth.

*Clive, D. (2014). Reasons to be cheerful, 1, 2, 3... (Or how the artificial may yet save us). In Yelavich, S., & Adams, B. (Eds.). Design as future-making (pp. 185-198). Bloomsbury Publishing.*

*Haraway, D. J. (2016). Staying with the trouble: anthropocene, capitalocene, chthulucene. Anthropocene or capitalocene*

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# Mycological

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*Three species of fungi from the Deptfordmarkeae genus.*

# Making

# Making of: Elektronellus Phoneger



*Spinellus Fusiger, a parasitic fungus that grows on other fungus was the making companion for the Elektronellus Phoneger*

## 1. Forage for an expired object.-

Find any object that is way beyond its "best before" date, something out of date or format, malfunctioning or merely seen as obsolete.

## 2. Fungal Friend.-

Choose any fungus to embrace as a making companion. Fungi have a unique way of living together with other organisms by performing symbiotic strategies of survival. Understand how that fungus manages to thrive.

## 3. Decomposing.-

Break down that object as much as possible, so you can see the elements that constitute it. This will be the substrate your fungus will colonize; thrive and cycle the nutrients so that it provides new experiences for you.

## 4. Introduce the Symbiont.-

Find some other object, you can make it yourself, or use another "expired" one, make a circuit, any new mechanism, whatever you know or like. The idea is that its presence would repurpose what's available in the object and allow you to mimic your fungus' way.

## 5. Mycological Making.-

Reconfigure your object according to what you found out on step three. Keep in mind your understanding of fungi and how it translates is personal and experimental, don't let it bother you if it's not scientifically accurate. In fact, this whole process is about getting to new understandings of objects.

## 6. Sporing.-

Reintroduce the new fungus to its habitat so it can spore and allow for new fungus to happen. Each instance of Mycological Making becomes a Genus related to the place where it took place. Situating the experience informs not only the materiality but common traits in the behaviours and performance that ultimately define the genus.

## 7. Taxonomise.-

This is neither biology, engineering nor design, let those knowledges entangle in a mycorrhiza of technical languages that ultimately allow to tell stories that drift from anthropocentered, frenetic, unsustainable mass production practices while reconnecting with some of our fellow critters of planet Earth.

