

V instalaciji **Spiritus Agens** alkohol teče skozi objekt A in nato kaplja v vsebnik, ki hrani drugi objekt – objekt B, ta je potopljen v predelano alkoholno "kvintesenca". Z uporabo Morsejeve abecede objekt B oddaja »signal življenja« v obliki znane izjave »Še vedno sem živ«, izposojene od znanega konceptualnega umetnika On Kawara, ki je izjavo prvi uporabil v svojem umetniškem delu. Instalacija zastavlja vprašanje, kako bodo prihodnje tehnologije reševale proces naravnega staranja človeškega telesa in ali bo alkohol (ali katerakoli druga od številnih substanc, ki so že na voljo) ključnega pomena za spreminjanje omenjanih procesov, na primer inovativna uporaba nanodelcev za modifikacijo človeške DNK. Legendarni in tudi ekscentrični znanstvenik Nikola Tesla, znan po svojih izumih in številnih napovedih razvoja prihodnjih tehnologij, je v enem izmed svojih intervjujev dejal, da je alkohol nekakšen eliksir življenja. Mnogi alkimisti, predhodniki sodobnih znanstvenikov, so alkoholu pripisovali vse sorte lastnosti in ga obravnavali kot "kvintesenca življenja", še posebej, če je bil destilirán sedemkrat. Točen postopek za pripravo te mitske snovi je opisan v knjigi Quintessence iz 15. stoletja. Alkimisti zdravilci so poskušali iztisniti in izolirati to snov, da bi jo lahko uporabljali pri proizvodnji zdravil – zaradi svoje kozmične čistosti naj bi ta "kvintesenca" zdravila vse bolezni. Aqua vita ali voda življenja, arhaično in generično ime za vse vrste alkoholnih destilatov, izvira iz srednjega veka, ko je bil uporabljen kot zdravilo za bubonsko kugo. Danes se alkohol sintetizira v različnih oblikah in se ga uporablja tudi v živilski industriji, medicini in na različnih področjih raziskav. V naravi se pojavlja kot stranski proizvod fermentacijskih procesov in procesov metabolizma v mikroskopskih organizmih. Sledovi alkohola so bili odkriti tudi zunaj našega sončnega sistema, v oddaljenih zvezdnih predelih vesolja.

V instalaciji Spiritus Agens je uporabljen prevajalnik v Morsejevo abecedo, ki ga je razvil Stephen C. Phillips  
<https://morsecode.scphillips.com/translator.html>

Within the installation called **Spiritus Agens**, which belongs to the Elixir Distillers project, alcohol runs through Object A, which contains charcoal particles, and then drops into the container that preserves the other object – Object B, which is immersed in the processed alcoholic "quintessence". Using Morse code, Object B emits "a signal of life", in the form of the statement "I am still alive", borrowed from famous conceptual artist On Kawara who used this maxim as part of his art practice. This installation is posing the question "How will future technologies deal with the process of natural ageing of the human body, and might alcohol (or any of the other countless substances that have been readily available) hold the key to modifying such processes, such as the innovative application of their nanoparticles into human DNA?"

The legendary and eccentric scientist Nikola Tesla, famous for his inventions and numerous forecasts of the developments of future technologies, noted in one of his interviews that alcohol is, in a way, an elixir of life. Many alchemists, the forerunners of contemporary scientists, used to assign all kinds of properties to alcohol and considered it as the "quintessence of life", especially if it was distilled seven times. The exact procedure for producing this mythical substance is described in The Book of Quintessence from the 14th century by the Franciscan monk Rupescissa. Medicinal alchemists tried to extract and isolate this substance to be able to use it in the production of medicaments – on account of its cosmic purity, this "quintessence" was supposed to cure all diseases. Aqua vita, or the water of life, an archaic and generic name for all types of alcohol distillates, originated in the Middle Ages when it was used as a treatment for the bubonic plague. Nowadays, alcohol is synthesised in various forms and used in the food industry, in medicine and in various fields of research. In nature it appears as a by-product of fermentation and metabolic processes in microscopic organisms. Traces of alcohol have even been found outside of the solar system, in faraway star-forming regions of the universe.

Installation Spiritus Agens uses a text-to-Morse code translator developed by Stephen C. Phillips  
<https://morsecode.scphillips.com/translator.html>

Druga instalacija, ki se imenuje **Eliksir stroj**, vsebuje fizične in virtualne komponente. Fizična je naprava za dostavo predhodno pripravljenega eliksirja. Mnoštvo snovi, zbranih s časom in ohranjenih zaradi lastnosti, ki izboljšujejo zdravje, se sprva potopi v raztopino alkohola, majhno količino se nato razredči v stroju in očisti s pronicanjem skozi objekta A in B, da bi se nato razpršila v zrak s pomočjo mehanizma za izparevanje. Eliksir sestavlja nabor pogosto uporabljenih zeliščnih in mineralnih substanc, ki so v rabi v ljudskem, alternativnem, homeopatskem in alopatskem zdravilstvu. Podobno kot pri homeopatski pripravi zdravil se tudi tukaj uporabljajo in redčijo že v osnovi zelo majhne količine snovi. Kamera, ki je del te naprave, "prenese" obiskovalce v virtualni prostor, kjer njihova prisotnost v podatkovni bazi instalacije pusti sled v obliki edinstvenega geometrijskega objekta. **Eliksir postaja** vse elemente, ki so bili vključeni v raziskovanje in razvoj celotnega projekta, tudi prikaže.

Album Eliksir postaje vsebuje citate iz "Knjige devet eliksirjev", ki jo je prevedel Fabrizio Pregadio ([http://www.goldenelixir.com/press/occ\\_02\\_nine\\_elixirs.html](http://www.goldenelixir.com/press/occ_02_nine_elixirs.html)), in dela Samuela Hahnemanna "Materia Medica Pura".

Another installation developed as part of the project, **Elixir Machine** is an installation containing both physical and virtual components. The physical installation is an apparatus for the delivery of previously prepared elixir. Multiple substances collected over time due to their health enhancing properties were steeped in solutions of alcohol, and small quantities of these are further diluted within the installation and purified by passing through Objects A and B, only to be dispersed into the air through an evaporator. Components of the elixir are some of the most used herbal and mineral substances in folk, alternative, homeopathic and allopathic medicine, and similar to homeopathic preparation of remedies, very small amounts of the substances are used and diluted numerous times. Also placed on the machine, the camera "transfers" visitors into a virtual space, where their presence leaves a trace in the installation's database in the form of a unique geometric object. The accompanying **Elixir Station** displays elements that went into the research and development of the whole project.

The Elixir Station album contains a collection of quotes from "The Book of Nine Elixirs", which was translated by Fabrizio Pregadio ([http://www.goldenelixir.com/press/occ\\_02\\_nine\\_elixirs.html](http://www.goldenelixir.com/press/occ_02_nine_elixirs.html)) and Samuel Hahnemann's work "Materia Medica Pura".

**Vrt pilule eliksirja** je instalacija, v kateri se fizični in virtualni svet prekrivata. Zdi se, kot da boti organizirajo svoj lasten vrt in ponovno razmišljajo o naravi lastnega obstoja. Po taoistični filozofiji je ultimativni eliksir – eliksir ustvarjanja nesmrtnosti – rezultat kompleksne fizične, duhovne in filozofske prakse, ki se je skozi zgodovino spreminjala. Instalacija vključuje vrsto primernih elementov, ki tvorijo majhno vesolje, navdihnjeno s kitajskim "učenjakovim vrtom", zenovskimi vrtovi in prakso notranje in zunanje taoistične alkemije. Fizični del instalacije sestavljajo antropomorfnosti in abstraktni agenti, "vodnjak mladosti" in "drevo življenja", ki vsebujejo kapsule, kamenčke in zmesi, ki so pomembne v zgodovinskih alkemičnih praksah. Virtualni segment vrta prinaša v ospredje "višje" oblike predmetov, te pa ustvarjajo novo vsebino, ki temelji na legendarni knjigi Tao Te Ching.

Animizem, ki je navzoč v vzhodnjaških mitologijah in popularnih kulturah, ponuja alternativno razumevanje umetnih inteligentnih agentov kot avtonomnih bitij, potencialnih nosilcev zavesti, ali umetno ustvarjenih osebnosti, vrednih spoštovanja.

Generativni segment instalacije Vrt pilul eliksirja uporablja Lao Tzujevo besedilo Tao Te Ching, ki ga je prevedel Tim Chilcott, 2005 ([www.tclt.org.uk](http://www.tclt.org.uk))

V času trajanja razstave se v posebej za to narejenih objektih, ki so razpostavljeni v okolici galerije, zbira deževnica, ki se uporablja v instalaciji.

**Garden of the Elixir Pill** is another installation belonging to this project within which physical and virtual worlds overlap. Bots seem to be organizing their garden and re-thinking the nature of their existence. According to Taoist philosophy, the ultimate elixir, that of immortality, is a creation arising from a complex physical, spiritual and philosophical practice evolving throughout history. Installation entails many corresponding elements that make up for the small universe inspired by the Chinese "scholar's garden", zen gardens and the practices of internal and external Taoist alchemy. The physical installation consists of anthropomorphic and abstract agents, the "fountain of youth" and "tree of life" and contains pills and concoctions made of substances significant for historical alchemical practices. The virtual segment of the garden brings forth "higher" forms of objects that generate new content based on the legendary book Tao Te Ching. Animism, omnipresent in eastern mythologies and popular cultures, offers an alternative understanding of artificial intelligence agents as autonomous beings, potential carriers of consciousness, or as artificial personalities worthy of respect.

Generative segment of the installation Garden of the Elixir Pill uses the text of Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching translated by Tim Chilcott, 2005 ([www.tclt.org.uk](http://www.tclt.org.uk))

Throughout the exhibition, the specially designed objects, located in the vicinity of the gallery, collect rainwater, which is used in the installation.