

New from Apple, the iTree

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By Stacey Ho



From hundred dollar laptops and hybrid cars to biodegradable grocery bags, new designs for everyday objects suggest a new fusion between consumption and sustainability. Likewise, *plant(iPod)installation* uses sound, sculpture and narrative to imagine a new synthesis between nature and technology.

In this exhibition, Jane Tingley combines steel and delicately carved cork to create 'prosthetics' that cradle houseplants, so that "they're being nurtured by technology rather than being used by it."

Electronic elements mesh into organic ones, resulting in poetic hybrids of the two. Different recordings of breathing convolve with a textural sound collage of mechanical noise to envelope the space in a sound like breathing water. As a viewer walks through the exhibition, sensors are triggered so that a story emits out of speakers which are hidden amongst the leaves of each plant.

Though Tingley is seeking to subvert the relationship between plants and modern technology, the stories, told in English, Portuguese and French, speak to the past rather than the present, "coming from a time when everything had a spirit." She plans to expand on these narratives, adding stories in other languages for an exhibition in 2009.

A window piece is included in *plant(iPod)installation*, which expands upon Tingley's anthropomorphic fascination with plants, technology and unity. Again using cork and steel, chosen for their renewable and flexible qualities, Tingley constructs a prosthetic limb for a telephone pole, a maquette of sorts for an

upcoming residency. There, she plans to make prosthetics for trees with amputated branches, continuing her exploration of the “poetics between the body of the tree and the human body.”

plant(iPod)installation *runs from September 2-26 at FOFA Gallery, 1515 Ste. Catherine St. Ouest, Montreal, PQ.*