

Experiments over 168 hours by Jue Yang

During these hours, I continued to experiment with biomaterial collages and weaving. It was a part of my research into tactility and materiality.

Every other day I prepared mixtures based on basic bioplastic recipes. The process involved cooking, casting the materials in molds and on surfaces, and waiting for them to dry.

For the weaving, I continued my work on a tapestry piece. I also wove a small sample using the materials present in the collages.



Each basic recipe was made with one of the polymers: tapioca, agar agar or gelatin.

The collage materials included: dried house plant leaves, onion and garlic skin, linen and cotton threads, tea bag, celluloid film slides, etc.

I added different oils – olive, almond, coconut – which resulted in unexpected textures.





Here is a sample of agar agar, coconut oil and dried leaves.

The pigment of the leaves seeped out, creating interesting patterns.



These are samples peeled from surfaces. The base recipe is agar agar with olive oil.

Above: peeled from a leaf, acquiring some texture

Below: peeled from red onion skins, acquiring color pigments



I bought old photos and film slides from a second-hand shop. I saw these as informal archives and experimented with layering, both physically and meaning-wise.

Here I placed a thin tapioca foil, mixed with leaves, on top of the images. I then added a not-yet-dried leaf and a freshly-brewed tea bag.

This gave me an opening to reflect on the different possibilities of layering in installation, photography and cinematography.





I also incorporated film slides more directly in the collages as part of the surface.

Above: a dried piece with film slide, pin, thread, button (base: agar agar, olive oil)

Below: material cast onto tarp, still drying (base: gelatin, almond oil)

While the materials dried, I wove.



The main piece of weaving I worked on was something I started long before the 168 hours. As I continued working on it, I began to sense the structural and mark-making potentials of threads...

For a smaller sample, I cut up some leaves, which were also present in the biomaterials collages, and wove them together with twine.



Thank you for reading.