



Jury report DA4GA 2011

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In Vena Verbum – Message in a Vein

In Vena Verbum plans to measure and visualise physiological activity of plants, using a L.E.D. induced chlorophyll fluorescence transient imager. The instrument measures light reflected by the plant's chloroplasts. The participating researchers of the Centre developed the instrument for uses within agriculture and greenhouses.

The goal is to make tangible and visualise the hidden but dynamic physiological inner world of plants and to develop the existing technique as – maybe a kind of empathic – interface between domestic plants and humans.

As domesticated plants indeed are not the passive decorative objects they seem, but merely dynamic actors within any ecology, *In Vena Verbum* offers a potential multi layered window into their physiological characteristics, and simultaneously indicates their reaction on their surroundings and us humans as their caretakers.

It is interesting to think of whether any other parameters of the plant's physiological condition might be interfaced in a meaningful way that positively influences our perception of plants.

One could imagine the instrument being commercialised for home use, measuring the plant's health as a parameter of the indoor environment.

The jury trusts the team has great artistic, scientific and technological competence on board and experienced a strong two-way enthusiasm in the proposal.

The jury is very curious how the plant's "feelings" will be translated into an interaction between plant and human and how the eventual apparatus will blend with the plant it interacts with.