



Green Skirt/Green Urinal

There are approximately 100 million flush toilets in the United States, and each flush of the toilet consumes 15-19 liters of freshwater.¹ Sewage treatment facilities process human waste and dump it into lakes and seas, often disrupting existing biological processes. New devices like the P-mate notwithstanding, public urination remains a challenge for women.

My goal for this project was to develop a tool that would facilitate public urination, encourage individuals to shift their perception of their bodies and biological processes, and offer an ecological solution to the growing wastewater and sewage treatment problem.

The grass urinal sits in the landscape, slightly elevated above the ground. Urine and rainwater flow into two drainage tubes which funnel liquid directly into the soil via 4 hollow stakes. By diverting urine from sewage treatment plants and waterways, the outdoor urinal facilitates the recycling of urine so that it may be used as a fertilizer for plants. (Urine contains the primary nutrients for plant growth: water, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, etc.)

The skirt is worn as an accessory to the urinal and is made of waterproof fabric. When not in use, the skirt may be rolled up and tucked in its own belt. The skirt is intended primarily for women as a more modest alternative to devices like the P-mate which allow women to urinate standing up.

This project was informed and inspired both by the avant-garde/interventionist tradition of artist as tool provider, ecopsychology, and Terror Management Theory², a pioneering concept in existential psychology which explains that humans engage in a range of activities to deal with existential fear, many of which are associated with efforts to distance oneself from one's body.

¹ *The Sanitation Crisis*, www.ecosanres.org

² Terror management theory, supported by 20 years of empirical research, posits that existential concerns influence a range of activities and beliefs, including prosocial behavior, aggression, nationalism, prejudice, self-esteem striving, sexual attitudes, risk taking, close relationships, hygiene, and body objectification, among others.