

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

Daniel Slåttnes

By Martin Anfinsen and Lina Ingeborgrud

The front cover of this issue displays a picture taken from Daniel Slåttnes' "[Anthro-botanical investigations from the studio](#)". In an excerpt describing this exhibition, Slåttnes primarily highlights the human-botanical collaboration between himself and a common houseplant (*Peperomia obtusifolia*) which initially inspired him: "When I first started working with the plant, we were just spending time together. I tried to imagine how the plant was breathing ...". From these humble beginnings, the relationship gradually grew. Using EEG (electroencephalogram), Slåttnes started exposing the plant to his brainwaves, while using an amplifier to listen in to the frequencies emitted from the houseplant. Taking the relationship further, the next natural step was to equip the plant with robotic legs, extending its movement in a shared physical space, and bridging the gap between botanical and human timescales. After the initial assemblage was made, the plant has banded together with five others of the same species and joined Slåttnes on exhibitions in Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

In addition to being aesthetically pleasing, we find this work intellectually intriguing, drawing up a world of interspecies communication, and machines and AI processes enabling human/non-human communication, collaboration, and artistry. Also, it serves as a perfect encapsulation of art bridging the constructed dichotomy of the natural and man-made – an endeavor well suited for this STS journal.

Daniel Slåttnes is a Norwegian artist living and working in Oslo and Västra Ämtervik in Sweden. He holds a Master from the Academy of Fine Art, Oslo National Academy of the Arts. The Anthro-botanical Investigations project (2015-2020) was lately displayed at the Digital Wild in March 2020, Trondheim.

To learn more about Daniel Slåttnes and his work, visit his website: <https://slaattnes.com/>