

Literature, Theory, History

The Secret Life of Vegetables:

From Vegetal Horror to Ecological Art

COLT 471, 22061, Spring 2014, Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00-11:50 am, VKC 252

This course examines imaginary representations of plants from the seventeenth to the twenty first century in genres and media as diverse as literary science fiction, the scientific short film and the modern horror film, and the visual arts. The course introduces the plant as a figure that has the distinction to serve as the uncanny double of the human in modernity. We view the long tradition that imagines the plant as animated, indeed often as a thinking or bloodthirsty being from the vantage point of contemporary ecological theory and philosophical reflection on plants and ecology. Readings will include: Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac, Julien Offray de la Mettrie, Erasmus Darwin, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Charles Darwin, Jack Finney, Sheri Tepper, Bruno Latour, Timothy Morton, and Michael Marder. We will discuss the following films Nyby, The Thing from Another World, Siegel and Kaufman, The Invasion of the Body Snatchers, short films by Jean Comandon and Percy Smith, Seto, Planet Z, and contemporary visual art by Lauren Bon, Binh Danh, Dornith Doherty, Jessica Rath, and others.



COLT L/M/CT Track:
This is a **Critical Thought** concentration course.

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THH 155E