

# whisper

an interactive installation



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## Synopsis

“O Tiger-lily!” said Alice...”I wish you could talk!”

“We can talk,” said the Tiger-lily, “when there’s anybody worth talking to.”

Talking flowers have long stimulated the imagination, in stories from Tennyson through Carroll - if we were able to hear flowers, what would these voices of mother nature tell us?

Whisper answers this question by having a garden of freshly cut calla lily flowers whisper into your ear. Each flower in the grove whispers erotic sexual phrases one would hear while being intimate with a loved one. These phrases were written and chosen because the natural function of a flower is attraction, attraction towards insects in order to spread it’s genetic code. The intimacy is accentuated by the close proximity the listener must come to the flowers to hear the whisper.



## Description

Whisper installation consists of a room absent of light except for one incandescent focusable light above the piece. The piece contains nine freshly cut calla lilies no shorter than 42 inches and the stem can be no wider than one inch. The 4 feet by 4 feet by 6 inch platform which houses the electronics is created from one inch thick plywood painted the same color as the peddles of the calla lily. Underneath the platform are nine Ka-On<sup>®</sup> sound devices, two cd players, one dvd player, and a dvd audio decoder device. The 9 individual audio tracks are stored using the dvd's 5.1 channel surround sound system and the cd player's stereo channel system. The dvd player constantly plays a looping dvd containing 5 of the voices for the flowers while the cd players play the remaining 4. The Ka-On<sup>®</sup> devices are essentially speakers under the vases the flowers are in. When the speakers play the tracks, the vibrations are carried up the stem of the flower and amplified by the trumpet shape of the flower. The voices consists of readings from a prepared script. Each reader is forced to lie down on their stomachs and whisper into the microphone in order to capture the subtle pronunciation accents in a whisper.



Images

