

## Scent By A Wireless Web



'Scent Whisper' focuses on the defence mechanism in bombardier beetles that squirt predators with a high-pressure jet of boiling liquid in a rapid-fire action. The devices involve microfluidics and wireless technology that link a remote sensor with a fragrance-dispersing unit to create two items of jewellery that constitute the *'wireless web'*. A message is *'scent by a wireless web'* from a spider to a bombardier beetle brooch, that sprays a minute sample of fragrance.

The purpose is to benefit human wellbeing, through olfaction stimulation of the autonomic nervous system and as a novel communication system that could be healing (lavender), protective (insect repellent), seductive (pheromones), informative or communicative. The user whisks a secret message into the spider, which transmits this to the beetle worn by a partner. The spider's sensor, implanted in its abdomen records the humidity of the breath and releases scent from the beetle onto a localized area, creating a personal 'scent bubble'

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Jenny Tillotson is a Sensory Designer and Senior Research Fellow at Central Saint Martins (CSM) Innovation Centre University of the Arts London, a Fellow of the Institute of Nanotechnology and an Associate of the British Society of Perfumery. She gained her BA in Fashion Communication at CSM and PhD in Printed Textiles at the Royal College of Art

Dr Tillotson designs with computerised scent-output systems worn on the body for health and wellbeing. Prior to her academic work she was a Sensory Designer for Charmed Technology, a fashion stylist and lecturer. Her collaborators include Professor Andreas Manz – pioneer of lab-on-a-chip from the Institute of Analytical Sciences in Germany. She has exhibited widely at SIGGRAPH, Tate Modern, e-Culture Fair, Cheltenham Festival of Science, NEMO Science Centre, Barff New Media Institute, Royal Society, WIRED+NextFest, Victoria & Albert Museum, Dana Centre, CTIA Wireless Show, AVANTEX, FEED Festival and Stroom Den Haag. Her film **Sensory Design@** will be screened at *Future-Femme - Visions For The New Millennium* Film Festival in San Francisco 16-17 September 2005.

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