

## ON SCENTS AND SENSIBILITY

The age of humans on Earth began with spoken language. Then writing was invented to capture words and make them last. Thus any tool that could be used to create markings on flat surfaces could now be turned into time machines that would let you say things to people who lived far far away from you or would get to exist way long after you. So the pen was the first sensational time machine ever invented by humans and now we find ourselves in this post-industrial age where we have this other time machine called the video camera which reacts to sounds and images and makes them accessible in the future. However another critical component of information about what happened somewhere far away from you is odour. Then is it possible to invent a device that will succeed the video camera by capturing and storing information for the sense of smell. No. That is uninventable. And the reason is because odour does not have the periodicity that is observed as octaves in light and sound which you can record and reproduce through analog and digital equipment. The technology that will allow you to immediately analyse every possible chemical compound and recreate the elements of the periodic table is simply beyond the reach of humankind. So the next time you get to smell appetizing food or fragrant flowers you better smell them well to try and keep the memory deep in your heart and soul.

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