

**GILBERTO ESPARZA** (Aguascalientes, 1975) develops projects in which he analyses the relations and unbalances caused by urban and technological advances in modern societies. His raw materials are the symptoms of urban transformation reflected in social habits and in the deconstruction of their surroundings, from whence he configures his pieces.

His projects involve practical and conceptual collaborations with designers, architects, electronic engineers, programmers, activists and academics that work in alternative initiatives to economic powers' establishment, in order to recover, generate and use energy. Thus, his work is also a reflection on the flow of energy and economy and the principles that activate and move the city.

Esparza extracts electronic and mechanical components from waste, and he uses them to assemble little robots that react to different phenomena around them. An example of this is his series *Urban Parasites*, where an electronic spider pushes waste, or a robot clinging to electric cables uses their energy to feed and move.

## Project: NOMAD PLANTS

In collaboration with a team of biologists and engineers, Esparza has developed the prototype of a multiple organism that feeds from the residual waters of Río Santiago (located in El Salto, Jalisco, in the West of Mexico). The creature also feeds a plant while producing oxygen. This river is the final destination of the sewer canals that carry highly toxic industrial waste produced by private companies and refineries of the central part of the country. "The *Nomad Plant* is a live organism constructed by a robotic system, an organic plant and a system of photovoltaic and microbe cells."<sup>2</sup>

In this next phase of the project, the artist will develop a new robot's model programmed with an artificial intelligence system that will allow for registering and repeating routes in the search of food. This *Nomad Plant* will be located at Lerma River banks (one of the biggest rivers of the country, and also an important source of water and electricity). Historically, this river has been pivotal in agriculture and fishing, but nowadays carries a big load of industrial waste, which has caused a serious environmental damage, and a severe transformation in the activities of the inhabitants of the surrounding lands.

The creation of a small symbiotic living organism that cleans water in a small scale reveals a political void in the big programs of industrialization developed in that region.



*Street Lighting* (from the Series *Urban Cancer*), 2006  
Installation of 11 street lamps (public intervention)

*ppndr-s* (from the Project *Urban Parasites*), 2007  
Motors of toys, galvanized iron wire, technological waste  
Variable dimensions

*dblt* (from the Project *Urban Parasites*), 2007  
Motor, recycled electric components, acrylic, aluminum,  
micro-processors, sensors  
17.7 x 11.8 x 4in