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 a time machine that would let you say things to people who lived far far away from you or would get to exist way long after you. Hence 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 another commonly used time machine called the "video camera" which reacts to sounds and images and makes them accessible through electronic portals from the future. However there is always one more critical component of information about what happened somewhere far away from you and that is odour. Therefore one may wonder; is it possible to invent a device that will succeed the video camera by capturing and storing information for the sense of smell. Well, the answer is, no. Such a device is uninventable and the reason is because odour does not have periodicity. We observe octaves of light and sound and we perceive them as colors and pitch. In addition to that we can easily record audiovisual information as of today and reproduce it through analog and digital equipment that has become widespread several decades ago. But the technology that will allow us to immediately analyse every possible airborne substance and recreate the elements of the periodic table is simply beyond the reach of humankind even though the elements within chemical compounds actually do have periodicity. So what do we do with this being the case? One thing is that you could watch out for the next opportunity where you get to smell some appetizing food or heart-pleasing fragrant flowers and try to better smell them so that the memory can remain well in the depths of your soul.

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