

VASELINE

Petroleum Jelly, more commonly referred to as Vaseline, is a non-prescription pharmaceutical typically used as a lubricant or protective dressing. It is a quasi-solid meaning that vaseline's physical state is between liquid and solid. Vaseline is capable of holding its own shape and weight while it can also be forced into fitting the shape of a container. One can obtain vaseline by extracting the crude oil remains from oil drills. The petroleum jelly is purified into an orderless and colourless goo.



Henk Spunk the vaseline octopus.



When exposed to heat as if you were cooking something on a pan for example, the vaseline divides and works similar to a cooking oil (DO NOT inject vaseline).



When commencing my relationship with vaseline my "known" impressions were of its healing properties. When my lips were chapped, similarly as to when yours are, I would apply vaseline thinking it would moisturise them. On the contrary, vaseline serves as a protective layer which lowers the amount of infections by refusing entry to outer substances. It functions as band-aid, foresay.



Vaseline when merged with another substance engulfs the substance. They are incapable of separating once attached. When I added inks, pigments or spices to the vaseline, it left stains of colour. Mainly working on paper based surfaces when experimenting I noticed that paper bases are only capable of absorbing a small amount of vaseline until the remaining vaseline stays immobilised.



What has been happening in Colombia since April 28 2021?

This issue actually carries a violent prequel dealing with corruption, violence, theft and narco trafficking (to name a few). On April 28, Colombians took the streets protesting the president Ivan Duque's new tax reform which would increase the taxes on food; public resources such as light, water and gas; hygiene and technology. The idea of this was to cover the expenses of debt caused by Covid-19, bearing in mind that 40% of the country lives in poverty, and this tax reform would jeopardize the working class. With 72,000 deaths caused by the Corona Virus the people were not scared to use their right to protest when the government is more deadly than a virus. For decades the Colombian people have been asking for dignity after being abused socially, economically and culturally by their government. The ESMAD, a special military force aimed at social havoc, has killed over 60 Colombians, raped more than 30 women, attacked citizens including children and made hundreds of us disappear. This conflict is layers upon layers of a baseless structure where the country cannot prosper without a sturdy compromising from all socio-political parties involved.



During the peak of the final semester of my first year at WdKA, the despair in Colombia overwhelmed my thoughts. This dread leaves me divided between The Netherlands, where I currently reside, and Colombia. This division is stagnating in my essence, consequently dripping onto the meanings and connections of my art from vaseline. Layers and layers of vaseline are used as an allegory for the years of torture the Colombian government has gotten away with. I cover myself in vaseline* and engage with this net. Every moment I spend in the net I shed layers of vaseline, and each encounter is a different layer of the same battle. I engage with new news everyday which affects my reflection and emotion, this is stagnating via the vaseline. This subconscious study between my divided emotions and actions towards El Paro Nacional and being far from home. The National Protest (El Paro Nacional) is a continuous cycle of events which are not put on pause when the schedule becomes inconvenient. Layers of struggle remain on the net as evidence of struggle and as an oath to Colombia. I named my project Baseless Layers on Layers.

*When I cover myself in vaseline, I am adding a layer of protection over myself before I camouflage myself into an energetic simulation of public cry.

Sometimes I feel like an ant battling from a far, asking the UN's Human Rights for help when they are massacring my country to no avail. The Colombian government can sensor everything from us, but they cannot sensor our art. My protests continue, and I will keep informing the ignorant about it, through layers and layers, be it vaseline, until a struc-



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