

Aeon of the Black Sun

Alex Coma

Solar Anchor | 2025 | Olfactory

Essential Oil Intervention | Dimensions Variable

Olfactory Installation: The Ritual of Union

"For I am divided for love's sake, for the chance of union. This is the creation of the world, that the pain of division is as nothing and the joy of dissolution all." - Liber AL vel Legis

Scent has always been a bridge between worlds. In this installation, fragrance becomes the invisible thread connecting Sky to Earth — and you become the one who weaves them together.

The Anointing Oil: Lapis Stellaris

This spiritual ointment was created using rare essences distilled by Mikaël Zayat, an alchemist born in Egypt; the ancient land of Nuit, goddess of the night sky. His family name translates literally as "The One Who Makes Oil," and he approaches distillation not as chemistry, but as the capture of a plant's living spirit.

The oil is deep blue, colored by chamazulene, a rare compound that emerges only through the alchemy of heat and time. It evokes the body of Nuit herself: vast, cool, and scattered with stars.

The Three Layers of Scent

HIGH NOTES – THE SKY (WORN ON YOUR SKIN)

These volatile, ascending scents evaporate quickly, lifting toward the heavens. They are the greeting, the invitation, the first breath.

- **Helichrysum Gymnocephalum (Madagascar)** – The “everlasting flower,” from the Greek for golden sun. This rare Madagascan variety is bright and camphoraceous, opening the airways. The ancients burned it to carry prayers skyward. . . Here, it represents the Divine Breath entering through the lungs.
- **Blue Tansy (Morocco) & Yarrow (Slovenia)** – Both produce oils of startling deep blue — a color that doesn’t exist in the plants themselves but emerges through steam distillation. Both are profoundly anti-inflammatory, calming overactive systems. Yarrow takes its name from Achilles, who used it to heal his soldiers’ wounds. Together, they serve as the cooling hand of the goddess, soothing the pain of division.
- **Ledum (Canada)** – Called Greenland Moss or Labrador Tea, it grows in the cold, silent bogs of the north. Its gift is stillness. It releases tension held in the solar plexus and carries the quiet of vast dark spaces between stars.
- **Night-Blooming Jasmine & Lavender** – Jasmine opens only at night, gathered before dawn when its narcotic sweetness is most potent. It has always been the flower of the moon, of surrender, of letting go. Lavender, from the Latin lavare (to wash), tempers and balances. Together, they are the joy of dissolution — the pleasure of softening, of becoming porous to the night.

HEART NOTES – THE HIDDEN FIRE (SEALED WITHIN THE MOUND)

The heart notes emerge once the high notes have lifted, lingering like warmth from a buried ember.

- **Rose Centifolia (Egypt)** – The hundred-petaled rose. It takes

roughly 10,000 pounds of petals to produce a single pound of absolute. Rose has always been the flower of love, but also a heart medicine — it soothes grief, comforts the spirit, sits with sorrow without demanding you feel better.

- **Incense of the Four Roses Oil Extract (France)** – A Rosicrucian formula from the Château d’Omonville, blending Red and White rose essences. In alchemical tradition, red is passion and white is purity; their union is the coniunctio — the sacred marriage of opposites. This is the hidden heart of matter, the secret that love is buried in the earth itself.

This smell will be available to smell for those participating in the Comox Valley Art Gallery’s adjacent events in the following weeks. Follow the gallery’s pages and @AlexComa.World on Instagram for the announcement.

BASE NOTES – THE EARTH (MIXED INTO THE CLAY, SCATTERED AROUND THE MOUND)

These slow, heavy notes linger longest. They are physically incorporated into the mound and scattered among the rose petals, creating a boundary, a container, a protected ground.

- **Vetiver Root (Haiti)** – A tropical grass with roots reaching ten feet deep. The oil smells like rain on dry soil, like the earth breathing. In Haiti, it’s called “the oil of tranquility.” Across Africa, India, and the Caribbean, vetiver guards against negativity and anchors protective work. Its roots literally hold hillsides together. Mixed into the clay, it says: here is solid ground.
- **Angelica Root (Europe)** – Called “the root of the Holy Ghost” — legend says an angel revealed its powers during a plague. It was carried to ward off evil, burned to purify spaces, used at thresholds between worlds. Scattered around the mound, it guards the passage: you may pass, but what is harmful may not.
- **Cardamom (Guatemala)** – Warm, spicy, sweet. In Ayurveda, it balances all three bodily humors — neither too heating nor too cooling. It clears stagnant energy and is offered in coffee as a gesture of welcome. Scattered with rose petals at the outer circle, it softens the boundary and invites you inward.

The Experience

By anointing yourself with the oil and approaching the mound, you complete a circuit that cannot otherwise close.

The cool, starry notes on your skin dissolve into the warm, rosy heart within. What was divided comes together — not in the air, not in the clay, but in you.

You are the vessel. You are the union.

Please Note

The anointing oil contains concentrated plant essences diluted for safe topical use. However, PLEASE DO NOT APPLY if you:

- Are pregnant or nursing;
- Have allergies to the Asteraceae family (chamomile, ragweed, daisies — Blue Tansy, Yarrow, and Helichrysum belong to this family); or
- Have very sensitive skin or a history of contact reactions.

We recommend testing on a small area of skin first. If irritation occurs, wash with soap and water.

If you prefer, you may apply the oil to clothing (beware it has a blue tint), hold the vessel and inhale, or simply experience the ambient scents of the space without the anointing.

This installation is an artistic experience, not a medical treatment. Traditional plant uses are offered for poetic context, NOT as health claims.