Team Assignment #2

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For this project we decided to experiment with the Hele Shaw cell device to create patterns. We borrowed the machine from school. The device is made out of a sheet of Plexiglass with a tiny hole in it that allows us to inject fluid. There is another sheet of glass on top of the Plexiglass. The fluid will go between these two sheets. Before we documented what we were doing we spent few hours just experimenting with different fluids with different viscosity and colors and trying different light settings.

Gardner and I were working together in his house garage. We set up our florescent light about 30 cm behind the device slightly tilted down. We could have seen reflection of the entire garage objects and structures attached to the ceiling on the Hele Shaw glass, so in order to fix this we created a short ceiling about 50 cm above the device, with a white paper towel. We started injecting our less viscous fluid first. We mixed red food dye to water to make this less viscous fluid. Then we injected air into it (Figure 1. Setting).

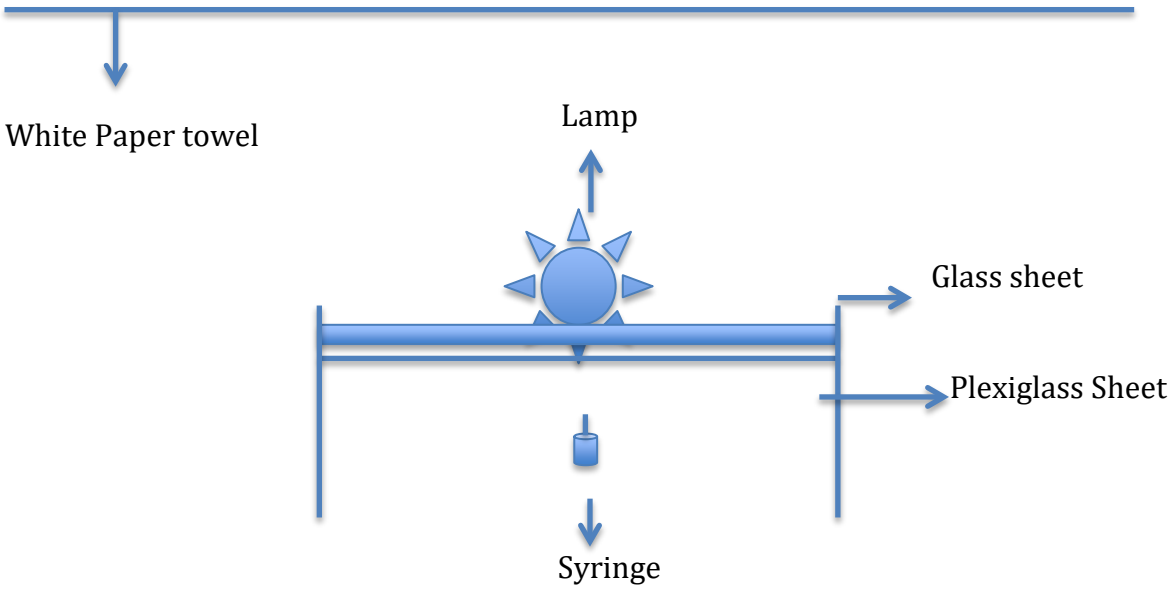

Figure 1. Setting

I set the camera on tripod slightly tilted looking down. My shutter speed was 1/200 and the focal length as 24. The camera's aperture was manually set on f/5.6 and the ISO was set on 800. The Hele Shaw device surface was a rectangular with a width around 60 Cm to the height of 50 cm. the area that my camera was documenting was about 40 cm to 30 cm(Figure 2. Original image). For this project I used my Cannon 600 DSLR camera with 18-135 lens. in the post process I use Photoshop to enhance the white balance, vibrance and contrast. I also cropped the image little to make a better composition.

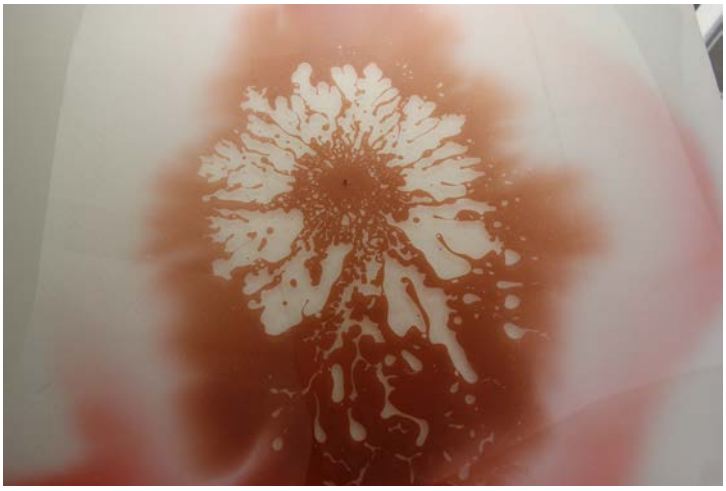

Figure 2. Original image

If I want to try this experiment again I would experiment with fluids. We tried to inject dish soap after the red water but it was too thick to pass through the hole. I would find a less viscous soup to try. Also I would improve the light by setting everything up is a brighter environment.