







# THE IDEA



Knowing our limitations with the Robotic Misb Kit, we chose to pursue ideas of a simplistic nature. Uncomplicated movements and actions should take center stage in our project. Thinking in this direction, we started to explore the possibilities of using robotic behavior to mimic human manoeuvre. At one point, we considered the action of reading. The irony of a robot reading seemed powerful to us. By completing a task as basic as turning pages in a book the technology is doing something associated to our unique physical and mental capabilities as civilization. It further suggests the idea of pursuing knowledge in the Information Age of today. The action of reading is in many aspects interesting, as it supports the development of the mind and generates the evolution of mankind.

# THE BOOK

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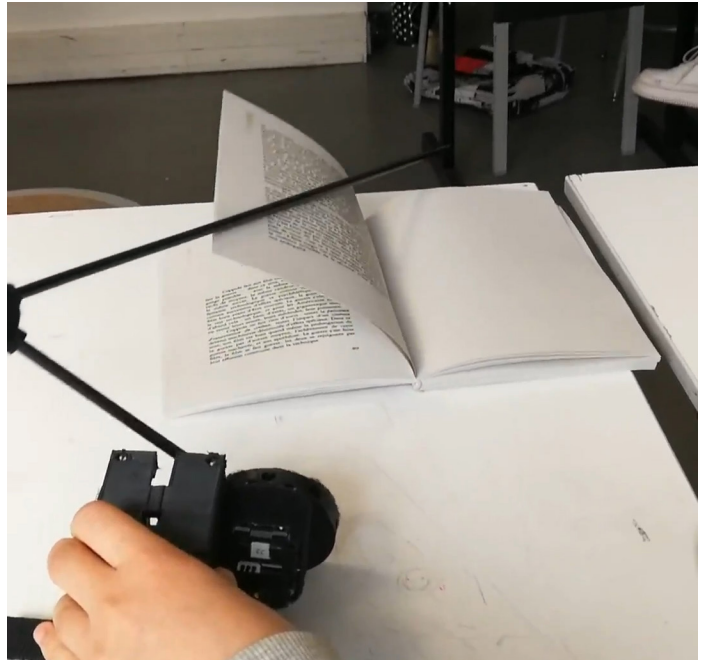
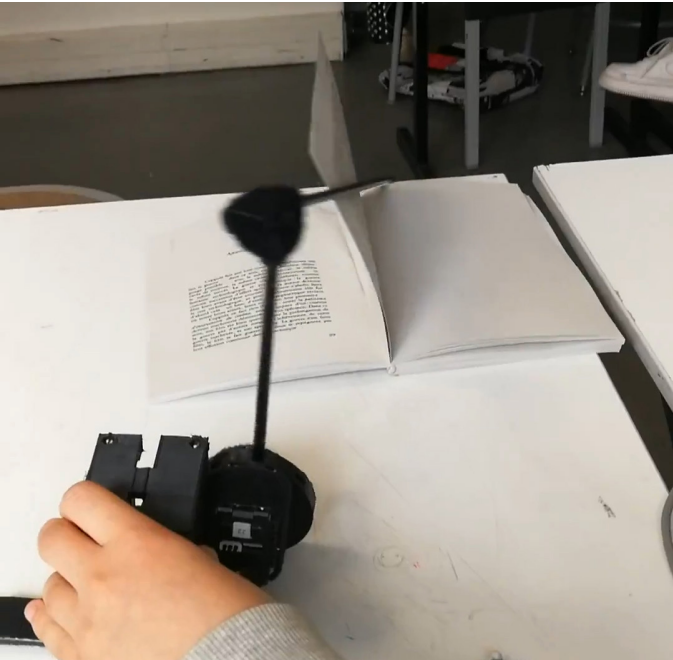
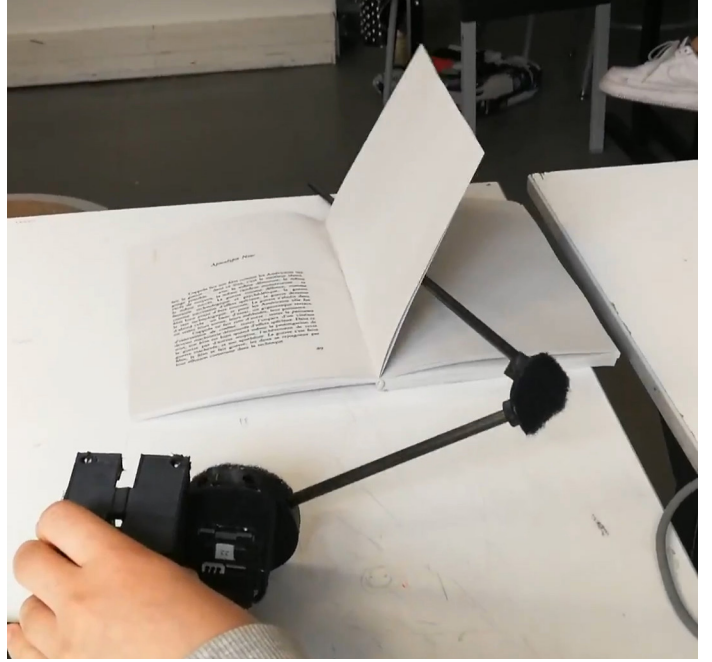
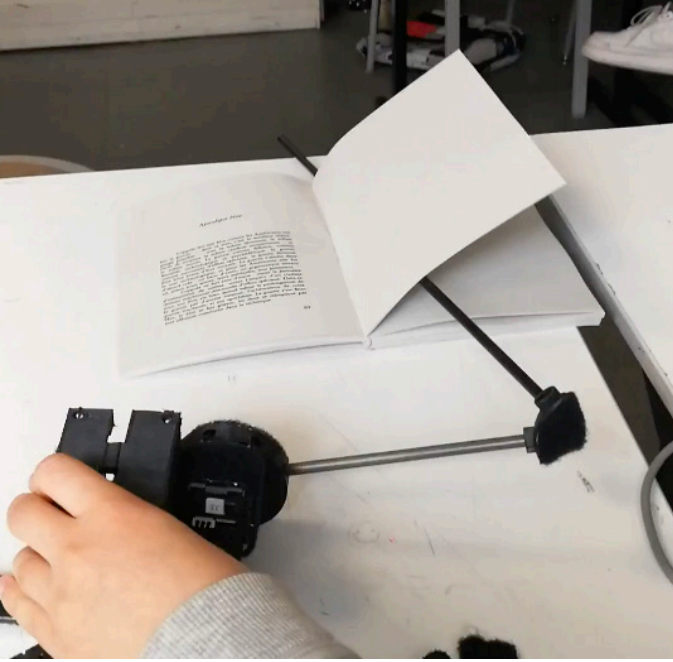
The book used for our project is called *Simulacra and Simulation* by Jean Baudrillard which explores postmodern theoritization. The book discusses ideas of mass reproduction and copied creation to such a degree that nothing is authentic anymore. The idea is that we are not living in a real reality, but a reality established by notions of cultural expenditure established as simulation. In other words, the human experience in a simulation of reality.

Here - we have a robot reading, reading a book which establishes that due to technology and sociology and other conditions our reality is nothing more than a construct, such as itself. The fact that the robot is reading the book upside down suggests that the action is also surreal. The words in the book also seem to be falling out, suggesting that what we see is all but symbols and signs, a simulation.



# RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTATION

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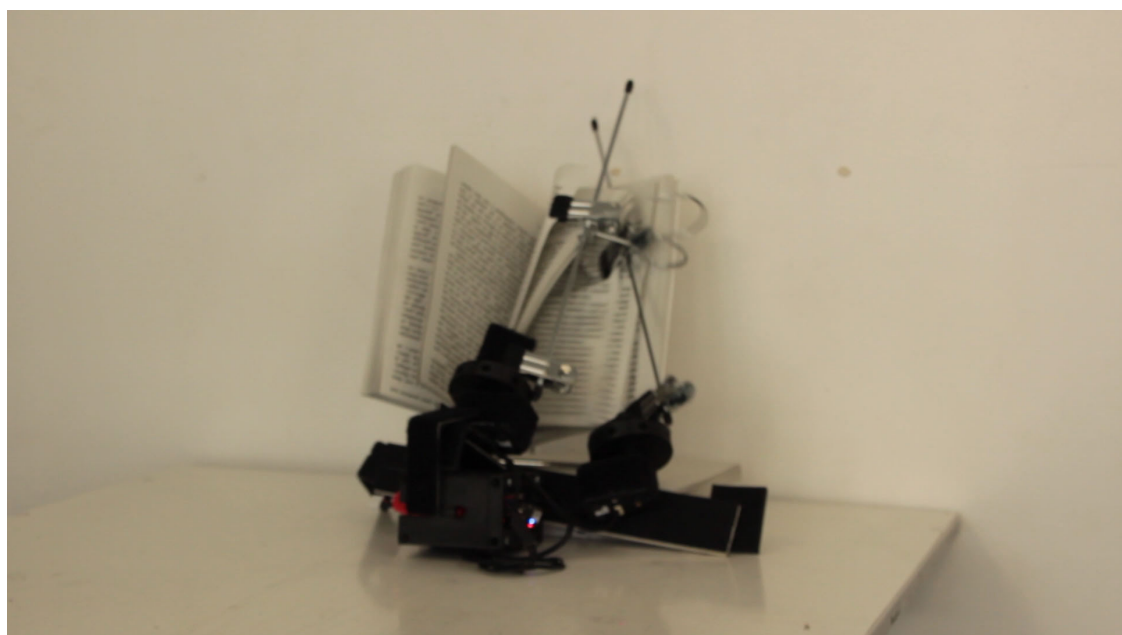
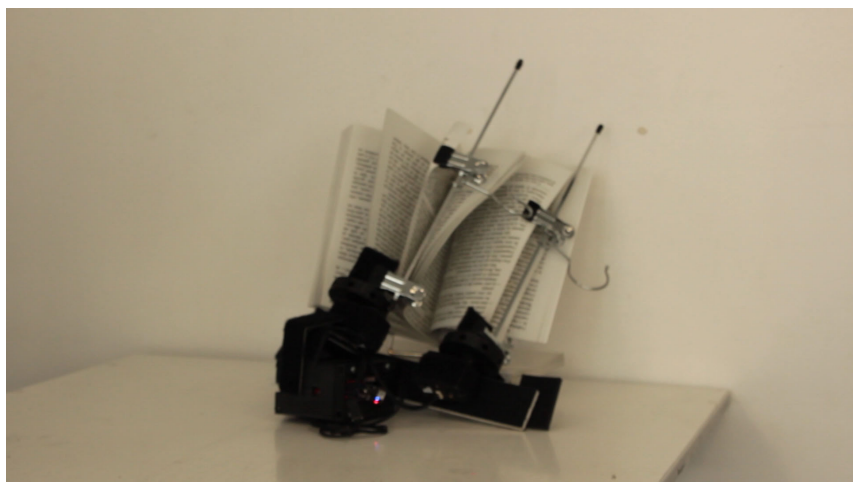


At the beginning, we did not come up with a specific idea for the robotics workshop. Rather we wanted to explore the gadgets and instruments first before looking into forming it into a project. The first few experiments were conducted in a group of four. We made variations of a robot catapult as well as a robotic instrument. We also attempted to create an automobile robot.

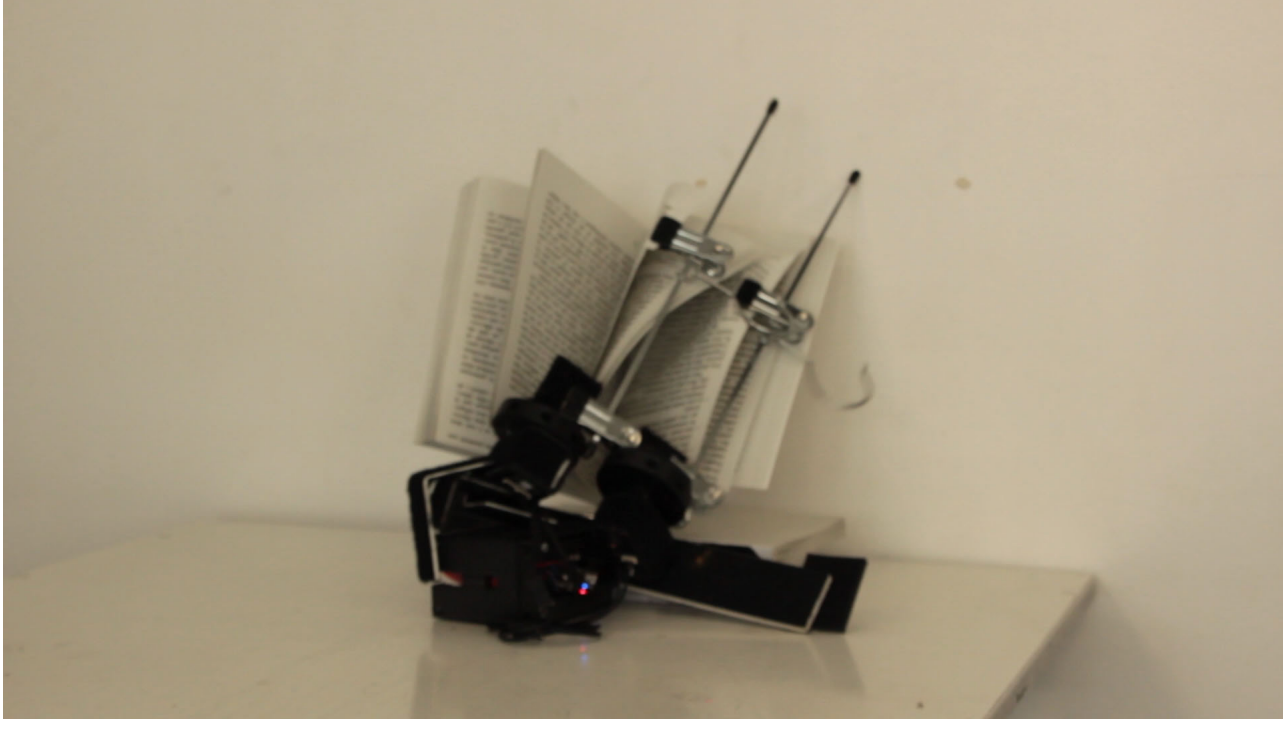
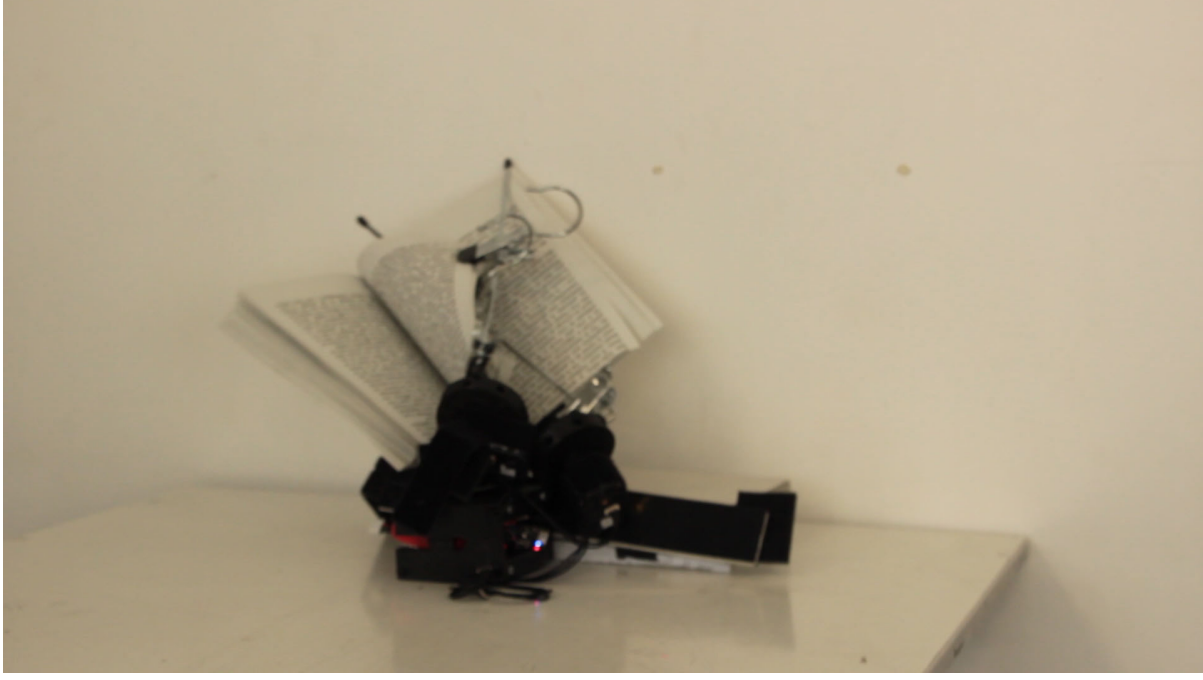
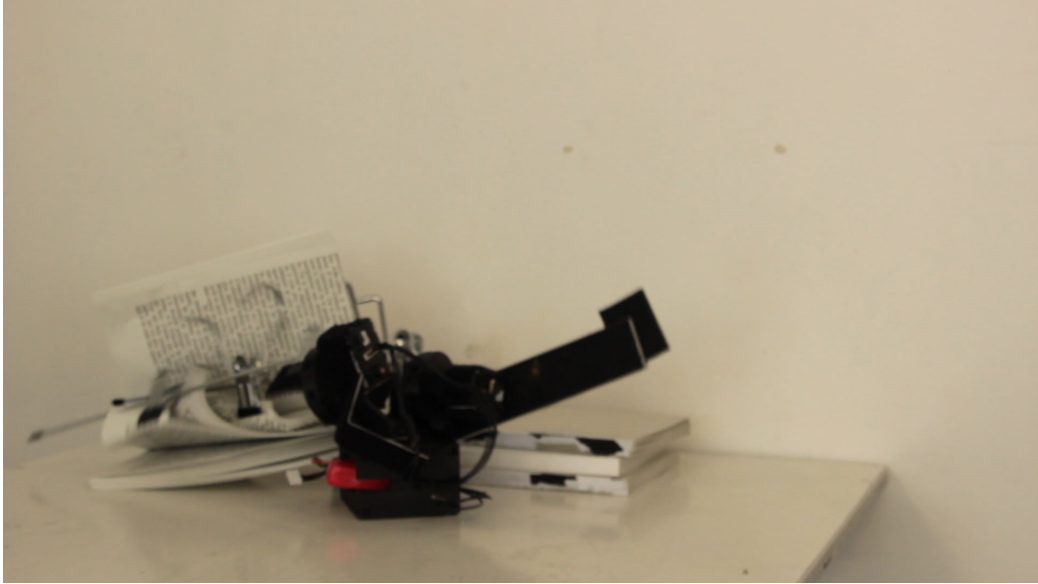
When working with the robotic Misb Kit the second time, we already had an idea of where we wanted to head to. We wanted to make a robot that flips pages of a book and possibly also a writing robot. Most of the experimentation process was based on chance. Nothing was definit, everything was played upon the indefinite.

Here, with the Misb Kit robotics, we played on the concepts of misbehaviour and disobedience. The robots were sometimes human-controlled, set to randomized or a recording of movements was used.

# RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTATION

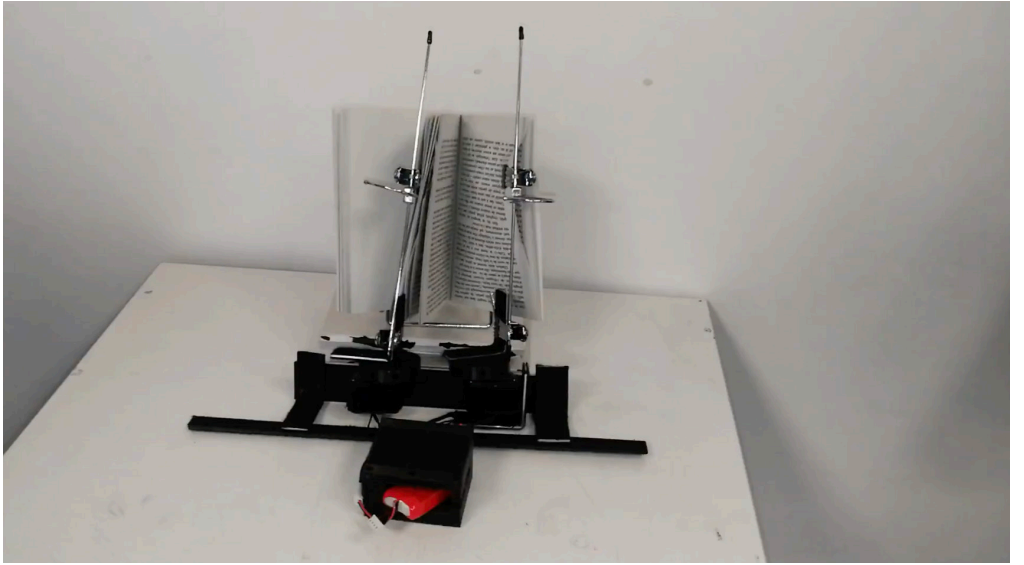
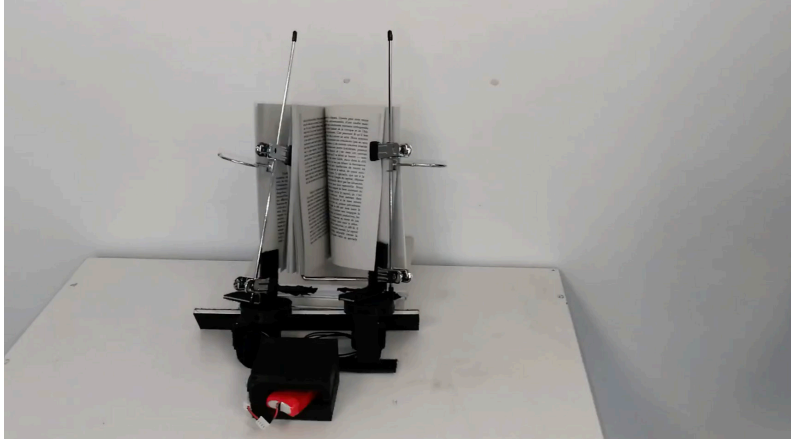


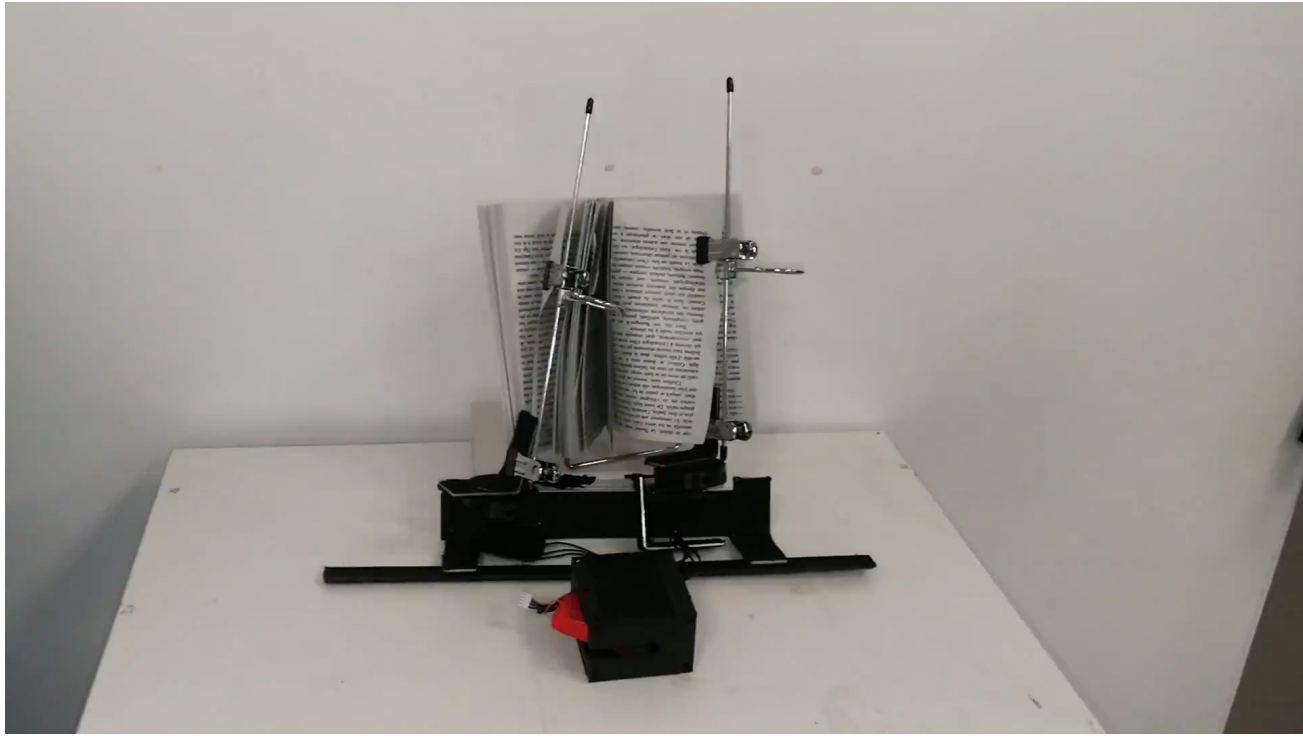
List of series of ideas concerning robotics: Tinker toys, drawing (in plastic bag), cleaning robot, stage design and robots as actors, robot types research paper, wrestling match, book turning robot and the moving robotic paper-made fish.



# RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTATION

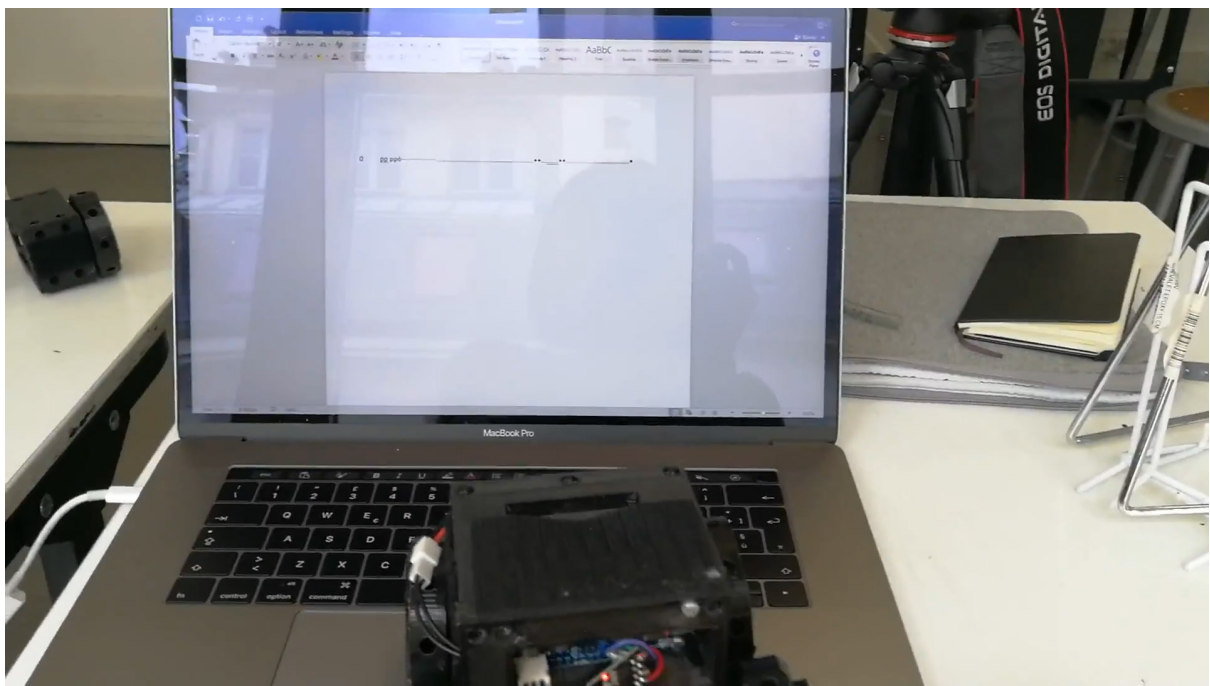
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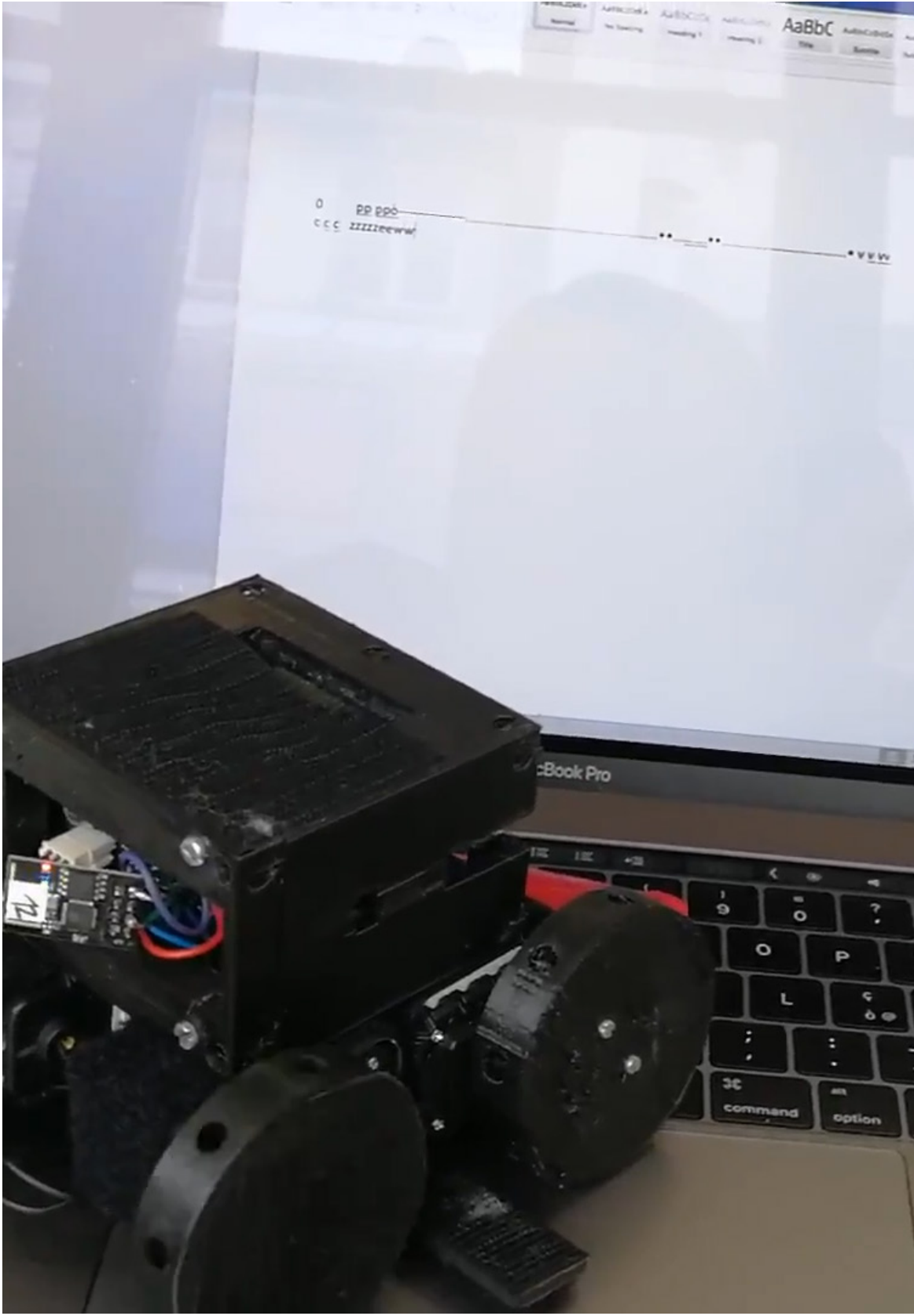




# RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTATION

Another experiment that we conducted was a robot that typed. However, we did not not pursue this idea as we deemed it less interesting and symbolic compared to the reading robot.



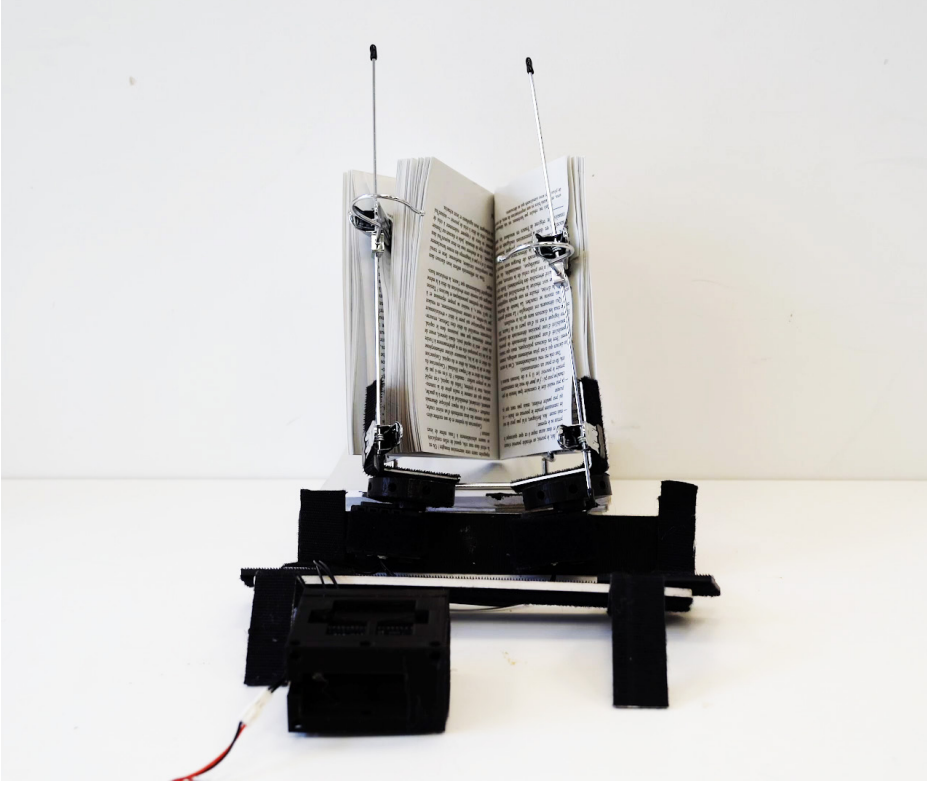


# THE FINAL PRODUCT

For this installation, we used a series of the Robotic Misb Kit, velcro parts, two motors, and two hangers. The hangers needed to be at an angle where they can comfortably grab the page and a distance from each other that allows interaction among the two parts. The book also needed to be put on a bookstand at an angle that was functional for the “reading”.

The *Reading Robot* is divided into three scenes. In the first scene, the robot was human-controlled by two separate individuals. In the second, the movements were pre-recorded and then played. In the third and last, the movements of the robot was set to randomized. The first two scene showed similar patterns of movements. However, the last showed slow motion, which in a sense represented the reading process more. These different scenes suggest different methods the robot takes in reading the book. Moreover, its misbehavior and disobedience puts forward the stance of the robot being a creature of the indefinite. Every movement that it makes, the effects that it causes, are not definit, they are unpredictable.

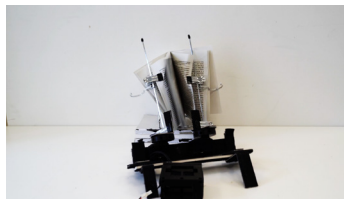
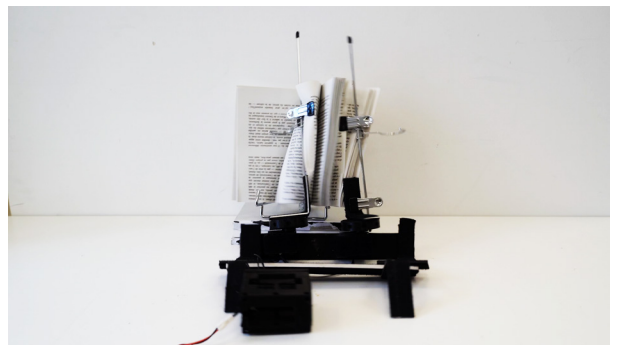
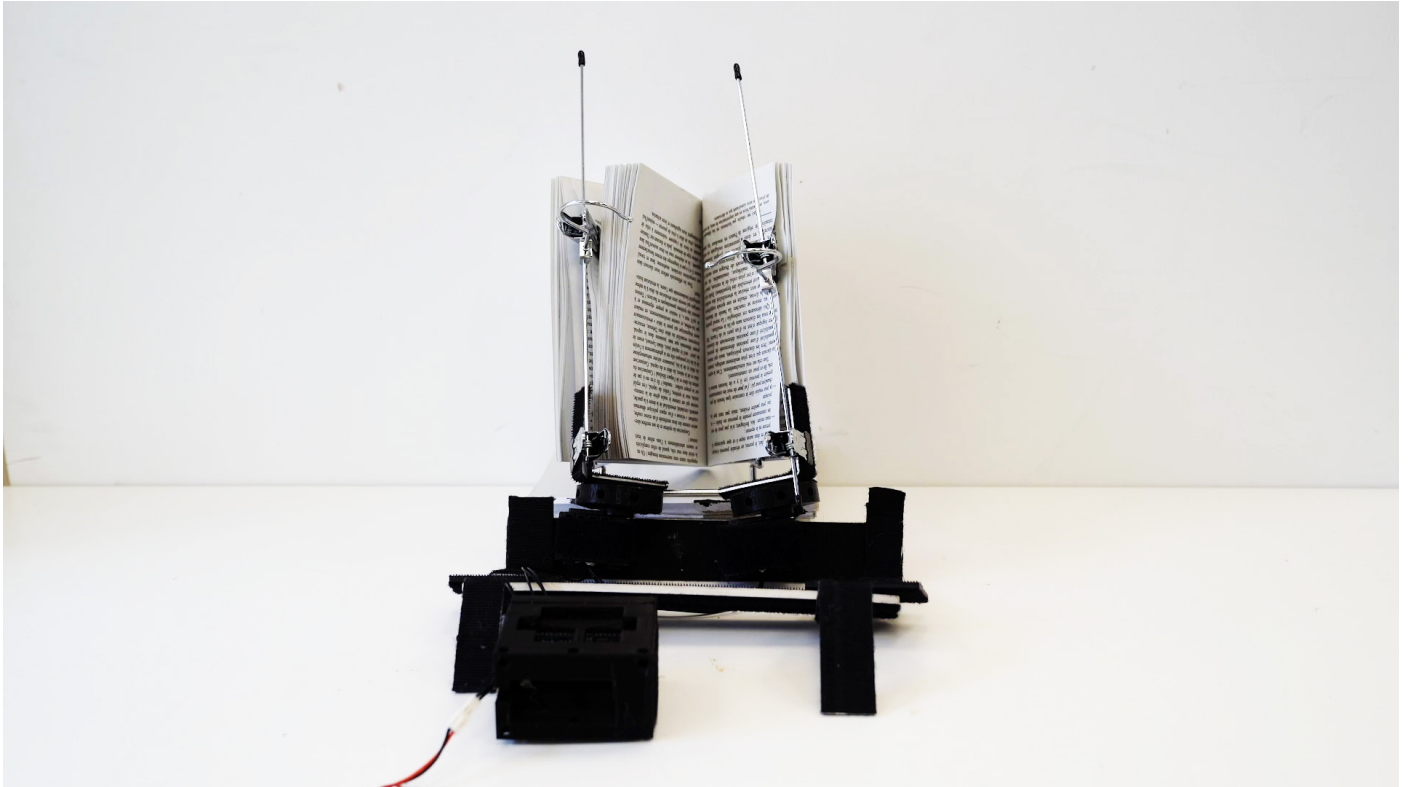


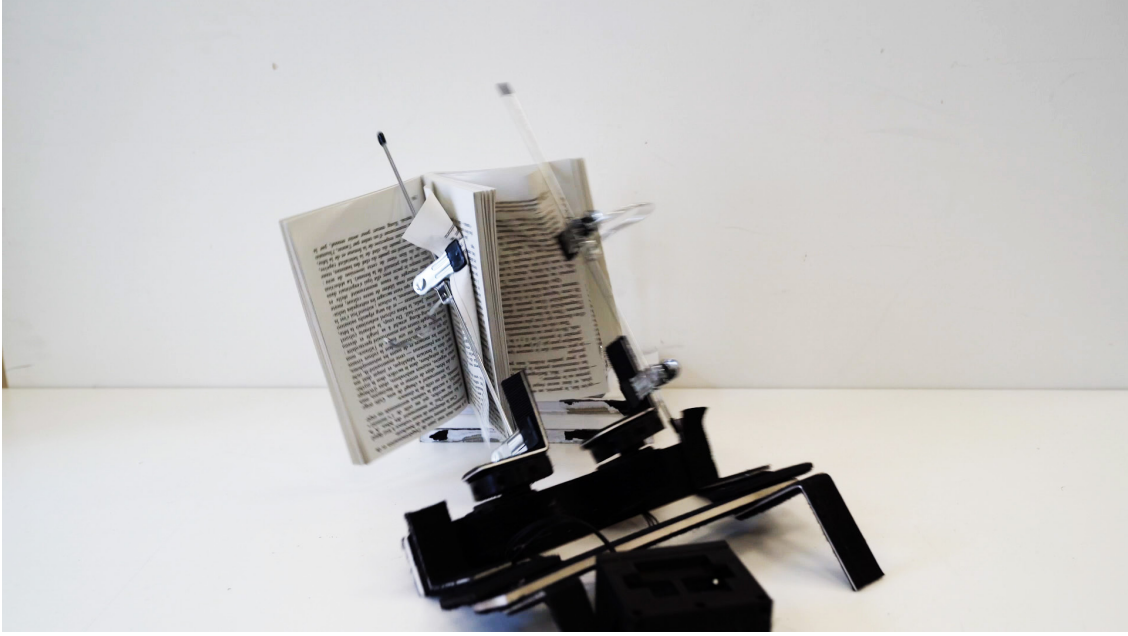
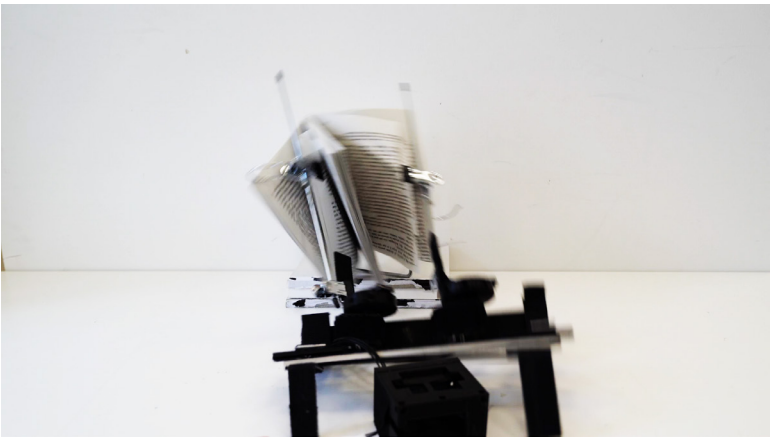


# THE FINAL PRODUCT

Scene 1 | Human Controlled

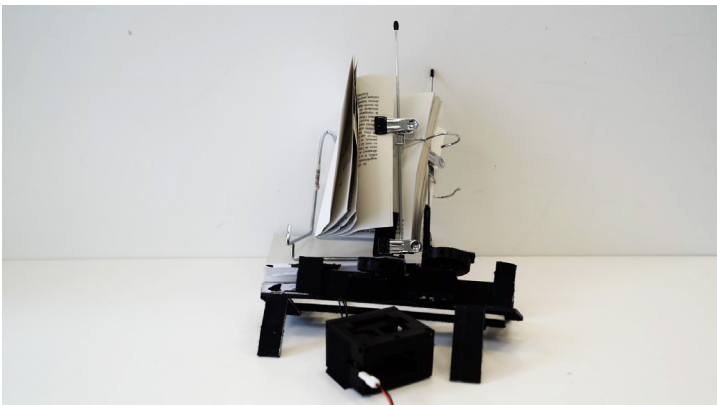
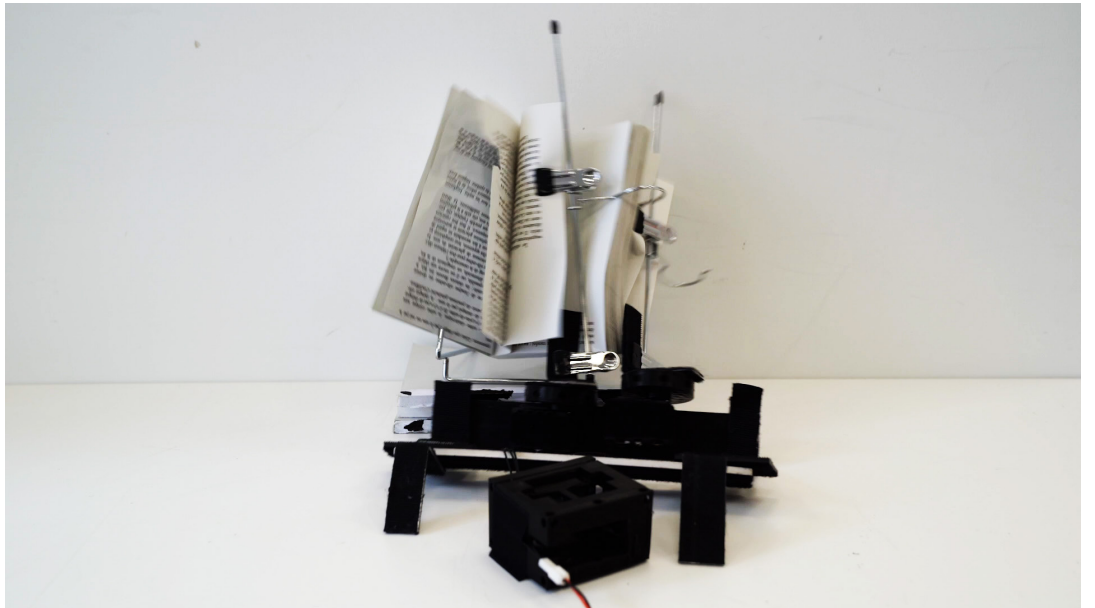
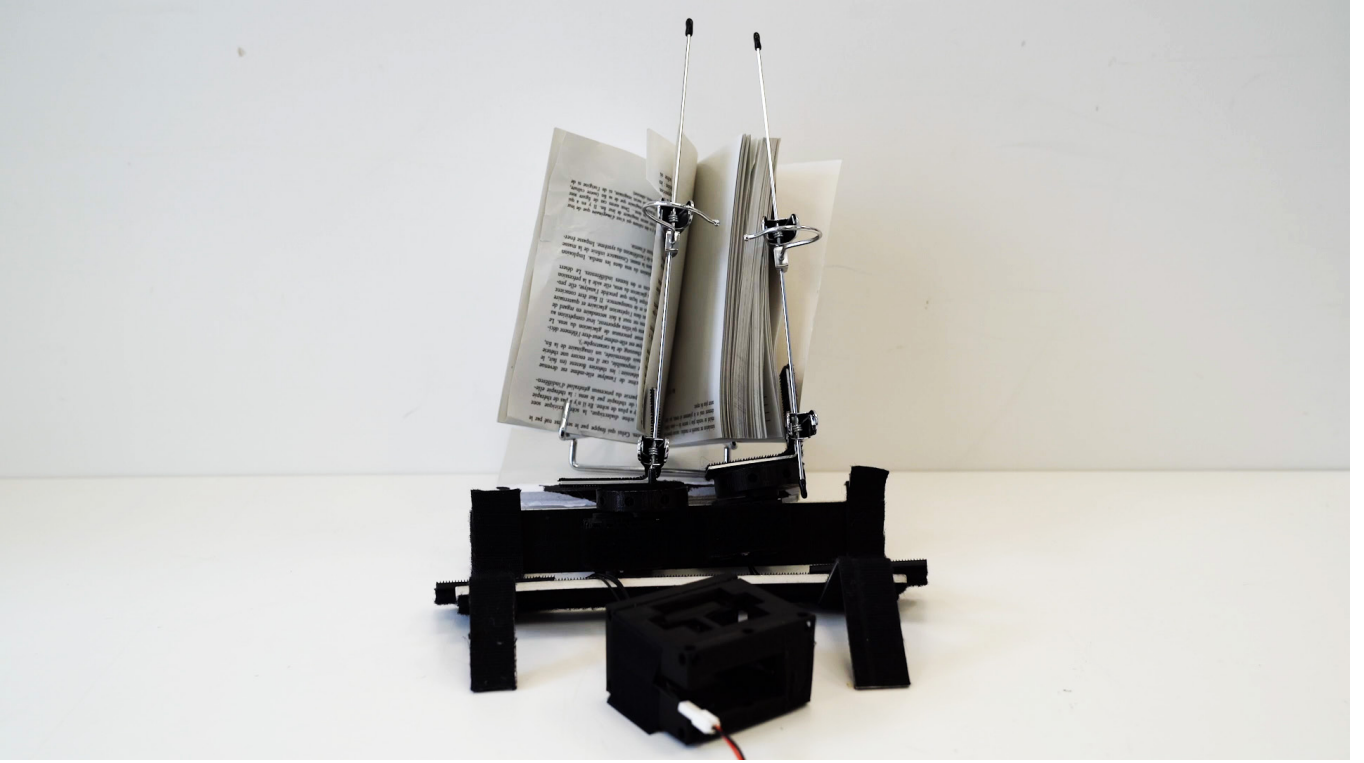
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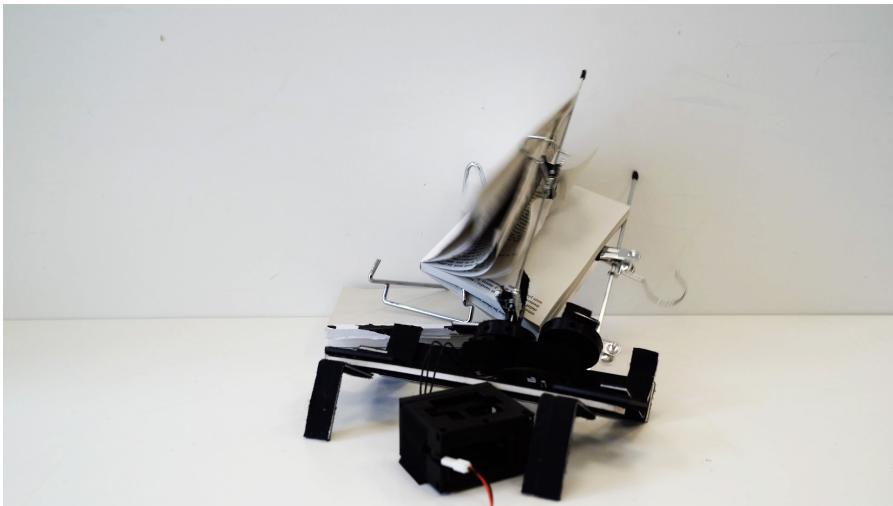
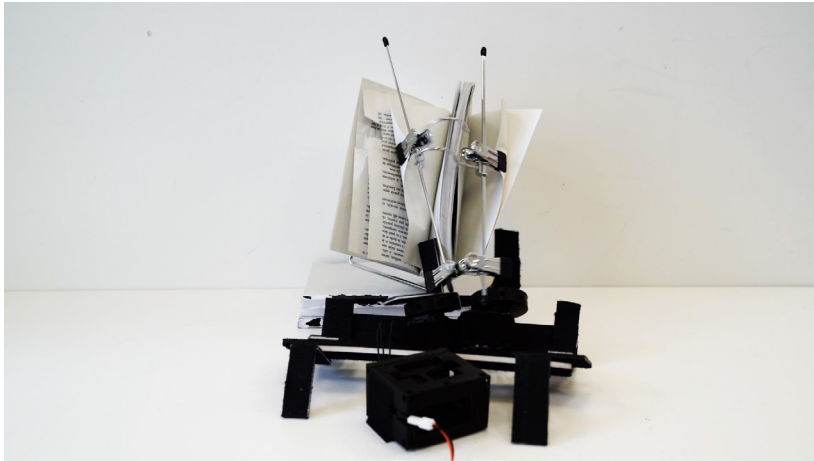
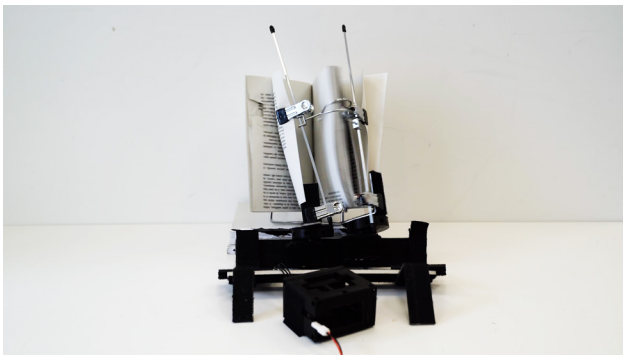




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Scene 2 | Recorded Animation

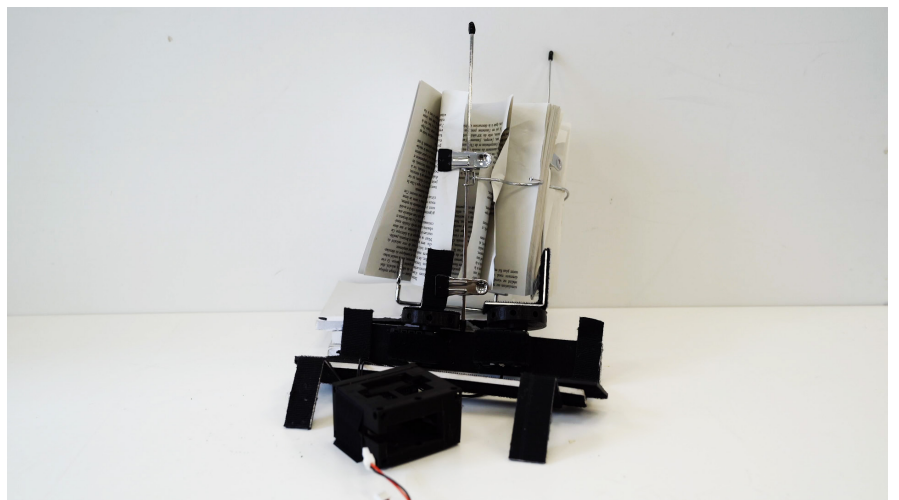
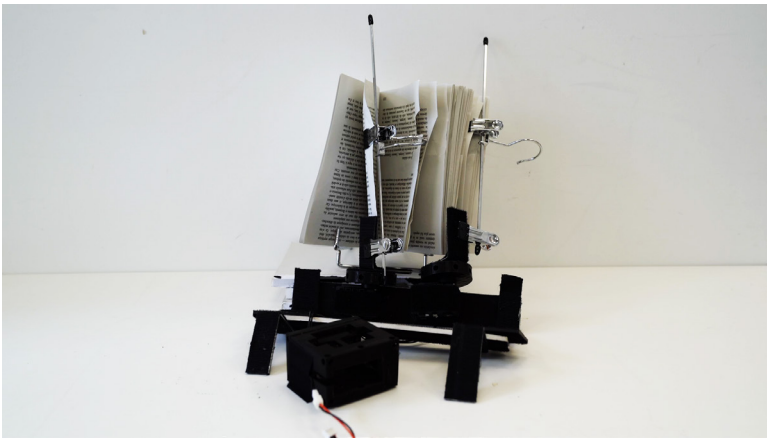
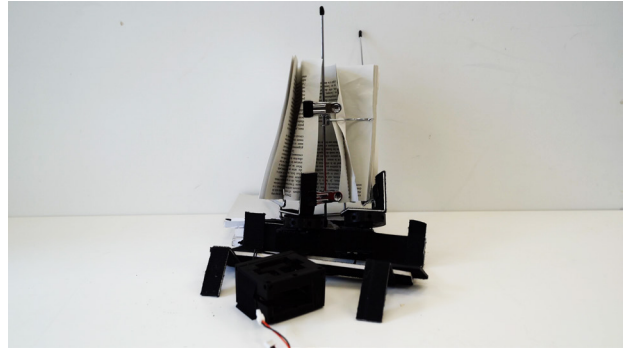
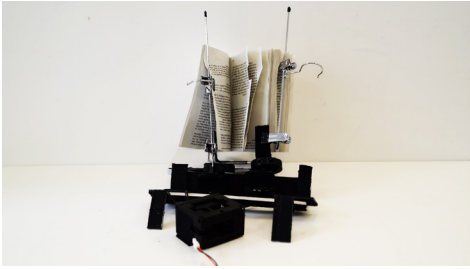


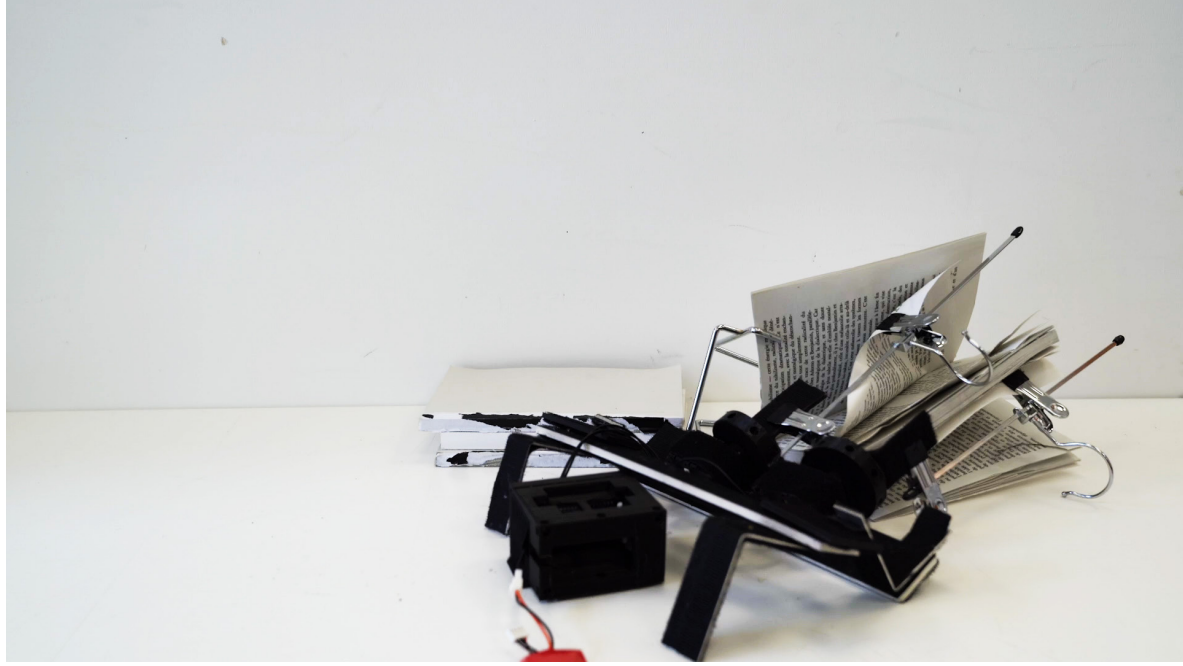
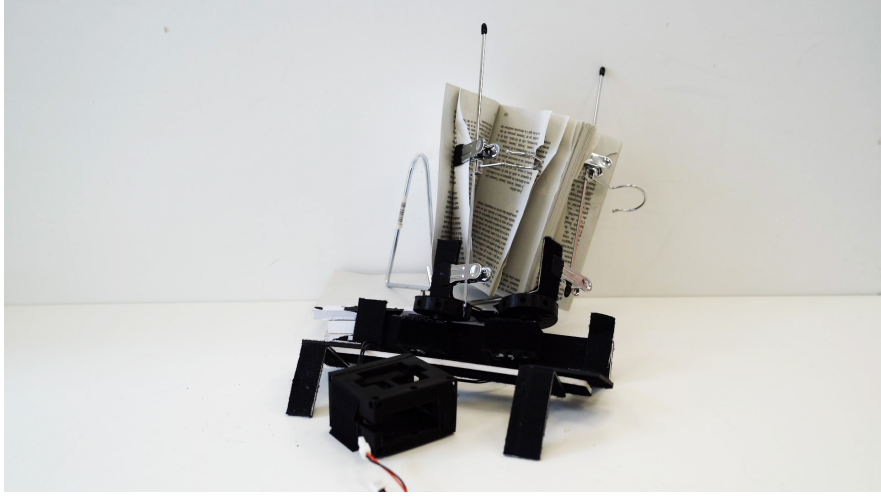
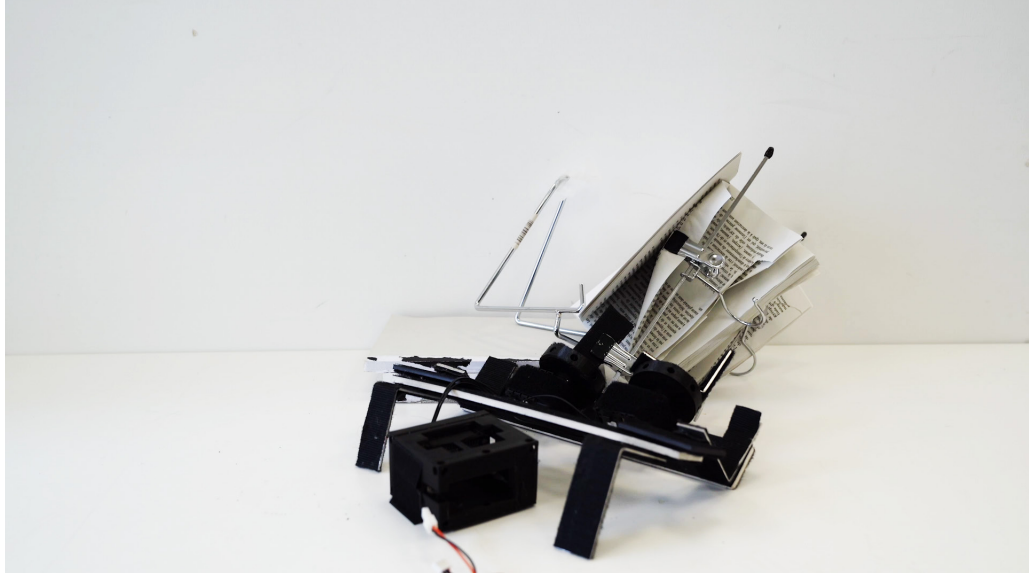


# THE FINAL PRODUCT

Scene 3 | Randomized Movements

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# FINAL THOUGHTS & NEXT STEPS

In our opinion, the Misb Kit is a great starter pack to learn basic robotic “programming” skills. It is easy to use and not too overwhelming, making the experimentation process enjoyable. The only contra argument is that the kit is limited. For this reason, if we were to develop this project further in the future, we would want to use other tools and maybe create a truly function page turning robot that does not destroy the book.



