

Thomas Fink (painting) & Mark Young (poem)

from 100 Titles From Tom Beckett

#81: Hinged to Dispersal

One of the most fascinating of the manufactured objects that store elastic energy — & much more sophisticated than the slap bracelets of the 1980s — are those pillars of crystal that have mathematically designed & variously ornamented cell wall geometries & are reputed to be created by androids.

More fascinating, though, is the innate energy used by the popping cress plant. Once thought that exploding seed pods only happened when the pod had dried. Something else with this plant, explodes when green, uses internal pressure to contract, to generate tension. Again a special cell wall, shaped like a hinge, which opens, to disperse its seeds at speeds so fast that special cameras are required to see the explosion.

Airborne particles in the absence of air currents
She took the tin from his hand
Vectors of seed dispersal

