

Part 1B: Representation:

Preserving and pickling: The antidote for the antidote to today's obsession with instant gratification.

When people describe a place as a 'slow city', they're actually talking about villages, European and usually of renaissance period. Surrounded yet seemingly unaffected by constant change in the developed world, these places have captured the imagination of many 25 year-old Melbourne-living to-be doco-making latte-sipping SBS 'freelance' 'journalists'. People love this stuff, particularly those who live in the western suburbs, commute 10 hours a day but manage to unite as a family on a Sunday afternoon and watch "River Cottage Australia". Those people who describe a journey down the coast on a long-weekend sampling local produce and staring at dairy cows as "a fun day out". Our society is obsessed with trying to get 'back in touch' and 'back to basics'. Those TV shows and magazines that are all gourmet and wholesome with those recycled paper covers and rustic armchairs in the corner of an empty room. Let's go sit in a café where the menu is written on a blackboard and the floor is made of concrete while we sip our fair-trade peace-promoting black coffee that probably empowers an African community whilst also allowing me to wear a t-shirt which advertises to the world my addiction to coffee. That t-shirt is probably made out of paperbark too and 10% of profits go back to the 'community' because the artisan t-shirt maker 'just wants to give something back'. Hell, let's take a photo of my sculpted eggs benedict and don't forget that #blessed. #procrastinating. #cantlivewithoutcoffee. #get over yourselves. For the first time ever, we feel the need to move backwards to move forwards. Suddenly, anything mildly consumeristic is a crime. You don't have a vertical herb garden and you eat...meat??? Get out. People like this don't realize that the past sucks. People ate SPAM and everything was in black and white and miserable. Why can't we just move forward and improve what we feel needs improving? That's why I like preserving and pickling. An old-fashioned technique that was mostly forgotten in the 20th century. Unfortunately, many prefer to scroll through their Instagram feed looking at a muddy potato and then trying to cover their own clean potato in dirt. Shame.