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Potato Power

"Regeneration" is the title of Joseph T. Smolinski's installation in the windows of the Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven. The installation may be seen through Sept. 6.

Mr. Smolinski is concerned with the exploration of connections between technology and biology, and the notions of mortality and renewable resources.

While he holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Connecticut and has exhibited widely, this particular work is a science experiment consisting of 250 pounds of potato batteries powering 80 flashing red lights.

A solar-powered irrigation system sustains the potato batteries which, with the addition of soil and light, were expected to sprout, form roots, stems, leaves and ultimately new potatoes. The phenomenon is starting to take place now with the appearance of green shoots.

The work was assembled for viewing Aug. 1, when the Creative Arts Workshop closed for vacation. The workshop will reopen on Sept. 5 with a closing reception for Mr. Smolinski from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A spokeswoman for the workshop said the artist hopes to find a new home for his experiment. ELEANOR CHARLES