

ELÆ MOSS

SAMPLE PROMPTS & PROTOCOLS from
POLYPHONIC INTERSUBJECTIVITIES : MYCELIAL ASSEMBLAGE BEYOND THE CAPITALOCENE
For LIMINAL LAB, SUMMER 2020



Detail from Radio Mycelium, 2018

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ENGAGEMENT:

Respond to these questions in whatever way feels good and possible to you and/or use any of these mechanisms as a vehicle to pull out a more discrete “piece” of “work.” The notion of “finished” work is not our concern here. Our goals are generative, whatever what means for you. It may happen entirely in the realm of the interior mind and body. Perfect, fantastic.

PROMPTS & FRAMEWORKS FOR ENGAGEMENT

RE/ORIENTATION PROMPT FOR ENTRY:

RECLAIMED TERRITORY : SOMATIC UNSETTLING

“[One is] born into a new territory, and that territory is myself as organism. There is no place to go but here. Each organism that persons finds the new territory that is itself, and, having found it, adjusts it. . . . An organism-person-environment has given birth to an organism-person-environment .The organism we are speaking of persons the world.” - *Architectural Body*, Arakawa and Gins

*The successive phases of the image:
it is the reflection of a profound reality
it masks and denatures a profound reality
it masks the absence of a profound reality
it has to relation to any reality whatsoever: it is its own pure simulacrum*

If places, spaces, their representations, and the technological tools we (increasingly) use to interact with and navigate within them are deeply implicated not only in the erasure of physical landscapes, histories, and identities, but also are part of an embodied relationship to perceived truth which is “truthy” at best, how do we go about restoring both our cognitive and sensed awareness, as well as a healthy skepticism about language, media, technology, and other tools that are inextricably linked to agents of colonial neoliberal practices and systems?

Let’s consider the capacity of the body to remap both self and surroundings in relationship with nonhuman allies, as well as understanding the body itself as a porous membrane, sharing material and sensory experience with an intersubjective chorus of active agents, making a world that far exceeds and offers intelligences beyond human language and/or maps and/or our current documentary strategies.

What is gained / offered / available in a speculative landscape wherein the image / spectacle of human logic no longer reigns? What is the (r)evolutionary potential of both contemporary or future communities in which alternative mappings / logics begin to re-orient our relationship to self and space?

How does experiencing our body this way re-frame our own perception?

[PROMPT 2]

MYCELIAL UNMAPPING / SENSORY, NONLINEAR REORIENTATIONS

Composer/multi-hyphenate visionary John Cage, who was also a longtime avid amateur mycologist, famously said that while everything could be considered to be music, that mushrooms were “avant-garde.” He also wrote that his poems on mushrooms are “nonsense in the sense of not being ordinary sense,” wherein “words which you’re used to going in one direction can go in at least two directions. They can be used to set your mind floating.”

This prompt invites you to continue the unmapping / re-orienting / forensics explorations from RECLAIMED TERRITORY to explore a speculative account of a landscape / region through the POV or utilizing the language of the mushroom/mycelia, and/or other non-human subjects of your choosing. As Cage notes, a nonhuman agent’s nonlinearity may begin to offer a suggestion towards spatial or otherwise nonlinear / nontraditional narrative form for your account / document.

How might the notion of mapping, territory, or communication of environment be entirely turned on its head by reconsidering its authorship through other points of view, and using alternative frameworks? Continue playing with neologism if useful. How can sound be used in this mapping, whether as a material, or as a medium via which to re/orient our relationship to experiencing and understanding spatial relations?

If interdisciplinarity appeals to you, look at the dance notation folder, and/or engage with any of the sound materials to explore how this “map” might appear if fashioned across other media: sound, visual notation, etc. Even if you are working with text/language, consider how that text might be arranged or presented and/or heard on various platforms. How might we engage with these other “maps”? Now or in the future?

[PROMPT 3]

FURTHER FORENSICS / SONIC SOMATICS

Whether reading as media or exploring experientially, spend time with the various instructions and somatic exercises / prompts in the folder -- the Oliveros, the Ono, the Sonic-Somatic Disruptor Mechanism, the Body Mind Centering exercises -- and formulate your own set of instructions for re-orienting your body considering a forensic unmapping framework. Or, you could work through these exercises considering this intention / angle, and document your experiences. How can utilizing mycelial / nonhuman / speculative language in addition to and/or in tandem with physical somatic experiences or object-orientation shift your experience of being in body-in-the-world? Consider, again, playing with form if you’re interested in creating something more object oriented or not on paper and/or nontextual and/or nonnarrative.

MATERIALS / RESOURCES
(those not hyperlinked can be found [here](#))

TO EXPLORE / PLAY WITH / READ:

- Pauline Oliveros, "Auralizing the Sonosphere," "Sonic Meditations"
- Further thinking on / media from [Poeme Electronique](#)
- Radical Mycology Primer from the Spore Liberation Front

UNSETTLING / REMAPPING PROJECTS (for further consideration / listening / reorientation):

- **THIS WEEKEND!**: [Works on Water VideoShow](#) (august 21-23, times vary)
- [Radio Mycelium](#) / [Mycelial Network Society](#)
- [Interspecies Communication](#) / Also: [Wild Talk](#), from Radiolab (2010; audio)
- [Earthsound](#)
- [Resonating Bodies](#)
- [Xeno-Canto](#)

*the soundscape / projects links compilation from the [Acoustic Ecology Institute](#) is now quite old and many links are dead but feel free to poke around and find others still active -- their research pages still have a lot of fascinating work to explore

SOMATIC / VISUAL / CONCEPTUAL TOOLS FOR PROMPT DEEPENING / SCORE DEVELOPMENT

- Explorations in Body-Mind Centering
- Sonic-Somatic Disruptor Mechanism Score (Elæ)
- Dance Notation / Score Visualisations
- Selections from Ono, *Grapefruit*

*Recommended: Alexis Pauline Gumbs, *M Archive*, "Archive of Sky, Archive of Fire;"
John Cage, *Mycological Foray*; see [excerpt at TANK](#)