

Preparing to Welcome the Chthulucene

The following set of instructions are a set of preliminary exercises in embodying a trans-species, Chthulu-friendly¹ quantum-queer² existence. They are embodied re-imaginings of *humans*,³ their practices, and their speciesist hierarchies. They are efforts in embracing our precariousness, destructiveness, and insignificance. The following set of instructions propose a lifestyle in servitude of critters such as Protists, Fungi, and the ever-mobile, consciousness-creating Eubacteria and Archaeobacteria that compose our (their) flesh and our (their) multiverses.⁴

Our mission is to establish material practices of resistance and to de-territorialize the boundaries of the *human*. It is to embrace our mortality and dissolve the assumption that we are the heirs of this earth. Take these exercises, embody them, and expand upon them. Allow these to propagate within and outside of yourselves.

Outlook and Philosophy

- ** nurture the relationship of plastics and waste deposited in “natural”⁵ situations; approach their untranslatable dialogue respectfully.
- ** understand objectual and ecological reality and ontology as primordially aesthetic.⁶
- ** be mindful of guiding your waste through its journey: rejoice in the fact that a microplastic from your Clean & Clear facial scrub might become a boat home for a bacteria in the ocean; respect the plastic bag that might travel through the ocean and into a whale’s stomach.
- ** encounter transcendence through the dimension of the “cracks in an eggshell in a box of eggs in the supermarket.”⁷
- ** understand your own body as trans-individual. it is a non-discrete manifestation of bacterial and ecological development. your body is in constant flux. it shifts inhabitants, ownerships, and genders.
- ** understand the earth as a trans-individual body, a *pachamama* undergoing a constant transition and being showered incessantly with the remnants of the Capitalocene.

Hygiene and Health

- ** commit to a hygienic routine free of anti-bacterial products.
- ** allow your body to become a shelter for the fungal and bacterial colonies that may or may not find it. consider them your kin.
- ** maintain your fingernails and toenails long and filthy; they are more hospitable to microbes.
- ** invite fungi to your body by keeping your feet, socks, and shoes moist at all times.
- ** if in need of psychological treatment or at the face of emotional imbalance, commit to a diet heavy in pre & probiotic substances (such as garlic, raw banana, raw asparagus, kefir, kimchi, kombucha, sauerkraut, etc.). interact as much as possible with soil for the anti-depressive properties of her microbes.

Sex and Partnership

- ** if aroused, drink and breed kefir. rejoice in the binary fission of your composing bacteria, and attract the fungus *Candida albicans* to your genitals.
- ** if seeking sexual union with a fellow *human*, prefer other forms of genomic sharing including but not limited to asking your partners to prepare ingestible preparations for you with their spit, vaginal fluids, semen, etc.
- ** satisfy your need for companionship by attracting an external bacteria to your body and allowing it to gain control of your body.

Lifestyle

- ** commit to a diet rich in shellfish. they eat the ocean’s trash and so can you.
 - ** do not throw away food, especially if it is already in the rotting or molding process. provide an appropriate environment for it to shelter bacteria, molds, and other critters.
 - ** vacation at your nearest microbial mat and/or landfill. if possible, commit to visiting your ancestors at Laguna Figueroa and your cousins at the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.
 - ** maintain companions species (“pets”) around yourselves only if you are able to respect the needs of their species, rather than in the hope of unconditional love.⁸
 - ** maintain an environment around yourselves that enforces the visual and material imaginary of the Chthulucene lifestyle.
- we recommend: maintaining your own Chthulu via the app Chthuluvirtual;⁹ nurturing slime molds in mason jars soaked in water and oatmeal; retaining and using your filthy/old possessions and rejoicing in their decay; decorating your home with the plastic “disposables” that your routine requires; utilizing charcoal, mud, and chia seeds as lipstick, blush, eyeshadow, etc.

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1 This refers to Haraway’s postulation of the *Chthulucene* as a re-examination and re-designing of the Capitalocene as a destructive and defining era into a transitional geological phase where *humans* embrace their mortality and transience. She posits that to “live and die well as mortal critters in the Chthulucene is to join forces to reconstitute refuges, to make possible partial and robust biological-cultural-political-technological recuperation and recomposition.” (Haraway, Donna. “Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, Chthulucene: Making Kin.” *Environmental Humanities* 6.1 (2015): 159-65. Web.)

2 Karen Barad’s term ‘Q’ equates the quantum with queerness, both defined as methods of constant construction of time-spaces and identities.

3 We utilize the term *human* as established by the Greco-Roman tradition for the sake of convention, but we understand this term to be much more layered than simply meaning *homo sapiens sapiens*. We inherit this understanding from several indigenous cosmologies and their conceptions of humanity, animality, and *naturecultures* as studied by Eduardo Viveiros de Castro (Viveiros De Castro, Eduardo. “Cosmological Perspectivism in Amazonia and Elsewhere.” Manchester: HAU Network of Ethnographic Theory. Haubooks.)

4 (Margulis, Lynn, and Dorion Sagan. *Microcosmos: Four Billion Years of Evolution from Our Microbial Ancestors*. New York: Summit, 1986. Print.)

5 We refer to the natural as an inherent *natureculture*

6 “See the aesthetic dimension as the blood of reality.” (Morton, Timothy. *Realist Magic Objects, Ontology, Causality*. Open Humanities Press, 2013.)

7 Ibid.

8 “Not about unconditional love, but about seeking to inhabit an inter-subjective world that is about meeting the other in all the fleshy detail of a mortal relationship.” (Haraway, Donna. *The Companion Species Manifesto*. Prickly Paradigm Press pg. 34.)

9 Chthulu Virtual Pet by Guillermo Ferrari is available for Android and apple devices