

# Water

# Ways

In September 2020 at the Master Exerce program “recherche et representation” I staged *In study with bodies who flood*, a hybrid dance performance and speculative lecture on water bodies: how they move, their behavior, and what’s getting in their way. This zine is a way of collecting some of the materials, strategies, and questions I encountered through making this performance.

– marion storm, Montpellier 2023

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There is a real story of a glacier who froze.

I say : We have time for just one story, so I'll tell you about the glacier.

And then I tell you of Okjokull, one of many glaciers who has been “declassified” as a glacier because [ it/she/they ] could no longer move. Declassified, because move is what glaciers do.

I tell you, then, of a group of Icelanders who gathered to create a memorial for Okjokull, and who installed a plaque on the mountain where she used to live. The plaque is called “A letter to the future.”

As I finish this story, I propose that maybe the work I'm doing here today in this performance-lecture, moving as a water body and then talking about this in memoriam to a glacier, is my own kind of letter to the future. A letter that welcomes an “otherwise” into how things are going between us and the planet.

I ask you, the witness, if it's a letter we can write together.

To finish the performance I suggest that we close our eyes. I say :

I'd like to take the temperature of the room, to ask ourselves as individuals of this group to see what roles we might offer to play in a speculative future, as soon as we walk out this door. It might even be a role that you're taking on right now. When you hear a role that you feel curious about, please raise your hand. If you feel called to raise your hand more than once, please do. It's best if we close our eyes.

I read out some roles :

high tide witness

wetlands steward

whale translator

at once river and girl

a mother, who searches for our sons' bones in the sea

microplastics collector

water bearer

coral reef doctor

biographer of a raindrop

The final moment of the performance never happened, because of strict institutional commitments to following Covid distancing protocols at the choreographic center where the work premiered.

But what happens next is, I ask you to open your eyes, and I pass out glasses of water. And then I say, if you are ready for an otherwise, join me in the center of the studio. I'm going to count down from 5, and when I reach 1 we yell "HEY!" and pour the water all over ourselves.

Ready?

5

4

3

2

1

HEY!

At the end, I hope you are wet.

*spacing (excerpt)*

ENDLESS  
ONGOINGNESS  
PLODDING  
UNCEASING  
GRADUAL

DILIGENT  
INCESSANT  
STEADY  
IT'S A KIND OF WORK ETHIC  
INEXHAUSTIBLE  
DETERMINED  
ONWARDNESS  
FLOW  
ITERATIVE

CONTINUOUS PRESENT  
PERSISTENT  
RECHARGING  
RESTORING  
RE-CYCLING    ENFOLDING

It's not just that this river *could* flood,  
it's that it has before and will again !!!

**Questions to consider when considering the logics of a floodplain :**

|            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| there's    | there       |            |
| regular    | are         | is         |
| rain?      | natural     | the        |
| combined   | buffers?    | floodplain |
| with       | grasses,    | extra      |
| snow       | trees,      | dry?       |
| fall?      | wetlands?   |            |
| a          |             | how        |
| huge       |             | does       |
| rain       | who         | wetness    |
| storm      | is          | edge       |
| every      | feasting    | into       |
| now        | on          | dryness?   |
| and        | the         | dryness    |
| again?     | nearby      | into       |
| hurricane? | vegetation? | wetness?   |
|            | drought?    |            |
| the        |             |            |
| river      |             |            |

flows  
through  
an  
already-paved-by-waters-before-it  
pathway?  
or,  
is  
the  
river  
in  
the  
process  
of  
flooding?

(REFERENCE: Sara Ahmed, on *use* & Toni Morrison, on *loading*)





# Water Ways

2023

Montpellier, France

English version

[www.stormchoreo.graphics](http://www.stormchoreo.graphics)