

The Watering W(hole)

Unlocking Quee(a)r Ancestral Tech(know)logy

Mami Wata and the ancient ancestral technology of restoring memory

An evening of transcommunal quee(a)r short plays

The Container

- Meet Me at the Watering W(hole)
- A Quee(a)r Ancestral Tech(know)logy
- A recyclable tech(know)logy to restore us to communal intimacy

The Praxis

- A communal exercise in bidding farewell to the destroying of Colonized identity and practices. A release of Binary thinking and the Patrix.
- A calling in of ancestral memory and sacred celebrations as a slow and intentional process of letting our queer imagination and tech(know)logy lead the way.

The Mediums

Water - the memory, the body

Sand - the earth, the community

S(hell) - the identity, the mind, the imagination. resurface re-service, and reset, whenever we release an old shell or inhabit a new shell, it must be adjusted there is no one size fits all. The S(hell) may also me a mirror, leaving you homeless, outside of yourself, because a lie is easier to hold than the heaviness of truth and the fear of drowning.

Waves, rain, atmo(sphere) - the discernment, the heart

Animals - the recorders, the spirit

(See)ds/Plant Life - The visual manifestation of soul work, what I plant will surely grow, so how do I know? The recorders and spirit.

The Cloud - the true record of memory, not the record that was created and made up via the west in order to maintain power indefinitely.

Reverse Osmo(cis) - The shedding, the unraveling and remembering.

The Wooden Cup - The Tea - The meditation, looking within instead of without. I have satiated my thirst, now to pull it apart. Keeping what's mine, (evol)ving what needs to grow, and addressing what needs to go.

The Watering W(hole) - where all of the tech(know)logy comes together. Never perfect, always (evol)ving (Love), but always striving for ancestral alignment with self and the record of memory we hold.

For each portion of the container there will always be a convening of queer bodies first and no one else. This will be to assure alignment, intention, care, bravery and accountability.

The Watering W(hole) (x2)

Week 1- Community Discussions (DJ, spiritualist)

- Water in Sea Shell to Ears
- Listening to One Another
 - A keeping and establishing of the record - Quee(a)r round table and panel discussion (introductions, quee(a)r politics, what does it mean to be African Queer?), create quee(a)r agenda for Transcommunal Round Table, rules and guidelines, safety Concerns (there are no safe spaces only brave humans who acknowledge that there will be mistakes)
- Plan of Action for harmful behavior
- Queer & Cis Round Table (Drum Circle)
 - Led by quee(a)r folx at first discussion
 - Questions submitted ahead of time via social media to be answered
 - Meant to be a discussion between everyone in the space and not spectacle
 - Closing out and binding of negative energy

The Wooden Cup

Week 2 - The Tea (Searching myself and the Sand for More)

Fortifying the body, returning to the care of self, literal minding of one's own business, allowing the body to process the new water that will unlock the old ancestral technology. This is a praxis of moving in slow motion, Black to to the future, a reclaiming of vision and eyes as ancient as time.

Introspection & Movement

- reading list (Sobonfu Some, Tony Cade Bambara, Ntozake Shange, NK Jemisen, Octavia E. Butler and more)
- movies (Colorism Experimental, Daughters of the Dust, Crooklyn, Nanny, African Apocalypse and more)
- documentaries
- research and integration
- movement ritual
- introspective hobbies
- collage, drawing, art, coloring
- dance
- food ritual
- h(air)it.age and melanin ritual - the care of self before all else.
- communing with nature
- plant wellness

Wash, Rinse, Repeat as many times as possible allowing your discernment, the waves, to lead the way.

How do we delineate our true voices when they have been taken from us?

We let the water speak.

The wooden cup is about internal work, it is deeply personal, it is not the time to spill the tea or to be sharing your tea friends. This is where you fortify the body to dig deeper, and learn further before developing an opinion of your own, on your own. This is where you leap and dare to trust that you have known what is right all along, but the need to colonially belong gets in the way. And if the leap seems impossible, we start there with ourselves. This is a forever journey of falling in love with you before integrating the tech(know)logy.

(Flo)at

Week 3

- The New Record - a coming together in the cloud to rain down restored memory and ancestral record
- The reconvening - to create small production teams of queer and cis persons, with queer bodies leading the way.

The development of short political (7-15 minute productions) plays around queer love, queer life, and rights as a community to be used as a tool of overwriting colonial memory. Connecting stories of queerness to the ancestral record that have been erased purposefully and forgotten.

Storytelling in process

How do we bring our stories to life by impacting deep communal change?

- sharing queer stories
- educating around queerness
- reminding the water that we all are corporeal beings made up of the earth we come from.

These separations and delineations were not created by us but placed there, and craftily so. You can't draw a line in a bowl of water, there is no separation at the proverbial watering hole, we all come and sip from the same water that we are all made from. The only time the watering hole is on alert is when predators are on the loose. Everyone and everything has its season, but what do we do when the seasons are now controlled at the hands of the dominant culture. It's been the dry season for over 500+ years, we must now return to The Watering W(hole).

All of the productions should incorporate the use of water and the elements above in some way to their storytelling.

These short plays should be able to be used over and over again to restore ancestral memory untainted by colonialism.

Returning our minds back to their inherently queer state, a reminder of community, our contracts with one another and the earth. The power is within.

- Concept Meetings - coming together and deciding on concept, design, and productions for short plays
- The production process - explaining and breaking down of production roles, this is not about hierarchy or control and a huge part of this process will be keeping those colonial ties in check
- Understanding the Production process - from a decolonized stand point, no part is greater than the whole, no casting, this isn't about individual roles and those roles that have been deemed the best by hollywood and programming via western movies

The Bapt(ism)

Week 4

- The technology from the cloud begins the process of creating rain to make it back down to the earth and the rest of the community, the watering whole.
- This part of the process is meant to be uncomfortable AF, hard and frustrating. I expect there to be instances where we will have to cool tensions using communal techniques that do not involve removal, disposal, carceral, or binary thinking
 - Script Writing Intensive
 - Design and productions meetings (Hair, Costume, Directors, Makeup, Set Design, Lighting, management, and production)
 - Rehearsals, Dress Rehearsal, and Run of Show

The Watering W(hole) - Reverse Osmo(cis)

An evening of short plays followed by discussion led by each production team

Their water is now The Watering W(hole)

Ubuntu

You are because I am

Wash

Rinse

Repeat

- The night should be capped by celebration of quee(a)r communal success. We must remember the sweet as we navigate removing the poison from our water. We must celebrate and call back those spirits and deities unto our own creative waters. We must stomp our feet, and raise our voices, ululating the water within, to call the water without back in.

Mini Sessions - that lend to the The Watering W(hole) centering embodiment and personal alignment

- The Cosmos in Me: Afro h(air), skin and body care

- Earth(See)d: Collage as Imagination Therapy
- Embodied Earth Restoring the Technology: Fungi, Cannabis, Mental Health and Healing the Black Body
- Embodied Eats: Restoring Ancestral Foodways
- The Cowrie S(hell): Jewelry Making, Design, Protection and Adornment

I have some folx that I would already be down to collaborate with in Nigeria.

Quee(a)r DJ - for the wooden cup, curating playlists as well as live music specifically from the continent and the diaspora that allows space for folx to turn inward and process. Music for movement ritual as well as highly curated music that speaks to the technology of water available at each container. What words can't heal music can and somatically so

Artists for Collaborations

Every day quee(a)r folx

quee(a)r spiritualist/astrologer

quee(a)r chef, food blogger or nutritionist

quee(a)r playwright

quee(a)r movement specialist

quee(a)r musicians & singers

quee(a)r performance artists

quee(a)r actors

quee(a)r drum circle

quee(a)r folx in production

quee(a)r photographer/videographer

quee(a)r hairstylists

quee(a)r MUA

quee(a)r educators & readers

