



Foray:

featuring the Mycological Society of Toronto (Oksana Hawrylak and Dina Rashid), sarah koekkoek, and Denise Solleza

October 23 3:00PM-4:30PM

Event Respondent Essay

Response to Foray

by Sarah Zanchetta

Linger.

How do you feel right now,
in this moment as we breathe in the late autumn air,
pause, and be outside yourself.
Think about humidity, lights, and sounds.
Open yourself up to observation and absorption.

Stick and slide across the mud,
hold onto the nearby trees for balance.
Think about the coolness of your newly wet socks.
Listen to the slow bubbling creek below you.

Be mindful of where you are walking,
eyes lowered to the uneven forest floor.
Think about who hides and thrives on decomposing logs.
Warm your body in the fleeting sun.

Wiggle and reach up to the sky,
start with the tips of your fingers,
then lower yourself down onto the ground again.
Think about the pebbles being moved beneath your feet.
Grasp onto the mummering conversations around you.

Hold a pose like a tiny slug,
one that is slow and steady like the shallow water.
Think about how the forest can absorb you.
Close your eyes and try to disappear into the silence
without a trace.

About the writer:

Sarah Zanchetta (she/they) is a textile artist based in Toronto, Canada. She holds a Master of Visual Studies from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from OCAD University. Their work has been exhibited in Canada, and Italy, with the most recent exhibition at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto. She has collaborated with several organizations to create community-based work for their permanent collections, including the Kortright Centre for Conservation and Evergreen Brick Works.

Zanchetta's practice dives into the loss of connection and knowledge of poisonous plants that grow in North America. She seeks to foster a relationship with flora without placing the weight of human benefit in the foreground. They question what it means to seek out kinship with the poisonous, moving past the realm of risk avoidance and into a place of care. Many of her works simultaneously track her hands-on relationship with an individual plant and the unravelling of stories, scientific facts and myths that surround them. They use textiles and text to create intimate installations, a space to unfold our curiosities, care, and anxieties about what grows beneath our feet.

About Pumice Raft:

A **pumice raft** is an ecological phenomenon that usually follows an underwater volcanic eruption. Amongst the lava, plumes of pumice stones slowly float to the surface of the ocean. If the wind is calm the individual stones form what some sailors have reported as floating islands that appear out of nowhere. The pumice raft has even been known to ferry flora and fauna to new shores. More than an illusion on the horizon, a pumice raft represents a vessel, a conduit, a vehicle; its very constitution cultivates an environment where things can come together in the spirit of collaboration.

Pumice Raft is also a federally registered non-profit organization in Tkaronto/Toronto ON, Canada. Incorporated in 2018, Pumice Raft's activities begin from an ecological activist approach to the display of visual art and the facilitation of related education. This means that the guiding principles of the organization are rooted in a conception of place that begins with the protection of people and the planet.

The physical space of **Pumice Raft** currently resides on the land of the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat, and the Anishinabewaki ᐱᐅᓂᓂᐱᐅᐸᐸᐸ. Located on the first floor of a light industrial building at **348 Ryding Avenue**, Pumice Raft sits in Toronto's present-day Junction neighbourhood. Nearby to the west, the Humber River (Niwa'ah Onega'gaih'ih) flows south towards Lake Ontario (Niigani-gichigami).

