

Issue 02

March 2022



RIPPLES

A N A R T S Z I N E C R E A T E D B Y Y O U T H



WORLD WATER DAY | MARCH 22



Letter from the Editor

Young people are creating ripples in the world of water stewardship. *Ripples* is an arts zine created by youth showcasing artwork, prose, poetry, and photography celebrating a shared love of and connection to water — all created by youth and kids between the ages of 5 and 27.

WRITTEN BY KATIA BANNISTER

At the end of the first month of 2021 — the idea that catalyzed *Ripples* was born. An arts zine created by youth artists and editors, celebrating youth voice in water stewardship for World Water Day. This zine is created with the intent of deepening connections to water systems and inspiring people of all ages through art, while simultaneously uplifting the voices of youth.

As the youth editor for the first ever edition of *Ripples*, I am beyond excited to be editing the second edition of what will now become an annual publication.

Bringing together youth artists has been an incredibly moving and impactful experience for me — just as I hope it will be for our readers.

Seeing kids as young as 5 articulate what water means to them through their art, leaves me with no doubt that youth voice is absolutely essential to a safe and just water future. These young artists — whether they realize it or not — are the future of water justice and stewardship work.

Youth leadership and voice in environmental justice movements are critical to the renewal and longevity of these movements. But intergenerational collaborations and connections — like those between the groups collaborating on the *Ripples* — are essential in building the resilience, connectivity, and knowledge-transference of movements, initiatives, and projects.

The collaboration between UVSP, CVEG, CFA and POLIS on *Ripples* has created an invaluable opportunity for kids and youth to express their creativity, as well as their love for the watersheds that are important to them and shape their lives. With *Ripples* we hope to show young people that they have the power to make ripples and catalyze waves in the world of water advocacy, and they can use their creativity to incite meaningful change.

Youth voices are inherently valuable and powerful. *Ripples* celebrates this power and wants to share it with communities from across B.C. and Canada, rippling first across the province, and then across the country — because the ripples of change begin here and now, in the pages of this zine.

Behind Ripples

The University of Victoria Sustainability Project, Canadian Freshwater Alliance, POLIS Water Sustainability Project, and Cowichan Valley Earth Guardians Crew are proud to support the creation and distribution of *Ripples*, and to uplift the voices of youth water-lovers and water-champions through celebrating their creative works.

The University of Victoria Sustainability Project (UVSP) is an organization within the University of Victoria's Student Society. We have an interfaculty membership and strive to re-conceptualize sustainability by uniting environmental initiatives, promoting eco-choice, and implementing sustainable systems on campus.



Earth Guardians is an intergenerational organization that trains diverse youth to be effective leaders in the environmental, climate and social justice movements. The Cowichan Valley Earth Guardians (CVEG) crew is only one of many Earth Guardians crews across the world, working to create local change as a part of a global network.



The Canadian Freshwater Alliance (CFA) is a national initiative on the MakeWay Platform. We build, unite and activate networks of freshwater champions to drive change and secure healthy waters for all. Our Theory of Change: the more people are engaged in defending freshwater, the more successful we will be in securing healthy waters for all!



The POLIS Water Sustainability Project is an action-based research group at the UVic Centre for Global Studies. We research and share solutions, best practices, and opportunities for law, policy, and governance reform to support a sustainable freshwater future. We work with communities, experts, governments, NGOs and Indigenous organizations to connect research with on-the-ground action.



watersustainabilityproject

Behind Ripples

The collaboration between the UVSP, CVEG, CFA, and POLIS on *Ripples* has created an invaluable opportunity for kids and youth to express their creativity, and showcase their love of and connection to freshwater ecosystems, watersheds and marine environments.

WRITTEN BY DANIELLE PAYDLI, BC PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
CANADIAN FRESHWATER ALLIANCE

At the Canadian Freshwater Alliance we know that youth continue to inspire and drive change in the water sector. We are proud to support this project, which showcases how powerful and necessary it is to amplify the voices and creativity of young people who care deeply about our connections with water.

Youth don't have the luxury of slowly learning about these issues like previous generations.

They are living the reality of a climate crisis and they will be the ones dealing with the water crisis. Elders and senior knowledge holders can support youth leaders by providing background and experience that they can then take forward as they identify and challenge barriers to a just water future. The Alliance has the privilege to work with folks from all generations to promote cross-generational knowledge sharing.

We feel grateful to be part of something that celebrates youth reflections and understanding of water and will work tirelessly to provide opportunities for leadership and growth both within CFA and with our great partner organizations. In the meantime, enjoy the insight of youth from across British Columbia in this beautiful zine, *Ripples*.

WRITTEN BY LAURA BRANDES, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR & MONTANA LEWIS, WORK STUDY STUDENT, POLIS WATER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

We are proud to have helped catalyze and to support this youth-led project that highlights the many ways art and creativity can help us see the world from new perspectives. Here at POLIS, we believe that collaborations of all types—intergenerational, cross-cultural—are integral to effecting change.

An important aspect of our work is working with students and young professionals, and we believe youth engagement on priority water issues is crucial to the future of our planet. It aids young people in developing their confidence, recognizing their value, and connecting to their communities.

Through our work, including initiatives like *Ripples*, we strive to lift up the next generation of water leaders and encourage them to express their creative and innovative ideas. Young people, including youth artists, will help us achieve a sustainable freshwater future. Through their passion for creating a better tomorrow, we are continually given hope.

Behind Ripples

WRITTEN BY SKYE BARTEL-ENS, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT WORKSTUDY

All of us at the University of Victoria Sustainability Project (UVSP) are so excited to support the creation of *Ripples*, and see it come to life. As university students, we are constantly learning and growing our understandings, particularly our relationships with the world and the place in which we live. British Columbia is so incredibly ecologically rich and diverse, leaving us with so much to explore – including our watersheds.

This zine inspires and captures so many feelings and emotions that many of us experience reflecting on our relationships with water. As many of us at the UVSP are settlers, we acknowledge our privilege in residing on unceded lands, and the sadness we feel in existing within a Eurocentric, exploitative, and capitalist system that is harming our watersheds. We acknowledge the enormous privilege we have in living here and having such deep connections to water.

Our watersheds affect every aspect of our daily lives, and acts as a powerful force for the places that we reside in. As youth, our learning and passions are constantly in flux – flowing just like moving water. We can seldom find opportunities to express our connections to water, despite it being the driving force behind life on this planet. *Ripples* zine acts as a precious time capsule, capturing the power of youth voices.

WRITTEN BY ELLIE BARNHART, COWICHAN VALLEY EARTH
GUARDIANS CREW CO-LEAD

The Cowichan Valley Earth Guardians (CVEG) crew is incredibly excited to be collaborating on *Ripples* for the second time. Our organization emphasizes intergenerational collaboration and making activism accessible and fun through art – criteria *Ripples* embodies fully.

We believe that youth are the future, and that we all need to take action in order to address the concerns of young people. The opinions that youth express are often disregarded, and we love that this project helps uplift and emphasize youth voices and talents.

Our team has taken on many projects in the past relating to water and watersheds.

These include hands-on restoration events in our creeks, rivers, estuaries and oceans. Watersheds are a key part of our ecosystem, and their protection and restoration is vital to all of our lives. This project promotes the importance of water and water systems, which is an essential message to share with all members of our communities.

YOUTH contributors



Robin Pollard (22)

I use (she/they) pronouns and am a student at the University of Victoria. I (like so many of us) have had many water teachers in my life. I am passionate about creating connections with people and places and am guided by a deep love for the world around me.



Myloh Tokarek (8)

I am a student in grade 3, and when I'm not in school, I love to play outside in the wonderful Cowichan Valley, which is the place I call home! My parents sometimes call me 'water baby' because I love the mysteries of water, especially the underground rivers that run beneath my feet.



Katia Bannister (18)

I use (she/her) pronouns. My identity has always rooted itself in my connection to water – some of the most quantifiable elements of that connection being my upbringing on a small Gulf Island in the Salish Sea (Penelakut territory) and my love of whitewater canoeing.



Lindsay Worden (21)

I am a Geography and Environmental Studies student at the University of Victoria, and chairperson of the UVic Sustainability Project (UVSP). I created my submission thinking about how our oceans connect people and places (good and bad, near and far).



Ren McManus (5)

I am in kindergarten at a forest school three days per week. I love playing barefoot in the ocean with my little brother.



Jasper Tokarek (10)

I am a grade 5 student at Ecole Cobble Hill, and I live in Mill Bay. I was born in the Northwest Territories, where I fell in love with the snow, ice, and all things water!

YOUTH contributors



Peter Brandes (6)

I am from Vancouver Island and I like math. I like to use recycled materials for my art.



Sonia Hallas (9)

I love seeing how the watershed is connected to everything below and beneath the earth. Water helps everything!



Anais MacPherson (12)

I am an artist, dancer and curious human being.



Gemma (27)

Ponyo is one of my favourite movies. I love the spirit the ocean embodies through the movie, connection to coastal life, and non-human friendships.



Eliza Flick-Belus (23)

I am a Canadian multimedia artist and author, living in Victoria, British Columbia. I am currently figuring out my life, and I love chickens, weird indie art, and tofu.



Alana Norie (18)

I am a grade 12 student at St. Michaels University School in Squamish, B.C. My art takes inspiration from the waters of Howe Sound, and it reflects my passion to protect its biosphere and incredibly biodiverse ecosystems.



Zoe Bechtold (20)

I was born in Calgary, Alberta. I am studying theatre and writing, and I frequently find bones in the woods.

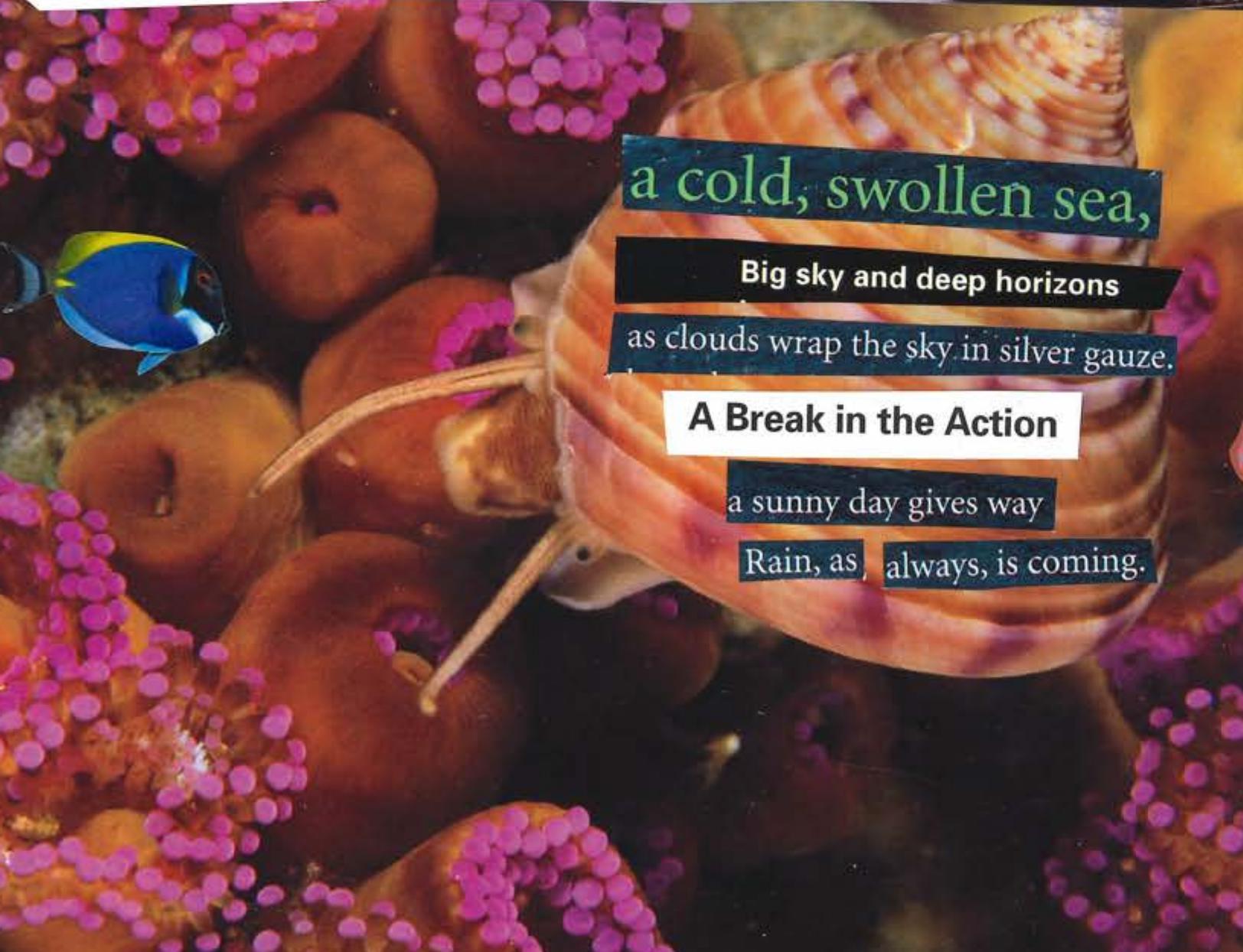


Geo Horton (17)

I am a youth artist that works with digital and traditional mediums, and I study art in high school. To see more of my work, search up "TheNamesEgo" on any social platform!



DREISSENA POLYMORPHA



a cold, swollen sea,

Big sky and deep horizons

as clouds wrap the sky in silver gauze.

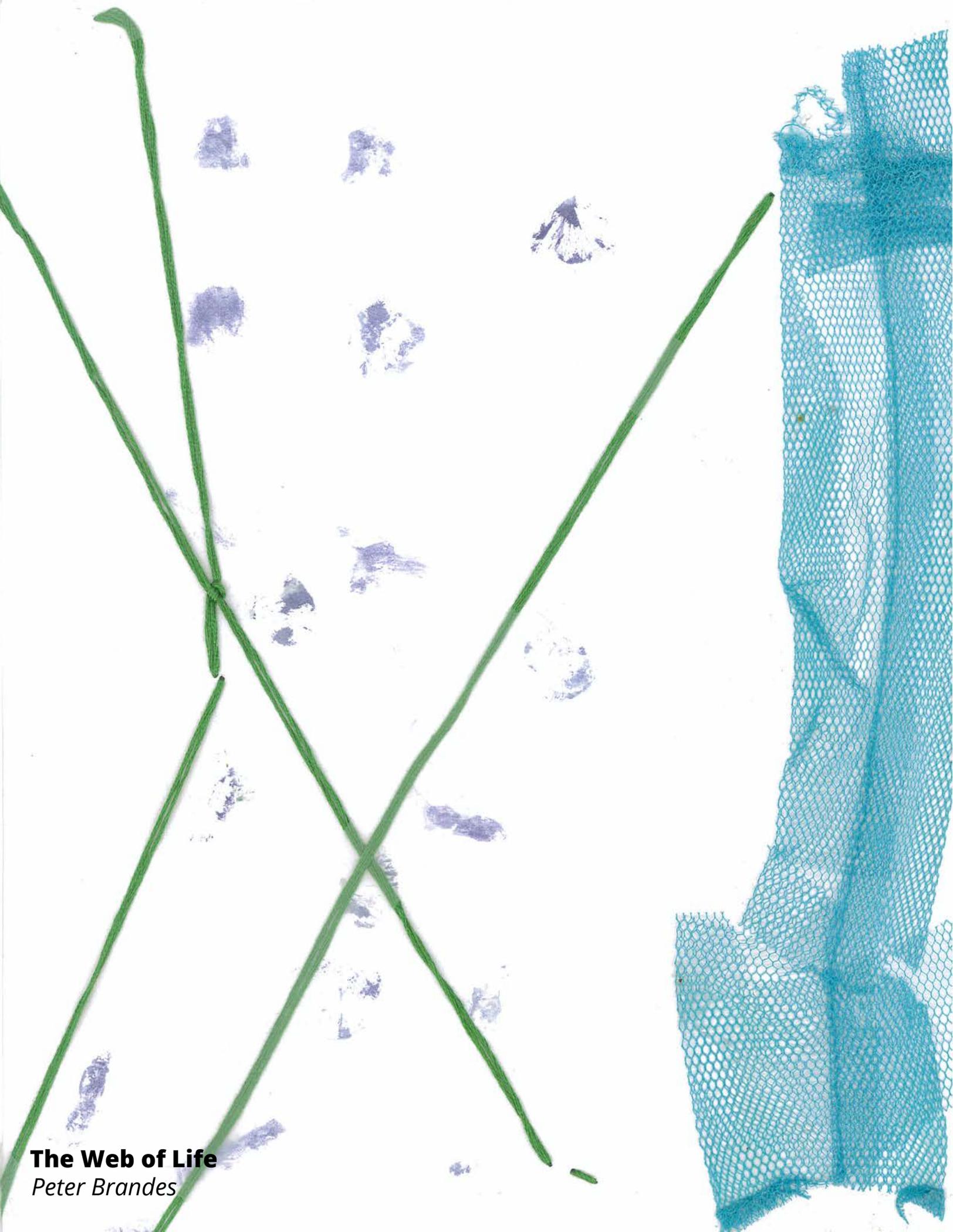
A Break in the Action

a sunny day gives way

Rain, as always, is coming.



Our Connected Ocean
Lindsay Worden



The Web of Life
Peter Brandes

We are all interconnected

Sonia Hallas



Alone and Sublime
Geo Horton





Exhausted Connections
Geo Horton

Geo



When Waters Are Alike

Alana Norie



**i am made of water,
i ebb and i flow,
some days i surge with power,
the power of the waters within me.
tides of breath rising and falling,
my pumping ocean heart,
the pulsing of rivers which circulate blood,
these veins of my river body.**

**i transform with water,
how the tide is affected by the moon,
these cycles of water and earth,
i am apart of them too.**

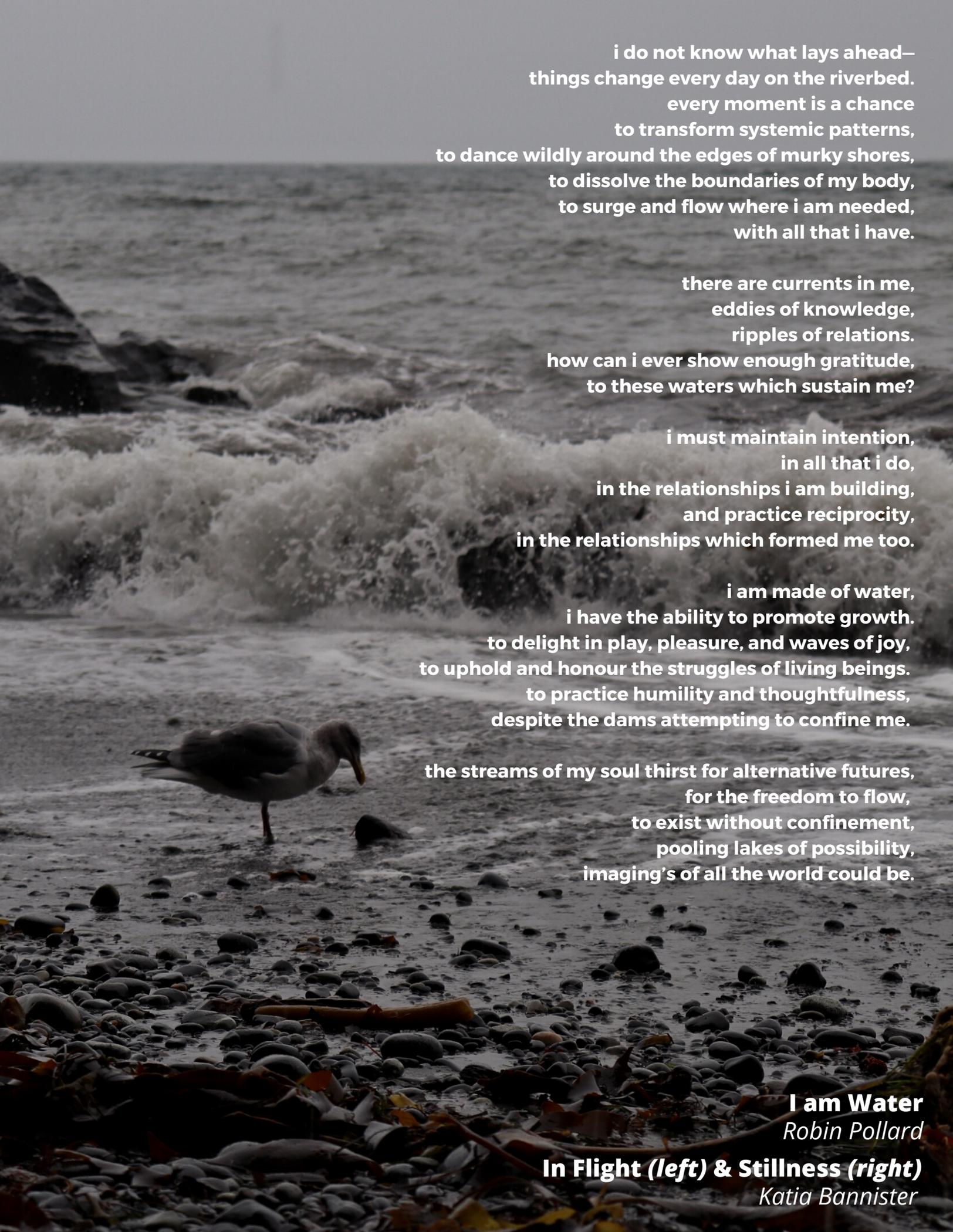
**water shares teachings through waves of undulating motion,
recognized by practicing thoughtful deconstruction
of internalized white supremacy and colonialism.**

**i cannot return from where i came,
like the river, forward is the only way.
so, i must flow with purpose and grace,
i must be accountable
to all the people and places where i take space.**

**pressure builds in my body,
bubbling and flowing,
unlearning what i have come to know,
fighting capitalism's attempts to drown me.
reaching inward to find the rivers flow.**

**rising from deep confinement,
spraying outwards dripping euphoria,
river veins sweet and thick,
aching with affirmation
pulsing validation.**



A seagull stands on a rocky beach, looking down at a piece of driftwood. The background shows waves crashing against rocks, creating white foam. The overall scene is in a muted, greyish color palette.

**i do not know what lays ahead—
things change every day on the riverbed.
every moment is a chance
to transform systemic patterns,
to dance wildly around the edges of murky shores,
to dissolve the boundaries of my body,
to surge and flow where i am needed,
with all that i have.**

**there are currents in me,
eddies of knowledge,
ripples of relations.
how can i ever show enough gratitude,
to these waters which sustain me?**

**i must maintain intention,
in all that i do,
in the relationships i am building,
and practice reciprocity,
in the relationships which formed me too.**

**i am made of water,
i have the ability to promote growth.
to delight in play, pleasure, and waves of joy,
to uphold and honour the struggles of living beings.
to practice humility and thoughtfulness,
despite the dams attempting to confine me.**

**the streams of my soul thirst for alternative futures,
for the freedom to flow,
to exist without confinement,
pooling lakes of possibility,
imaging's of all the world could be.**

I am Water
Robin Pollard

In Flight (left) & Stillness (right)
Katia Bannister



Ponyoooo Ponyo
Gemma Utzig

My brother was born into water. An inflatable pool of water, small, and crying when he was raised out of it. Water to water to water – the womb to the pool to the tears.

Ashes to ashes, people say, but that doesn't ring true, not always. Ashes to ashes, mud to mud; mud existing in the space bracketed by the waters of creation. How many creation stories involve water? Water from which the beginning emerges. Perhaps in the eternal entropy of things, it is to water that we shall all return.

One chemistry joke I enjoy is calling water dihydrogen monoxide and talking about it as if it is a dangerous chemical. If inhaled, dihydrogen monoxide can interfere with airflow to the lungs. How insidiously cruel of me, to turn something so dear into a weapon. This water my life depends on. To tease it.

My family shows their love through good-natured teasing. A clear sign of love: when someone knows you well enough to jest without much pain. Like how in the lake we'd splash each other with waves of our own making – but to be hit you have to be in the water in the first place.

My brother can spend all day on a summer dock, soaking up the sun and jumping into the water in turns. Cyclical. The water pushes valleys into our skin, raising mountains from our fingertips. And underneath the surface, the pulse of many rivers thrives.



Cyclical Entropy River
Zoe Bechtold

Pinniped Reflection
Katia Bannister



Great Blue Heron
Anais MacPherson



**Underneath the land we know there's
water,
And with that water comes life.**

**But that life is becoming threatened
because of us.**

**This means we need action,
We need to stop climate change.**

**For some people, it's
really hard to change
what they've been
doing for years,
But underneath us is a
precious invisible thing
we must protect.**

**Let's work together to
end climate change and
save our precious water,
Because it's the only
water we have.**

Underneath Us
Jasper Tokarek

Act Now
Katia Bannister

Underground river
Myloh Tokarek



Late at night I toss and turn, sweating and coughing. My throat is tight and inflamed. Swallowing has become torture. I blindly, desperately, grasp for the water bottle beside me. The final drops trickle down my throat and I force myself to swallow. But those drops weren't enough.

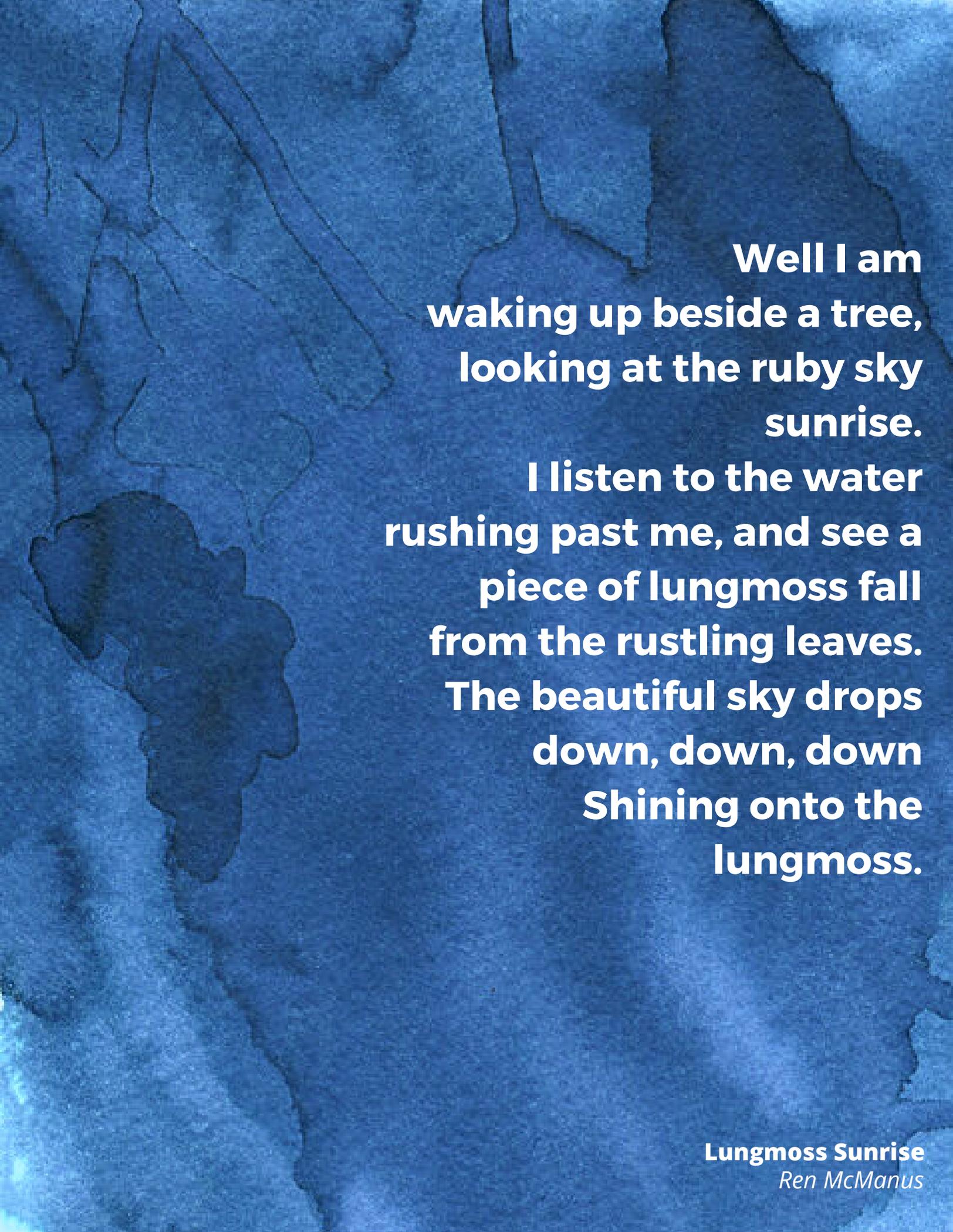
Slowly, dizzily, I rise, hot like embers and dress myself. My robe absorbed the chill of the night, now driving icicles into me. In the darkness I stumble toward the bathroom sink. I cycle my own fluids, then stand there for a moment, guzzling water. I know the fever will sweat out most of it, and I'll cough out what remains. Such is life when one's body is sieged by the coronavirus.

Abruptly, I succumb to a coughing fit. It's violent, white-cold pain. My airways try to expel clogged mucus, but to no avail. My bodily channels are mucus, the lakes of my body poisoned and dried by the disease. I silently thank my society for the privilege of clean water to relieve myself. Then I realize it's a doomed bargain. I may die with clean water in my taps, but the world after might not have the luck we do.

I stumble back to bed and collapse. I'm young and healthy. COVID-19 won't scar me like it has millions of others, and I'll recover in a few short weeks - all because of the pure water which slowly washes my body. As I fade to black, I wonder who'll be the final person to drink clean water to soothe their poisoned body. When that day comes, will the remnants of humanity blame the illness for their pain? Or will they blame us, for creating a world where the only inevitability is dehydrated sickness?

Dry sickness
Eliza Flick-Belus
Lichen
Katia Bannister





**Well I am
waking up beside a tree,
looking at the ruby sky
sunrise.**

**I listen to the water
rushing past me, and see a
piece of lungmoss fall
from the rustling leaves.
The beautiful sky drops
down, down, down
Shining onto the
lungmoss.**

Lungmoss Sunrise
Ren McManus