

RAINFOREST AS METHODOLOGY

Imagine your artistic (research) practice is an ever-growing ecosystem and rainforest. *How would you unpack and situate it using ecological principles?*

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Using a piece of paper folded in four equal parts, either vertical or horizontal
- You may begin creating your forest
- This can be a map of words, images, collage, or pictures
- Each stage of the forest can be used as a template to begin creating your artistic ecosystem
- Each stage of the forest has a few questions you can use as prompts
- You may begin from the floor up, but also feel free to go back and forth as you make discoveries

This is where the rainforest reaches the skyline, where the trees photosynthesize most with the sun's rays. The work you bring into the world begins to interact with the world and with society. It is like the audience having a conversation with your work which inspires perspectives foreign to your initial research.

THE EMERGENT LAYER

The emergent layer represents the moment when meaning and narrative begins to emerge out of your work, outside of the "studio walls". The process of photosynthesis may draw a parallel to the work taking on new forms as perspectives of audiences begin to shift the work itself.

THE WORLD

*Where do you want your work to be?
(site-specific, locations, space-work dialogue)
How is your work relevant to current planetary issues and/or larger phenomena?*

*What influence do you want to have on others?
What story does the work inspire?*

*What audiences do you want to attract?
Which spaces does your practice inhabit?*

This is the most active part of the rainforest, where most animals reside, live and battle each other.

As it represents the place where most movement happens and where the most creatures are, this, for an artistic practice, represents the network and the branches of inspiring fields.

THE CANOPY

THE NETWORK

*What network do you wish to attract?
(Collaborators, institutions, collectives, political groups, fields)
Which branches can you hang and swing from to form a richer ecosystem?
(This can be as broad as biology or as specific as family photographs)*

*Who inspires you and your work?
(Your references)
Who do you want to collaborate with?
(Classmates, teachers, other disciplines, dream collaborators)*

This is the half-way house of the rainforest, where the young trees begin to grow, and connections may be woven.

This can be interpreted as the part where ideas begin to form life; where little ideas attempt to find the light. This represents the creative, innovative part of the artistic research practice.

THE UNDERSTORY

THE CREATION

*What are your ideas?
And what motivates your ideas, why?
What are you passionate about?
What makes you want to create work?
(Themes, mediums, causes)*

*What do you want to make?
(What sparks your creativity?)*

How do you weave connections between the roots and the organisms that then live in this rainforest?

How do you connect your artistic positioning with your interests and your network?

This is the layer of the rainforest that has insects, the mycelium, and the soil.

This component is a method to situate the practice, to recognise the roots that essentially sustain the entire rainforest, its functions, and ability to maintain itself to grow (the literal ground / foundation)

THE FLOOR

THE POSITIONING

*Who are you?
(Situatdness, locality, identity that feels relevant in your artistic practice)*

*What history do you carry?
(Ancestry, values, traditions, memories)*

*From which position does this forest / you speak from?
What brought you to where you are now?*

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THE NETWORK

THE CREATION

THE POSITIONING

