

Relifing Restoration

Invasive Species, Art, & Relationality



Man and his Rival



< Crow

Joshua >



Invasive Eco-Art Initiative



Purposes on my own front

- Dig into more-than-human relationalities, cosmologies & entanglements
- Re-establishing relationship with the plants
- Using Art + engagements as a vessel for this reliving

Acknowledgements



Dr. Zoe Todd
Red River Métis



Gerald Vizenor
Anishinaabe - White
Earth Nation





Growing stages

- Who can be used & how
- Ability to reproduce as a public workshop
- Done entirely outdoors





Initial paper tests



Charcoal stages



Blackberry shearing

Terrible Trifecta

Charcoal pencils

Himalayan Blackberry
& Black Locust



Ink

European
Mountain Ash



Paper

Ivy, Tansy, Reed
Canary Grass etc.





Art & Ecology



Consumption

How can the otherwise-wasted plant material be utilized?



Bearing witness

Relief by use for creative expression

On language



Invasive Plants

"Bad" or "Alien Species" as a story of resilience

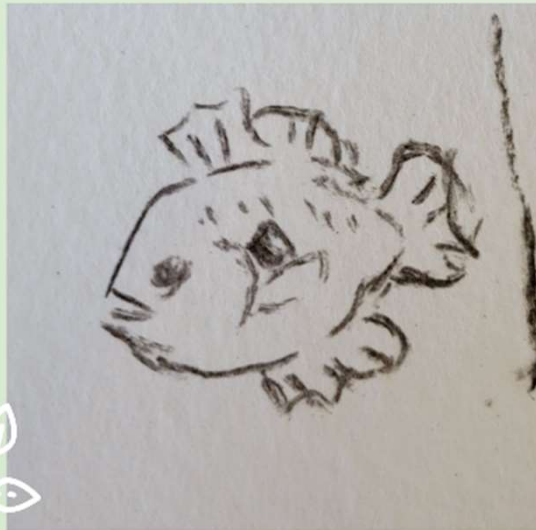


Questions

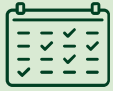


Call to question and for connections

- How to love who shares our spaces now along with what's lost? What do we make of this ever-changing vision of "nature" that inherently and in perpetuity includes invasive flora + fauna?
- What is our role & responsibility in this relationship? What do we owe to the lives, invasive or otherwise?



Numbers + Figures



Events

21 workshops held



Locations

11 spaces around
Metro Van & Victoria



Participants

Over 200 projects
made



Collaborators

Still Moon Arts, Fresh
Roots, Village
Vancouver





RESOURCES

INVASIVE CHARCOAL PENS



You will need:

-Dried Himalayan Blackberry stick -Black Locust twigs -Aluminum foil -Knife
- Awl or Screwdriver -Hand Pruner -Grill / Stove -Pan and Lid

1 Start by gathering a dried stick of Blackberry (approx. 1-1.5cm diameter) and a handful of Black Locust twigs (approx. 4-8mm diameter)

TIP: Look for Blackberry that's no longer green and appears to be dried up, the best time being from Early Winter to Late Spring

2 Cutting away from yourself, peel and scrape away the Black Locust's bark + thorns with a knife, then with pruners, cut into pieces several inches in length

3 Tear a sheet of aluminum foil and roll it into itself, placing the cut Black Locust twigs as you go

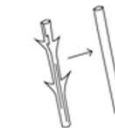
4 Place rolled foil in a frying pan and set your grill or stove to high heat. Cover with lid and let heat for approx. 10-15 minutes. Remove from heat once smoke subsides slightly

TIP: Making charcoal produces a lot of smoke, ensure you're near an open window or outdoors

5 As Black Locust "cooks", peel the bark from the blackberry stalk, similar to step 2. Artistic liberty can be taken in leaving most bark, removing all bark, or making patterns across the surface. Cut to desired pencil length

6 Using an awl or thin screwdriver, puncture a hole into the pith/center of the stalk about 1/2 in. deep. Using a knife, create a vertical slit down the stalk around the same length, this allows for some flexibility when inserting and removing the charcoal

7 Squeeze a piece of the charcoal into the hole, break off excess length for later replacement and viola! You're ready to draw!



Thank you

joshuaralph131@gmail.com



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joshuaralphart.com/ecoart



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