

RECIPE FOR *mapping/tracing*

BY *Ground Atlas (David Sperling & Ana Luiza Nobre)*

Description

Following clues, traces, and vestiges of more-than-human interactions is a form of tracing/mapping the ground as an archive of the world. Stories, geographies, and (in)visible cultures emerge from a buried river (Rio Saracura). Multispecies letters are written to this river. A ritual-performance evokes its re-existences in the present and the future.

Ingredients

- a group of participants;
- a buried river;
- paper;
- materials for writing and drawing;
- equipment for recording and projecting images;
- ground.

Preparation

Walk through a section of the territory within the reach of a buried river. Talk to the residents of this area. Seek to listen to their ancestries. Observe closely the species that emerge there. Feel the subtle humidity seeping through cracks in the asphalt. Hear, here and there, the faint sounds of water flowing. Collect multispecies elements. Capture these moments in images. Next, choose a few critical points—both physically located and symbolically significant—forming a constellation. From these places, write multispecies letters to the river, as if in an assembly of beings. With these letters and the selected images in hand, perform a ritual-performance. Gather in a circle, reading the letters aloud, one by one, while images are projected onto the ground and offerings to the river are placed upon them. Saracura lives.

