

Pathway Specification

I begin this output having completed building the base of a 22 by 32 foot floating raft. Its voyage into the body of Lake Champlain was celebrated on July 3rd against a backdrop of Burlington Independence day fireworks. Supporting 40+ dancers, musicians, acrobats and friends, the raft facilitated an incredible floating communion. Building regenerative, mobile, celebratory, food producing, floating communities has been my dream for over two years. The completion of the raft's base marks the beginning of a new unfolding way of life for me and anyone who wishes to synergize and co-create. After eating a fresh meal from the garden out back, dancing while the veggies steamed, I embark on the creation of this output excited to finally weave and cast my vision, in words and pictures, out into the world. Gratitude blossoms from my every cell for all the assistance I've received, and wondrous possibility unveiled. This project unifies and expresses the beating heart of my dreams up to this point in life. The beauty of the dream itself holds enough value for me personally to allow for the practice of non-attachment to outcomes in form. However, it is with the growing capacity of my intention, and with the employment of grace to act, that I, bursting with excitement, move to crystallize that dream in material reality.

Output Specification

This output aims to express the vision motivating the construction of the raft, chronicle the construction itself up until this point, and to indicate future unfolding pathways for the project. Documentation and the proliferation of that information will be a huge project in and of itself. I haven't even begun to collect and sift through documented material, so you can expect those attachments not with this output, but rather with output 5. To sum things up, here I intend to document a pregnancy, a birth, and a vision for blossoming through my personal lens. I think using this output for personal integration of what has occurred, will be essential for finally offering the Raft as both prototype and inspiration for a new way of life to the public. This output will begin by expressing in words the vision that informed the construction of the raft, the construction itself from gestation to birth, and finally a vision for its evolution on a macro and micro scale. Also included will be a media gallery and list of resources. Hooray!

Introduction and design methodology

Main body

Conclusion

Introduction and Design Methodology

Today is Monday, July 19th, and the raft is currently floating near Leddy Beach, Burlington, Vermont. This coming Wednesday, we will tow "Grace the Dancing Dandelion" to the mouth of the Winooski River, and anchor near an island roughly the size of a football field. After speaking with the Burlington Police Department, the Coast Guard, and the head of Burlington Parks and Recreation, we have successfully cleared a path for the creation of space beyond limitations previously perceived as real. This

output will document my holistic vision for this project, how we arrived at this point, and finally, appropriate next steps and future implications. My design methodology for this output is to lay a foundation, create a language for discussing the project, organize and clarify my intentions, and most importantly send out a call for participants. This document will be a chronicle, an invitation, and a manifesto of sorts. My intention for this output, and for the project in general, is to ignite the imagination, and instill confidence to realize actions with super-expansive implications, whatever form those actions may take. Presupposing that our spirit is innately and inherently free, and acknowledging this truth we can finally watch the blossom of this inheritance burst into form, I write this output claiming total responsibility for whatever unfolds. I acknowledge that the beliefs I hold about my reality become elegantly manifest; that these beliefs are as arbitrary and malleable as the objects I place around my home; that I feed those beliefs that are fundamentally expansive and nurture the wild unfolding imagination.

Main Body

Vision

Floating vessels bursting with life. Swaying to sleep atop islands that heal the bodies of water they rest in. Illuminated bridges connecting small floating home-worlds. Music and dreaming float as glowing pulsing threads across an undulating bundle of healing spaces. The moon howling and beaming her body into buoyant sleep and song and eating. Sun spreading radiant hair across stones and ripples and sleeping bodies. Breakfast with my fingertips streaming across the golden waterface. Unhitching my home from a glowing central node to ramble along the waterways of this continent. Visiting foreign floating nodes, swirling and working with the beings there. Returning to home node. Water hoop walkers. Potlatch. Laughing and laughing with child's trust.

The Nitty Gritty of Potential

Realized Regenerative Living

When I've presented this project to curious inquirers, I've often described the raft as my attempt as a 22 year-old waitress to realize an ecologically regenerative lifestyle. I say, "It's been decidedly easier to build this food producing, inherently off-grid, floating space complete with composting toilet, than it has been to convince my landlord to let us get some chickens." The raft is about creating space to live regeneratively outside a beauracracic system that has become suicidal. If executed in integrity, a raft could serve as a cheap and beautiful way to practice what you preach, and the more rafts there are being built, the easier their execution will become. I've built the foundation for at worst a socio-ecological experiment, and at best a prototype for socio-ecological regeneration and liberation. The raft is not an attempt to sever ties with land bodies. Rather, a raft could serve as a mirror to land-based communities, illuminating a potentially available lifestyle when we stop affirming current limiting structures as valid or necessary.

Rent and Ownership

My primary partner in this project, William Pearlman, or Poppa Neutrino, presented the idea of raft communities 2 years ago as a way to throw off the chains that burden every renter. He says, the fact that a person hand over money to a landlord every month to occupy a space, and yet comes no closer to owning that space, is insane. He asks what a person might do with their time if there was no incumbent rent payment, or more simply put, perpetual debt. Along with my more recent education in the workings of big banks, it seems to me that creating structures that don't use collective debt to function "properly", is essential. While I still don't fully understand how big banks and the Federal Reserve function, I know the structure's we're agreeing to presently create the illusion of lack in a world of abundance. The raft acknowledges that economic turmoil is a product of intentionality. We are affirming a different set of intentions: Abundance, the expression of each beings natural inalienable inheritance of freedom, and total responsibility for our experience in this lifetime.

What I believe offers this movement a new and unique open channel for expression, is our planet's current ecological state. An ecologically regenerative raft is an expression of action in the interest of the health of our planet and progeny. Now, more than ever, it has become more widely acknowledged that our current modus operandi guarantees no more than our extinction. Those holding positions of authority in this country are moving at a snail's pace, if at all, to nurture the life web of which humans are a part, back to health. The urgency for regenerative action, and the insanity of the current structures, become clearer to the collective every day. The raft is a parallel structure, an offering. It is my hope that the fruit of this project be so beautiful, so relieving, so inspiring, that the fear that keeps us clinging to our current way of being will dissolve, making space for thousands and thousands of structural creations consciously born of the love that we are, rather than the fear we claim to be. Freedom from rent is only a part of this evolution that more and more beings begin to consciously seek every day. I would posit that rent is just one manifestation of a collective belief in bondage to anything external. When we collectively begin to acknowledge the inherent truth of our freedom, the rental structure will dissolve alongside a host of other limiting beliefs and their expression in form. Now, however, the rent dynamic is a particularly potent access point into the world of collectively held limiting belief structures. It is for this reason I choose to focus on it when entering the discussion of liberation, using the language of a potential reality called "Raft."