



Bodies of Work:
The Consolation of Water Lilies

28 – 31.07.2022
Opening 28.07.2022

The Consolation of Water Lilies, a workshop, takes place on July 28th, the residue of which, together with works followed by an exhibition (July 29th to 31st) by Eva Giolo, Eva L'Hoest, and Mélanie Peduzzi is part of *Bodies of Work*, a series of exhibitions and events taking place at Kunsthall Extra City from May 26 until August 28, 2022.

What does it mean for bodies of water to hold other bodies of water? Should this holding and gestating be considered forms of labor? In what ways can the experience of maternity be lived today?

Following the poetics of hydrocommons proposed by Astrida Neimanis and Sophie Lewis' amniotechnics, the workshop explores the environmental significance of motherhood and the political ramifications of gestation. Through the reading of relevant texts, the screening of video works by Eva Giolo, Eva L'Hoest, and Mélanie Peduzzi, the participants will be invited to reflect upon contemporary questions about pregnancy and caregiving, and share their own experiences. Some of the themes that could emerge are being a mother to other bodies of water, posthuman gestationality, care, motherhood, and the concepts of holding and of gestation.

The final output of the workshop manifests as a zine made from excerpts and fragments of the conversations that will emerge during the process. In the following days, the remnants of the workshop will be displayed together with the three aforementioned films and the zine. By visiting the exhibition and flipping through the zine the public will be able to ideally enter the same atmosphere that welcomed the first participants.



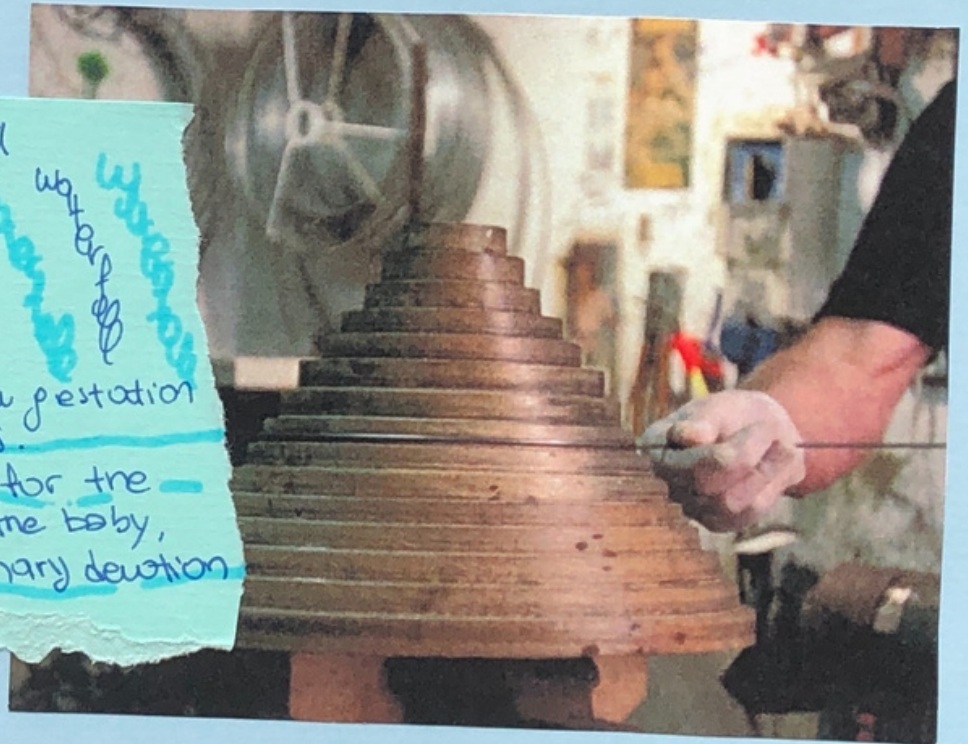
This is a different kind of 'hydrological cycle'."

"The Inmost Cell" by Eva L'Hoest with music by John Also Bennett, 11", 2020

In L'Hoest's CGI video technologies, nature, and human memory melt into each other and into water. Recollecting the stories and myths about the Lat-

vian river Daugava and shaping them into submarine architectures leads the viewer to recognize rivers as carriers of narrations and experiences.

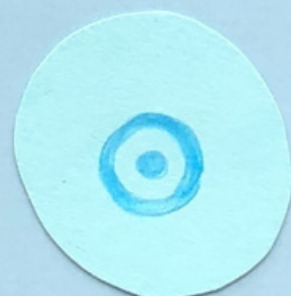
When the body becomes a
waterfall, a new gestation
phase begins.
Both for the
mother and the baby,
made of infinite ordinary devotion



"The Demands of Ordinary Devotion" by Eva Giolo, 12'06", 2022

Artisans, mothers, and machines. Labor, exercise, and routine. They alternate, occasionally falling out of sync or revealing unexpected resemblances on a floating tempo. The gestures performed in

very different occupations overlap, linking the participants and cutting through space and time. In all of this doing, when does making become creating?



What does it mean to be bodies of water?

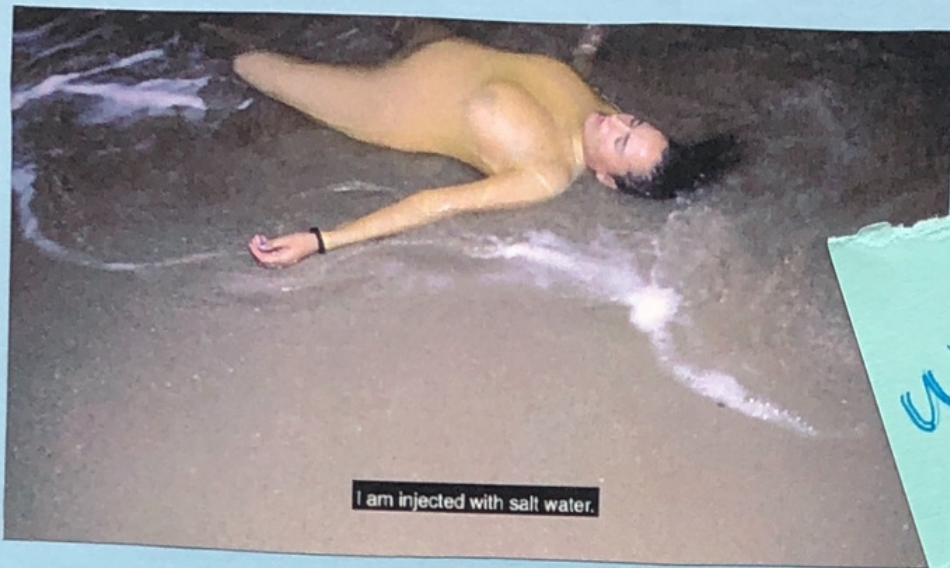
Bodies of water were made to carry each other and care for the others. They go with the flow yet swim against the stream.

They are the mother of mothers of mothers that you can hear in the timeless sea breeze.

Bodies of water are always evolving without changing, soothing without settling.

They love without a cause and have their own way of reflecting your light when you thought no one was looking.





waves
of
suffering

"Océan" by Mélanie Peduzzi, 15", 2022

"Women with each other share or forget to share. Every birth is different. I will show you mine. Making this video object was essential for me. On the one hand, to move forward, but also to

remember. And most importantly to share a story of this experience that often leaves women with amnesia."
- Mélanie Peduzzi about her work.

How can an experience
so profoundly strange
and wild
and transformative
also symbolize or enact
the ultimate conformity?

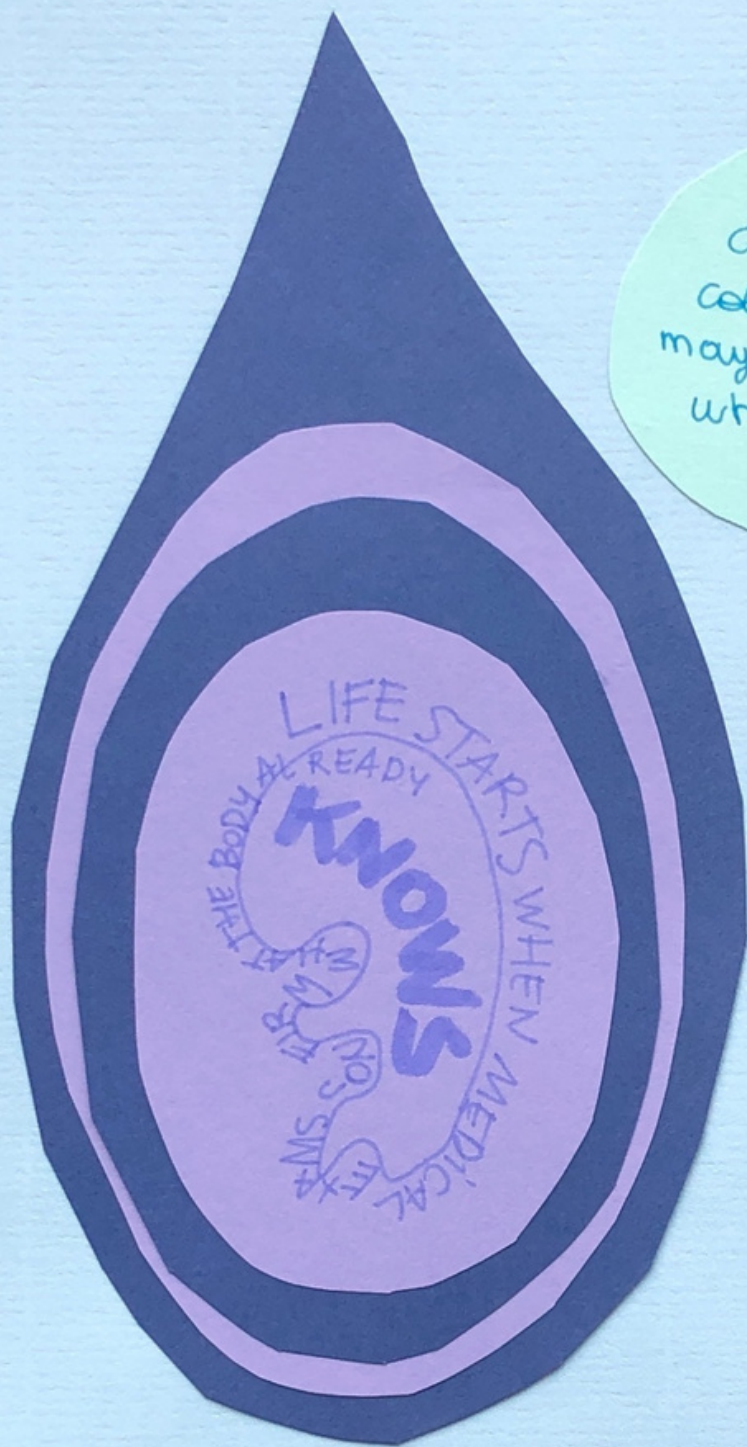
TODAY
I
SAW
PEOPLE
COME
TO
LIFE

ted." Labor has become "m
time-motion study. Births are not
dies. Giving birth is reduced to the mech
5-76) recognized, nature is our inorganic body, a
death of the earth is our death. When a forest is cut, v
s of whales come to the shore, we too die.
are
to re

FLUID

bodies hold
common labour,
transform and deform.
They co-exist and depend
on each other like
epithelial
cells





We are liquid in
shape and mind, changing
color with the weather,
maybe reflecting our surroundings
while trying to be ourselves.

What does it mean to be a body of water?

Yes, yes,
that's what
I wanted,

I always wanted,
I always wanted,
to return
to the body
where I was born.



3 weeks

4 weeks

5 weeks

6 weeks

What can you do in a body of water?

Fish Boodies



Ocean bodiers sopigate fish bodies, fish bodies are consumed by whale bodies - which then sink to the seafloor to rot and be swallowed again by the ocean's dark belly

Flourishing Frogs



But the pond has shown me that being a good mother doesn't end with creating a home where just my children can flourish. A good mother grows into a richly eutrophic old woman, knowing that her work doesn't end until she creates a home where all of life's beings can flourish. There are grandchildren to nurture, and young children, nestlings, goslings, seedlings, and spores, and I still want to be a good mother.

We learn gestationality from water. We repeat its potential in
and and as watery bodies



WATERY BODIES



In the context of our world's pressing
water crises, this lesson can encourage us to
be more thoughtful, & more responsive.

What does it mean to be bodies of water?



The smaller
we are,
the more
water (%)
we contain
in our body.

We start
with up to
80%.

and end
with around
50%.



The older
we are
the more we
can distinguish
ourselves from
bodies of
water.

WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO BE
BODIES OF
WATER?

"[...] if we are all watery, then we all harbour the potential
of watery gestationality within our corporeal selves."





What does it mean to be
drinking water?

to be a carrier along the way
implementing and extracting water
as well as feeling comfortable
with taking and taking.

Constant state of dripping
and instantaneously fluids and
also our need of keeping up
the fluids in our body.

When does life start?

Life starts when we are surrounded
by it in it.

Which is problematic of course when we are
having all agency over the life that we
are creating.

→ Does life start?

Doesn't it start already
with the birth of the mother?

Or with the birth of life itself?

Does a baby have to be crying
to begin we can say

'Life has begun.'

I think the moment we give life to it
is the most important part but we
search for an answer.

When does an individual start?

Life for me starts with the first
cells but for it to be truly
alive is how to come down to being an individual.

↓
actually gets
better with
this question

The moment it has a form and a name of form

WHO IS PREGNANT?

WHAT IS PREGNANCY?



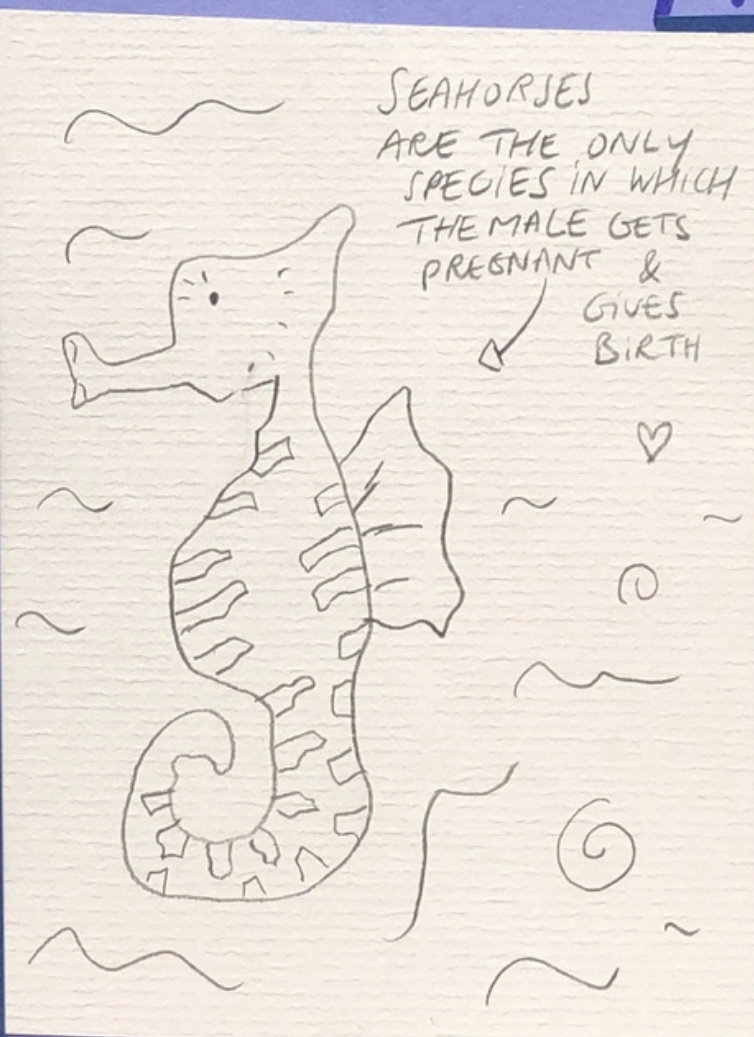
What can you do on bodies of water?

THIS WOMAN WAS ASKED,
"WHAT IS MAGIC?"

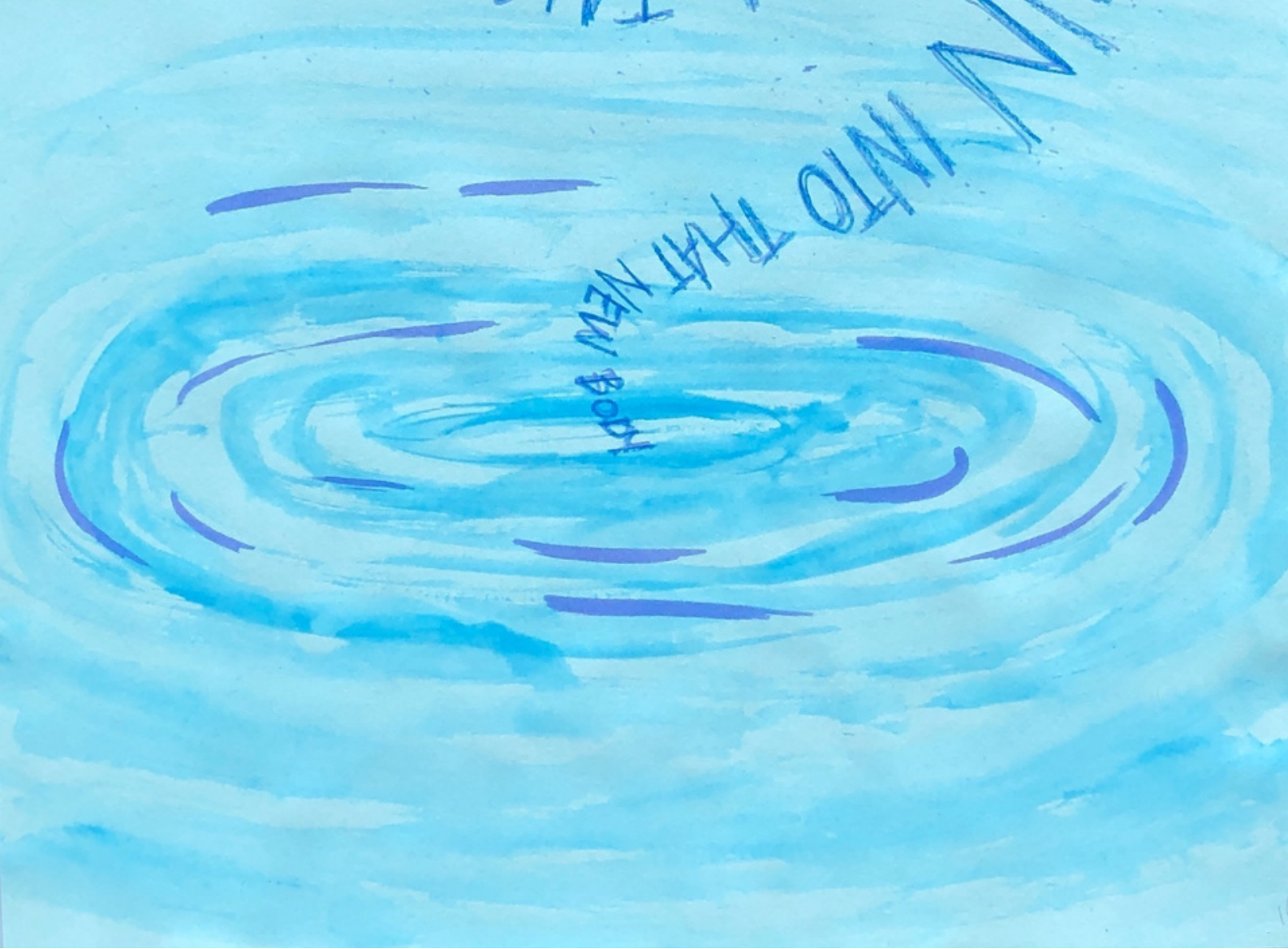
AND HER ANSWER WAS

"GO TO SEE A WOMAN
GIVING BIRTH.

THERE'S NOTHING
MORE MAGICAL.



HER SELF NOT TO DROWN
AND HOPE OF WATER WILL TAKE
SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW YET WHAT
AT SHAPE HER BODY
INTO THAT NEW BODY

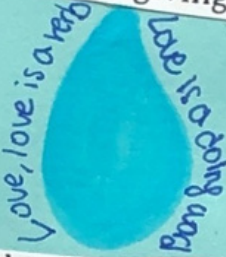


It is my grandchildren who will swim in this pond, and others whom the years will bring. The circle of care grows larger and caregiving for my little pond spills over to caregiving for other waters. My pond drains to the creek, to the brook, to a great and needful lake.

...history of mistre
...to give birth alone but sh
...uting the community of wor
...man was asked, "What is magic
...birth. There's nothing more ma
...with the rhythms of the child
...bly line. Meg Fox (1989, 125-2
...time in childbirth, today "th
...duction." The emphasis is o
...Children are pulled out
...ical process."

What is Pregnancy?

"Go to see a woman giving birth.



the way the rhythms of the mother
coordinate with the rhythms of the child is
simply magical."

time of labor is counted

What about
Fathers
as
BODIES & WATER

Craftsmanship
How could
I
make a beautiful
thing?

responsibility

SILVIA FEDERICI

2019

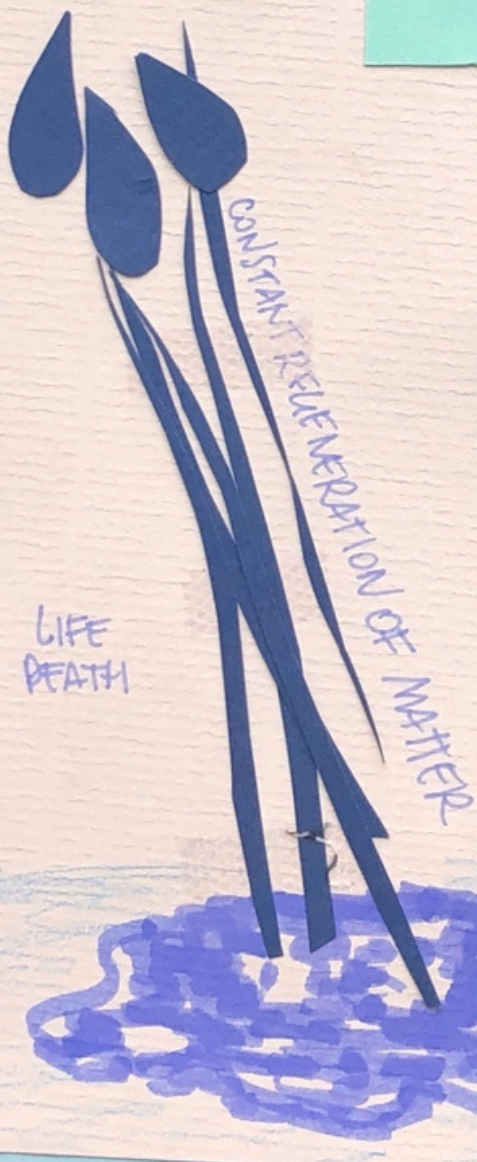
Beyond the Periphery of the Skin:
Rethinking, Remaking and Redesigning
the Body in Contemporary Capitalism

"Labor has become 'mere production.' The emphasis is on efficiency, as in a time-motion study. Births are not felt. Children are pulled out of sensationless bodies. Giving birth is reduced to the mechanical process."

~~ACT~~ CHOICE

But the pond has shown me that being a good mother doesn't end with creating a home where just my children can flourish. A good mother grows into a richly eutrophic old woman, knowing that her work doesn't end until she creates a home where all of life's beings can flourish. There are grandchildren to nurture, and frog children, nestlings, goslings, seedlings, and spores, and I still want to be a good mother."

What does it mean to
be bodies of water?



THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD
is love.
Under the burden
of solitude,
Under the burden
of dissatisfaction
the weight,
the weight we carry
is love.

ANONYMOUS MOTHERS CLUB

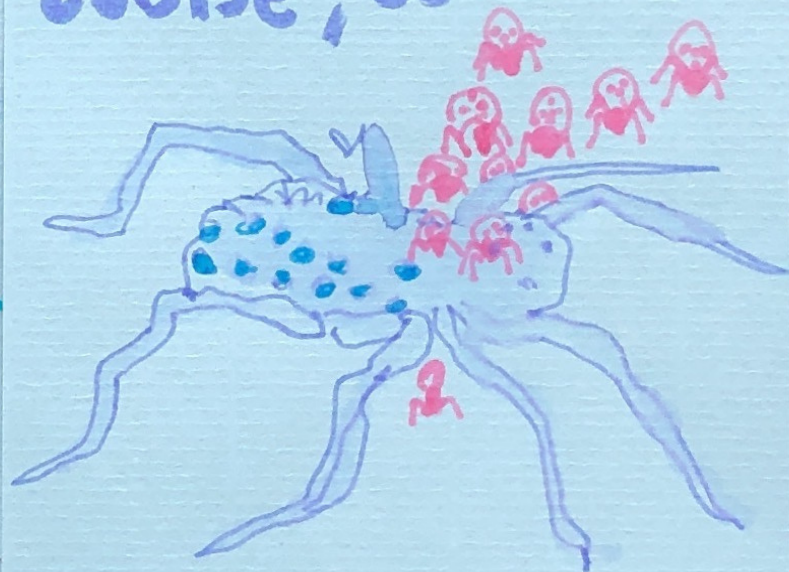
OLGA

660 days of pregnancy, she
is warming close towards the end.
Still, she would like more time,
because the moment she gives
birth, it means her baby is an
individual.



(MATRIPHAGI)
DESERT SPIDER, STEGODYPHUS
LINEATUS

LOUISE, 20



matriphagi is an extreme
form of parental care.
bad parenting of the ultimate
sacrifice?

DESIRE: get rid of the babies
FEAR: that she will be discovered by other parents
DREAM: feel no guilt

Love's Labours
Lost



But the pond has shown me that

female, 39 yo, bird,

CUCKOO ZEUS

Lavise will teach Cuckoo Zeus to let go. Olga can teach her that the love for her child can make her overcome the fear.

They have anxiety in common. The trauma in the making.

Share your motherhood experience

They find a community to help other mothers.

They teach children to eat worms. Lavise wants to enjoy the rest of her life. With new dietary habits they Olga will take care of other babies.

Josephine Vandekerkhove

Louisa Herman

Erine De Sijpe Engelsen

Amelique

Natalwa Barayzalea

Wiktoria Wixie Litwinowicz

Valentina Bianchi

Lucie Ménard

