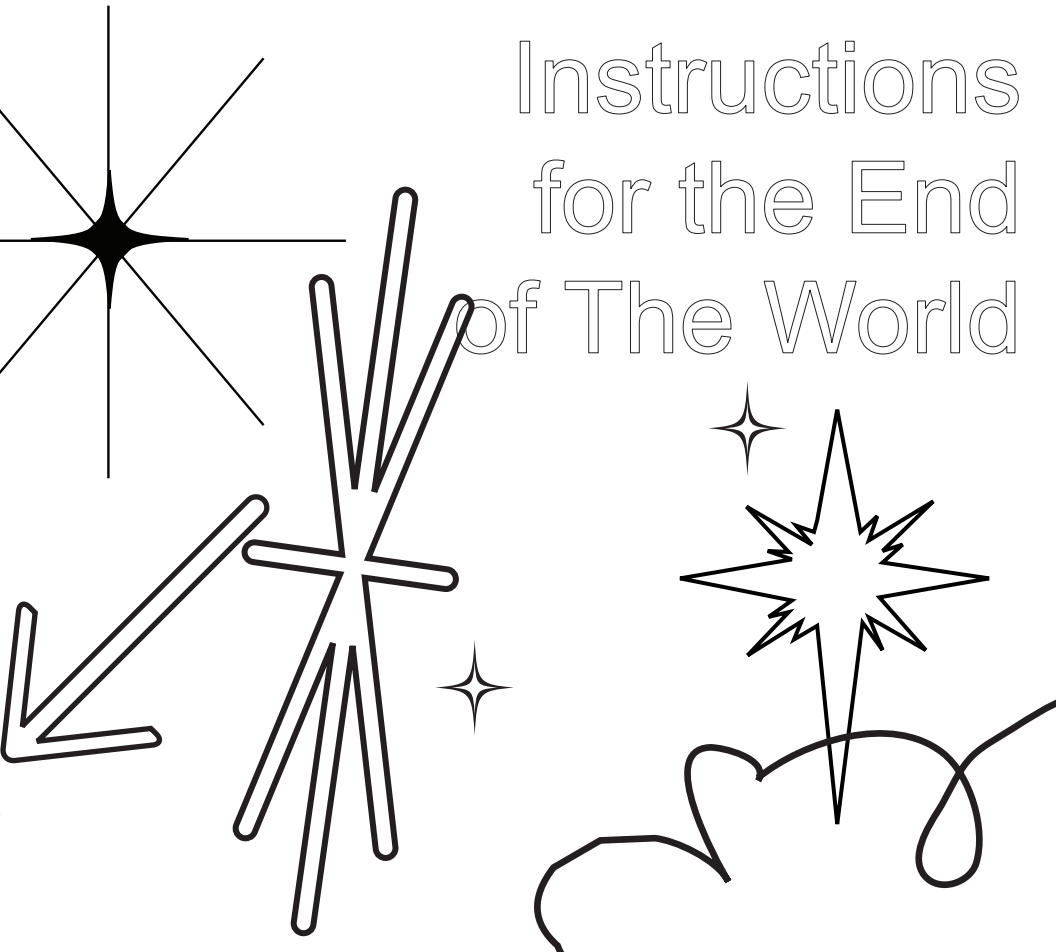




# Ethereal Ethos

Instructions  
for the End  
of The World



# Ethereal Ethos

## Instructions for the End of The World

Ethereal Ethos zine's purpose is to archive my thesis project. Images and texts are my own. Some ideas provided courtesy of the internet and external sources. They will be cited at the end and of course, original copyright and ownership lies with the original creators and owners.

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The human journey through ecological grief and hope  
as we enter into the future.

Shall I not have  
intelligence with  
the earth?

Am I not partly  
leaves and  
vegetable mold  
myself?

# Preface:

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For quite some time, I have been developing a personal form of spiritual ecology that is the basis of my project *Ethereal Ethos: Instructions for the End of the World*.

*Shall I not have intelligence with the earth?  
Am I not partly leaves and vegetable mold myself?*

While there is a basic definition of spiritual ecology—the idea that there is a spiritual component to environmental stewardship—*Ethereal Ethos* is more specific. It pinpoints key areas where we can begin to pay attention to our relationships with nature, as a life perspective and way of being.

I invite you to be open to these ideas, recall your own experiences, tap into the core of these concepts—and perhaps integrate them into your own life.

The goal for *Ethereal Ethos* was to explore ideas at the end of the detrimental capitalistic society we are currently in, and-

highlight the human journey of ecological grief and hope as we head into the future.

Within this project, I explore key aspects of *Ethereal Ethos* that have sparked interest in my own life journey, including:

- Plants as social communicators
- Fungi as transformative resources
- Planets as cosmic messengers
- Desire paths as wayshowers
- Rocks as memory keepers
- Flowers as hopeful ceremony

These topics are personally fascinating to me. They are also interrelated—plants, fungi, rocks, flowers and astrology all affect each other, relate to each other, and create a sum greater than their parts.

Before I begin, I must acknowledge the teaching of indigenous knowledge by my teacher Robert Ryan as well as the book and live talk *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Killimer. These individuals have taught me key concepts of indigenous ecological cosmologies that include the lack of division between nature and culture. These teachings suggest that nonhuman entities are spiritual entities with whom interactions must be based on relations of respect, love, and kinship.

I also respectfully acknowledge that I live and work on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral lands of the Atfalati (Kalapuya), Watlala (Chinook), Tlatskanai, Stl'pulmsh, Multnomah, Kathlamet, Tumwater, and Clackamas peoples.

I acknowledge teachings from my pagan, druids, and polytheist friends of the Columbia Grove ADF as well as *Rituals of Celebration: Honoring the Seasons of Life Through the Wheel of the Year* by Jane Meridith. This season, I had the opportunity to participate in a pagan Imbolc ritual for the half-way point of winter and spring. This experience opened my eyes to different practices within spiritual ecology.

In pagan and druidry, nothing is seen as separate. Nature is sacred and the natural cycles of birth, growth, and death in the world around us carry profoundly spiritual meanings.

These opportunities and my own experiences with nature have helped me solidify my own life philosophy within my art and design practice. The notion of *Ethereal Ethos* as a spiritual ecology has given me the opportunity to listen to the cosmos and hear what nature, the earth and the stars are saying—not just to me, but to all of us. How this consciousness communicates. How we interact with it. And most importantly, how we can work with this communication as a solution to the current ecological crisis and disconnect that many humans have in their relationship to nature and the Earth.

# TAKE CARE OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT





<b>Size M</b>	<b>100% Cotton</b>	<b>Super soft short sleeve t-shirt. Thrifted from Goodwill. A comfortable relaxed fit.</b>
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The willow tree, the  
douglas fir, the pine,  
speak to one another,  
using words  
no human knows.

The trees are talking  
on a social network  
we don't have  
a link to.



# Plant Intelligence:

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## A Social Network

In much of Western industrialized society, we scoff at the idea that plants are the sentient beings that they are. Western culture suggests that because plant awareness cannot be precisely, scientifically observed and measured, it does not exist. Yet in reality, there is a secret language that plants use to communicate with one another.

*The willow tree, the douglas fir, the pine, speak to one another, using words no human knows. The trees are talking on a social network we don't have a link to.*

There are deep relationships that Western culture should and can have with the natural world around them. However, these relationships remain largely unexplored. I believe that it would create a more peaceful world as well as help with our climate crisis, if we truly thanked and loved our earth and the plant and animal beings that live there. I deeply respect and honor the practices of indigenous cultures for their concepts of life, animals, and

practices within plants and animals in daily life. The deep respect, reverence and patience offered to nature is something that can nurture and sustain us.

In truth, we have the ability to communicate with plant life: it is as easy as breathing, becoming still, and listening to the plants around you. Trees and plants are continually communicating with each other; and if we are patient, we can sense this communication.

Plant communication has been recognized by a few studies that demonstrated that willow trees, and sugar maples can communicate and warn each other about insect attacks. Since then, the idea of “talking trees” has struggled to stand up to Western science; however, in the present day, researchers are carefully experimenting and debunking these ideas.

Much like humans, plants are exposed to stress factors such as disease, injury, infestation,

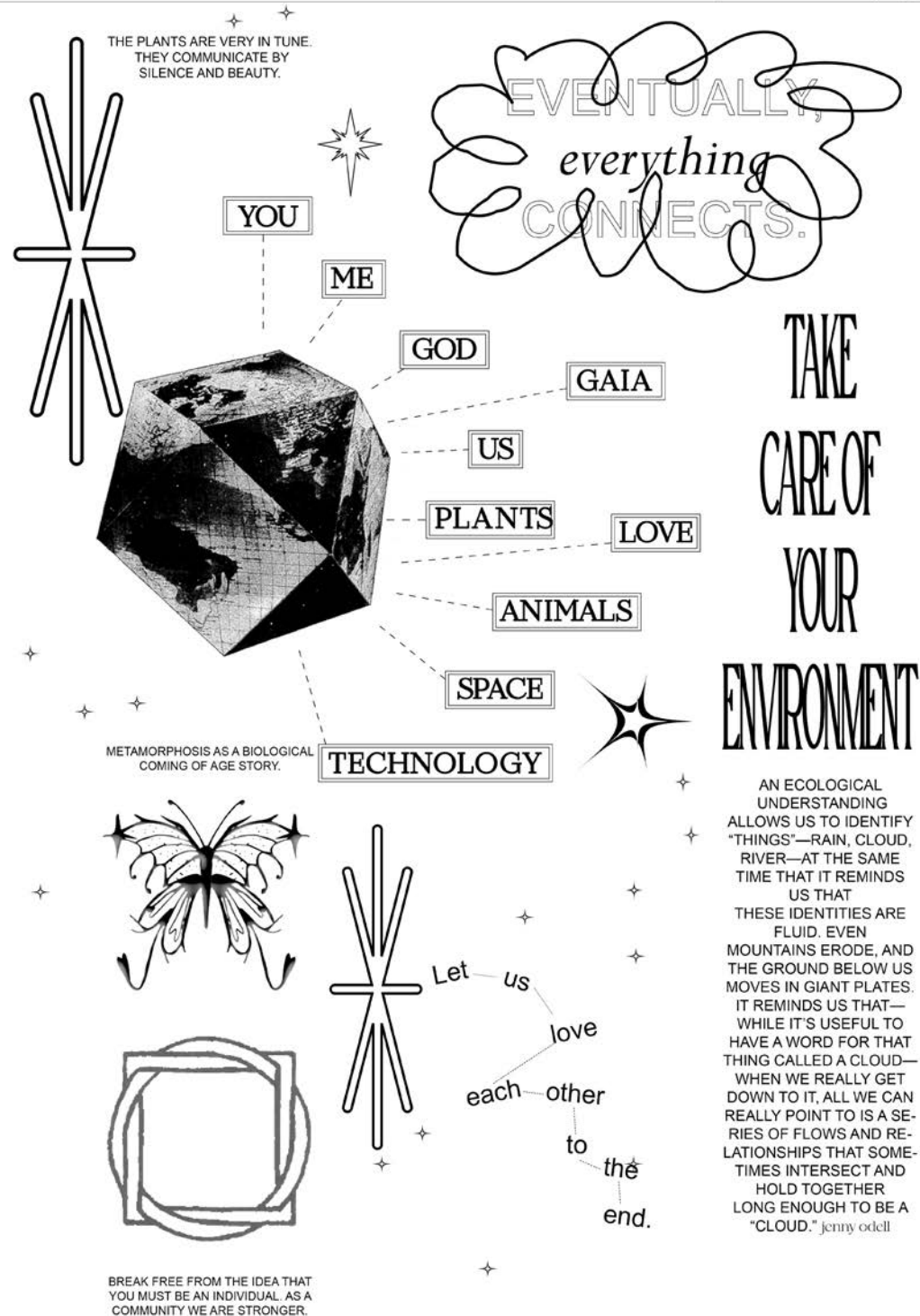
or temperature changes. They must be able to communicate and respond to the situation and develop some sort of survival method. Plants use communication with one another to encompass this state of survival. They can communicate through mycorrhizal networks, electrical signaling, and using volatile organic compounds.

According to Suzzana Simard, a professor of forest ecology at University of British Columbia, trees are "social creatures" that communicate with each other in cooperative ways that hold lessons for humans, too. They begin by being linked to neighboring trees through an underground network of fungi, a mycorrhizal network. This network slightly resembles the neural networks in the brain. In one study of these trees, Simard watched Douglas Firs that had been injured by insects send chemical warning signals to the pine trees growing nearby. Pine trees then produced the natural defense enzyme to protect against these pests. The trees were communicating through an electrical signal.

These beautiful plants and ecosystems are all connected.

Within a human-centric civilization, that is often hard to remember.

Robin Wall Kimmerer discusses in her book *Braiding Sweet Grass*. "The trees act not as individuals, but somehow as a collective. Exactly how they do this, we don't yet know. But what we see is the power of unity. What happens to one happens to us all. We can starve together or feast together."



CARE OF

YOUR

ENVIRONMENT

MYSTICAL WORLD



TAKE

CARE OF

YOUR



Size 2XL	100% Cotton	Thrifted from Goodwill. Small pocket tag that says "Dickies"
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Imagine a  
world where a  
pollution-free  
future lies  
in the roots  
of a fungus.

*Unknown*

# Mycelium

## Mentor:

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# Fungi Can

# Save Us

Fungi are the interface organisms between life and death. Look under any log lying on the ground and you will see fuzzy, cobweb-like growths called mycelium. The activities of mycelium help heal and steer ecosystems on their evolutionary path, cycling nutrients through the food chain. Fungi are keystone species that create ever thickening layers of soil which allow future plant and animal generations to flourish. Without fungi, all ecosystems would fail.

Human life and the natural environment are in a constant push-pull of *tension*. Humans produce more waste than any other species of life on earth. Humans have made the earth sick with toxins, plastics, and pollution. The *ethereal earth* and its interlocking systems that provide us a livable environment can't fight us back.

The earth, as Carl Sagan puts it, is "*neither benign nor hostile, rather indifferent to humans.*" As humans interact and change

the earth, the changes will be induced into the earth's ecosystems. Whether human life survives or not is irrelevant. In their usage as everything from construction material to biofuel, mushrooms hold incredible potential and could actually aid humanity in getting rid of a problem that's been brewing for decades: plastic.

Plastic pollution is a large problem affecting humans on earth. While recycling and reusing plastics can solve part of the problem, many microplastics and other plastic products have already made their way into the ecosystems and will take up to 1000 years to degrade.

Scientists have discovered that microorganisms can play an important role in ridding the planet of waste plastic, as over 90 genera of bacteria, fungi, and actinomycetes have the ability to degrade plastic.

In particular, *Pestalotiopsis microspora* can eat plastic products as its primary food source and survive without air or light. This makes it a marvelous mushroom for cleaning up the plastic in our landfills and littering our environment. The fungi consume polyurethane and convert it into organic matter. This plastic-eating mushroom can also live without oxygen, making it the perfect candidate for cleaning up landfills as well as natural areas.

This beautiful network of mycelium has the capability to extend itself deep into the soil to decompose plastic and change our current world. When we explore the possibility of nature helping humans solve the issues that we've created, we work towards more balance within our environments and ecosystems.

Fungi is fundamental for our existence—through beer, bread, and medicines, we depend on it. Though the logistics may be small, the hopes of plastic-eating fungi still shine light on the future.

MYSTICAL WORLD

MYSTICAL WORLD

MYSTICAL WORLD



<b>Size M</b>	<b>Cotton Blend</b>	<b>Super soft short sleeve t-shirt. Thrifted from Goodwill.</b>
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What do the stars  
tell us?

Should we listen?

# Messages From Above:

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## Cosmic Communication

For thousands of years, humans have observed the stars and heavens above; astrology and astronomy have become a significant part of history and spirituality throughout time. One of the beliefs held since ancient times is that the cosmos communicates—it is an oracle that might guide us.

*It is common to wonder about the world above. How should we listen to it?*

Modern Western astrological interpretations include a strong focus on the personality of the individual. Because personality often dictates the outcome of astrological combinations, the best astrological predictions about people are based on solid understanding of the person's birth chart. Western astrology uses signs like Leo, Libra, Virgo, Aries to create archetypes or characteristics about one's personality. For example, if you are a fiery, expressive person (Leo), according to Western astrology, you will take action in a different

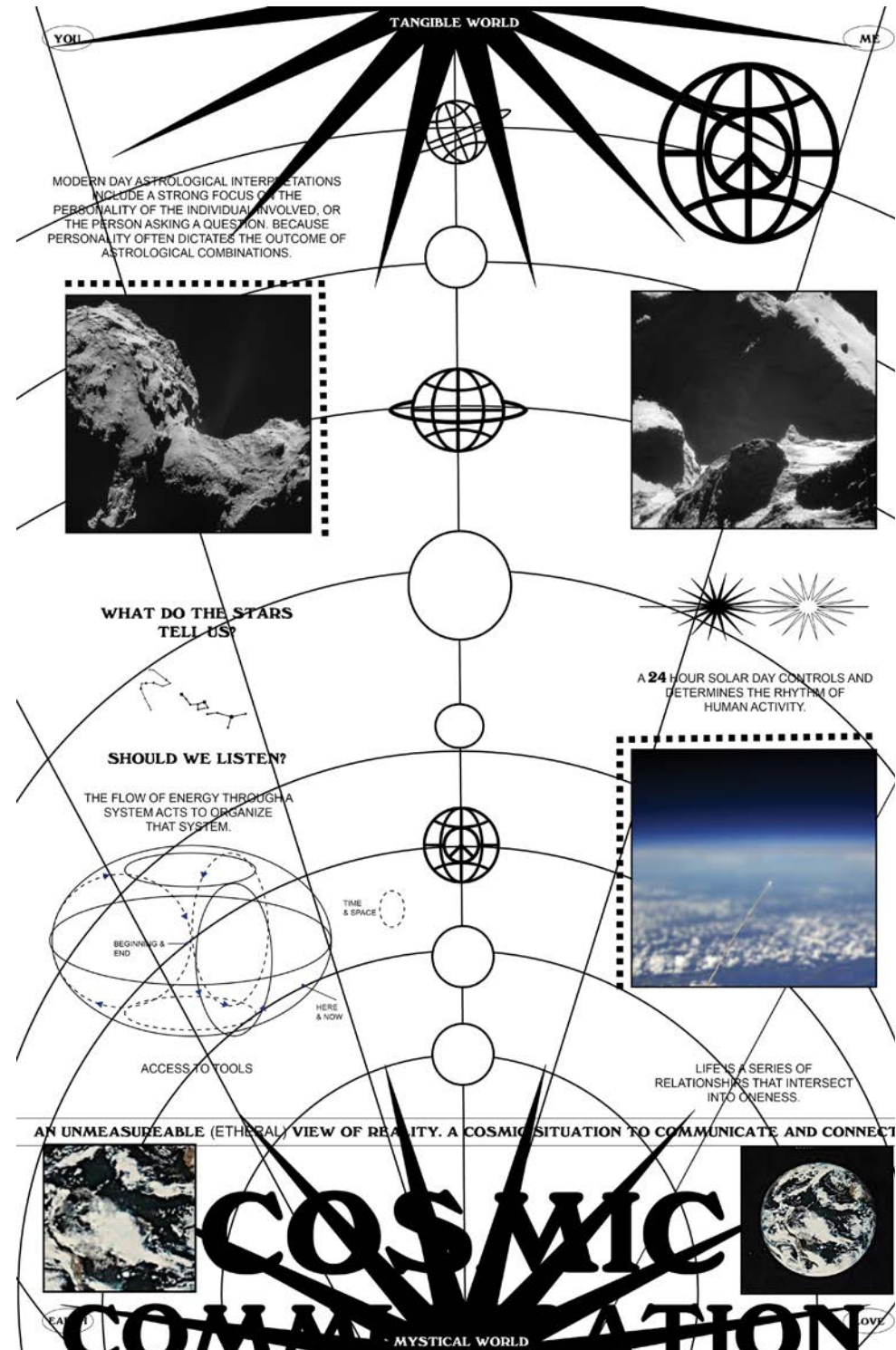
way from a watery, emotional person (Pisces). If you are firmly rooted in practical reality (Virgo), you will act differently from a visionary, eccentric type (Aquarius).

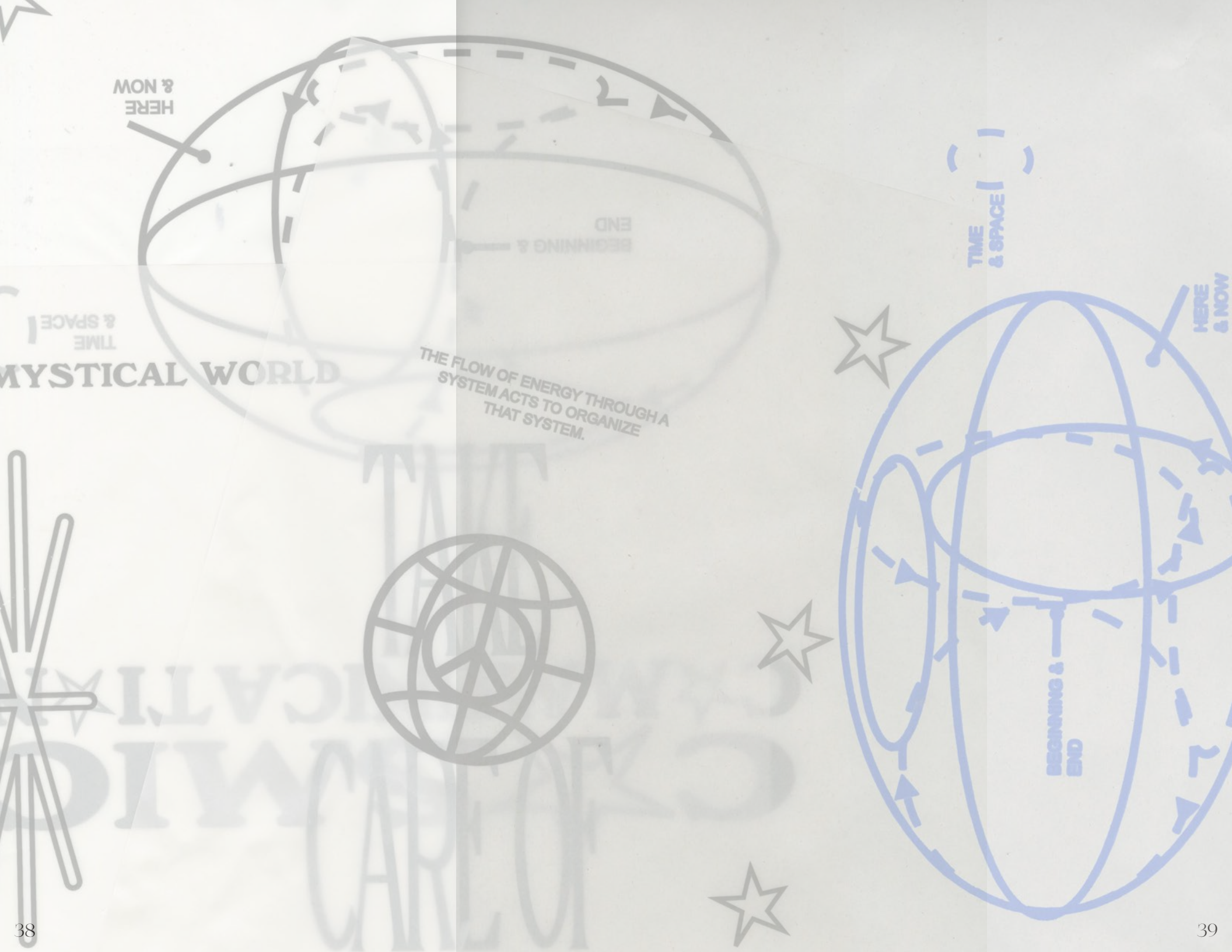
These astrological signs were dated back from the Ancient Greek Period. It was during this period that the 12 star signs of the zodiac that many people are familiar today—Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces—were recorded. These Western zodiac signs were named after constellations and matched with dates based on the apparent relationship between their placement in the sky and individual personalities and life paths on earth.

In the Chinese zodiac many of the same principles are used, based on date and time of birth, with 12 signs used to communicate characteristics and traits. In this system, animals are used to embody the signs: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit,

Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. These signs are based on the lunar year calendar. Each sign represents a certain birth year, and the system repeats itself every 12 years.

No matter what you believe about astrology or zodiac signs, there is a long history of looking up at the cosmos to plan our lives. Farmers used the skies as a calendar as long ago as Ancient Egyptians, when the rising of Sirius, the Dog Star, around mid-July, was seen as a marker of the imminent annual flooding of the Nile. Travelers used the skies as a compass, following the stars to know how to plot their course. Many people used the skies as a source of mystical direction, too. The different connections diverse cultures have with stars and cosmic communication is an interest that connects us all.





HERE & NOW

END  
BEGINNING &

TIME  
& SPACE

HERE & NOW

BEGINNING &  
END

TIME  
& SPACE

MYSTICAL WORLD

THE FLOW OF ENERGY THROUGH A  
SYSTEM ACTS TO ORGANIZE  
THAT SYSTEM.



<b>Size XL</b>	<b>100% Cotton</b>	<b>Cosmic blue. Peace sign on chest. Thrifted from Goodwill.</b>
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To walk,  
or start a  
desire  
path, is to  
suggest  
a new way.

# Desire Paths:

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## Spontaneous Suggestions for a Better Route

How do you decide where to go when taking a walk? Do you look at Google Maps? Do you follow the pull of your dog on a leash? Do you simply wander until your legs get tired and you turn back home? Or is your path efficient and purposeful?

*Walking paths all leave honorable marks of accomplishment and journey going from place to place.*

Paths are created by animals, humans, automobiles, and bikes. They tell a story. Was the path for a long backpacking adventure or was it a walk to work? One particular style of path that has caught my attention is that of the desire path.

A desire path is a path created as a consequence of erosion caused by human or animal foot traffic. The path usually represents the shortest or most easily navigated route between an origin and destination. Desire paths can be found cutting across grassy fields or lining a street where there is no sidewalk.

Sometimes, desired lines are a means of expediency; they cut corners and find the shortest distance between two points. Other times, they are a means of deviance and exploration; they chart new territory and open up paths to places that would otherwise be passed by.

Desire paths create a spontaneous suggestion for a better route.

For me, desire paths create a beautiful visual line that can be interpreted into many different dialogues. The desire lines can share an animal or person's relationship with their landscape.

For example, a pedestrian creates a desired line that crosses a median, communicating some sort of flaw in urban planning. Or children having a shortcut on their walk home from school. Or a rabbit cutting through the brush creates a desired path to get home safely from predators.



When desire paths are made, intentionally or unintentionally, they represent democratic and unsolicited intervention in a place where people have the power to affect the fabric of the landscape—in an unconscious, yet purposeful way. To walk, or start a desire path, is to suggest a new way; it is to become a passive, yet profound collaborator in creating a better route.

Desire paths reflect habits, curiosity, and provide function to the beings using them. It is useful to look at desire paths as a symbol of where we want to go—we are always going where our heart leads us. Desire paths are physical, tangible paths that show us what we truly need.

# Desires Spontaneous & Dreams Suggestions for a New Way.

TO WALK, OR START A DESIRE PATH, IS TO SUGGEST A NEW WAY.

THEY REPRESENT DEMOCRATIC AND UNSOLICITED INTERVENTION IN A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER TO AFFECT THE FABRIC OF THE LANDSCAPE, IN AN UNCONSCIOUS YET PURPOSEFUL WAY.

A DESIRE PATH IS A PATH CREATED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF EROSION CAUSED BY HUMAN OR ANIMAL FOOT TRAFFIC. THE PATH USUALLY REPRESENTS THE SHORTEST OR MOST EASILY NAVIGATED ROUTE BETWEEN AN ORIGIN AND DESTINATION.



Does it align with your lifestyle?      What does a new route look like?      Is it real or metaphorical?



# Desires & Dreams

TO WALK, OR START A  
DECIDE PATH IS TO SUGGEST A



<b>Size M</b>	<b>Cotton Blend</b>	<b>Cool muscle t-shirt. For when you're out walking your desired paths.</b>
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<b>Size M</b>	<b>50% Cotton 50% Polyester</b>	<b>Brown hoodle. Thrifed from Goodwill. Cozy and soft.</b>
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<b>Size M</b>	<b>62% Polyester 33% Rayon 5% Spandex</b>	<b>Form fitting tank. Great to dress up or chill. Thrifted from William Temple House.</b>
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ROCKS  
CONTAIN  
SMALL WORLDS.

# Rocks:

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## Archive as memory

Why is it important to remember what came before on a planet? Nearly every living organism on the planet has a memory. Beyond the living memories, we can look towards fossils, crystals, and rocks as a way to archive our pasts.

*Rocks hold the history of the earth and the materials that will be used to build its future.*

Archive and memories function in a diverse amount of ways from earth science to anthropology. In the context of evolution and climate change, the past illuminates what we can expect as we dial up the planetary thermostat. The past can help us understand the transformative changes we have already had within our ecosystems and foretell the disruptions and changes ahead of us.

Rocks record history through their very own geologic record. The geologic record is the history of the earth recorded in rocks that make up its crust. Because rocks have been forming and changing since the earth first formed, the layers and fossils left behind help us understand the past.

It is important to remember the past so we can celebrate it, and create a new future from what we've learned.



BEYOND THE LIVING  
MEMORIES WE CAN LOOK  
TOWARDS FOSSILS + ROCKS  
AS A WAY TO  
ARCHIVE OUR PASTS.

ROCKS  
CONTAIN  
SMALL WORLDS.

FOSSILIZED  
MEMORIES  
ARCHIVE  
OUR PASTS.



<b>Size M</b>	<b>62% Polyester 33% Rayon 5% Spandex</b>	<b>Cropped tank top. Bitmapped Images of rocks.</b>
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Flowers  
seem  
intended for  
the solace of  
ordinary  
humanity.

*John Ruskin*

# Flowers as Gift:

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## Acts of Ceremony

A child hikes to a sacred patch of grass that she visits every summer. With her small hands she picks up dandelions and lovingly crafts a flower crown. As she places it on her head she dances and sings, for she has become a fairy child. She puts her toes in the creek and places the crown in the water and watches it slowly glide down the river.

A mother walks with her child hand-in-hand for their very first dance recital. Costumed with pastels, ribbons and silks, the child dances on stage. Afterwards the experience is celebrated with a bouquet of flowers.

A grieving man who has just lost his mother wipes a tear as he puts flowers on her grave. He picked them because they are the flowers she held in a vase on her dining table all through his childhood.

A young woman hosts a party in her college apartment. Her table is adorned with \$3.99

flowers from Trader Joes. Their color and fragrance gives her home comfort and joy.

Flowers are one of nature's most wonderful ways of showing love. They have become a universal way of saying "thank you," "I love you," "congratulations," "I care about you," "I desire you," "I am sorry," and "I miss you." Flowers have been used in rituals for many years. One of the oldest known uses of flowers was for burial sites dating back to 62,000 BC, they are also used for pagan rites and rituals, weddings and funerals, first dates and celebrations.

Flowers carry the energy of their species: a rose has a different energy and communication than a sunflower does yet both are beautiful, uplifting, and create a change in the emotions of the human who views, holds, or tends them.

Flowers have also been used for centuries as homeopathic tinctures, to relieve illness and support health with the idea that

like attracts like: when we imbibe the flower essence, we take on the quality of the flower. Artists have painted flowers on canvas. They have been woven into paper and carved into ceramics. They decorate our buildings. They naturally dye our clothing. They display our emotions.

Today, flowers are more important than ever, as living beings that are able to harbor memory and joy within the current strife within our environments. Their unseen energies assist us in creating moments that connect us with ourselves and others.

If you are grieving, sitting with a bouquet can be a very emotional experience. If you grow your own flowers, it is exciting to trust in the soil and believe in tomorrow. Flowers make everyday life extraordinary and are portable connections to nature. There is real magic to be involved within the ecosystems of our life.

These wonderful creatures represent beauty for the sake of beauty, indulgence, and connection with nature. They capture our attention. They remind us to enjoy them while we can, as flowers do not last forever. And what they leave behind is the memory and emotions of the fragrance, pollen, and color that they once held.

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