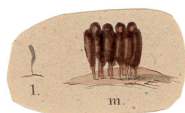


# How to Host a Listening Party

An *Other Fantasies for Extinction* Project for Collective Engagement

by Rachel Garber Cole and Michael Simonelli

Art by Madeleine Boucher

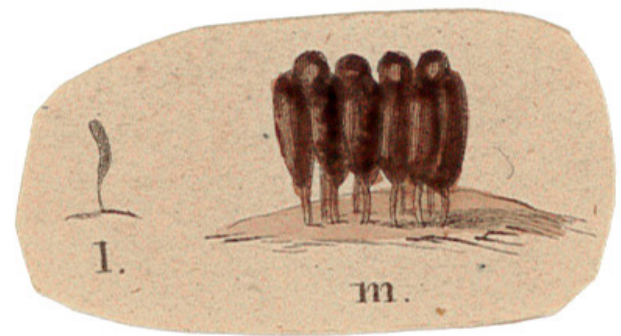


1. Download *Other Fantasies for Extinction*:

[www.otherfantasiesforextinction.com/download](http://www.otherfantasiesforextinction.com/download)

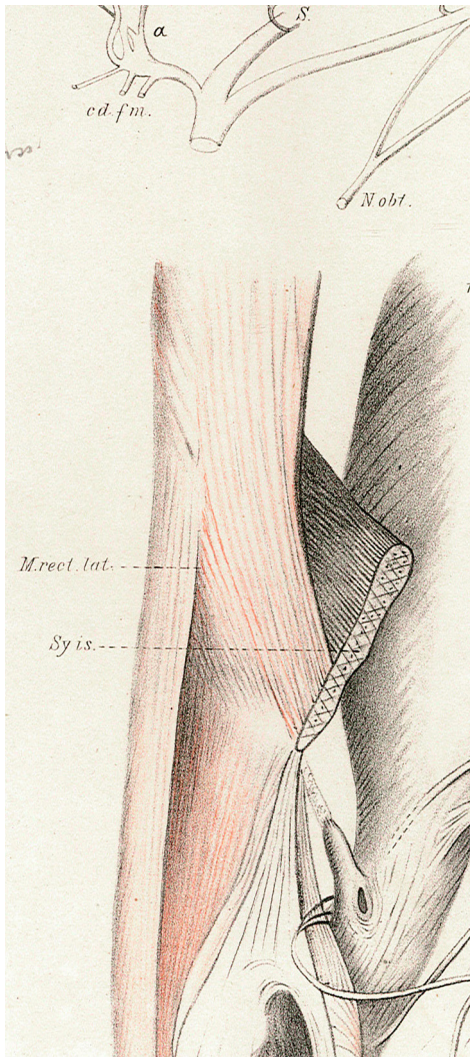


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2. Invite some friends over for a Listening Party.



3. Hang out, eat good food, get loose.





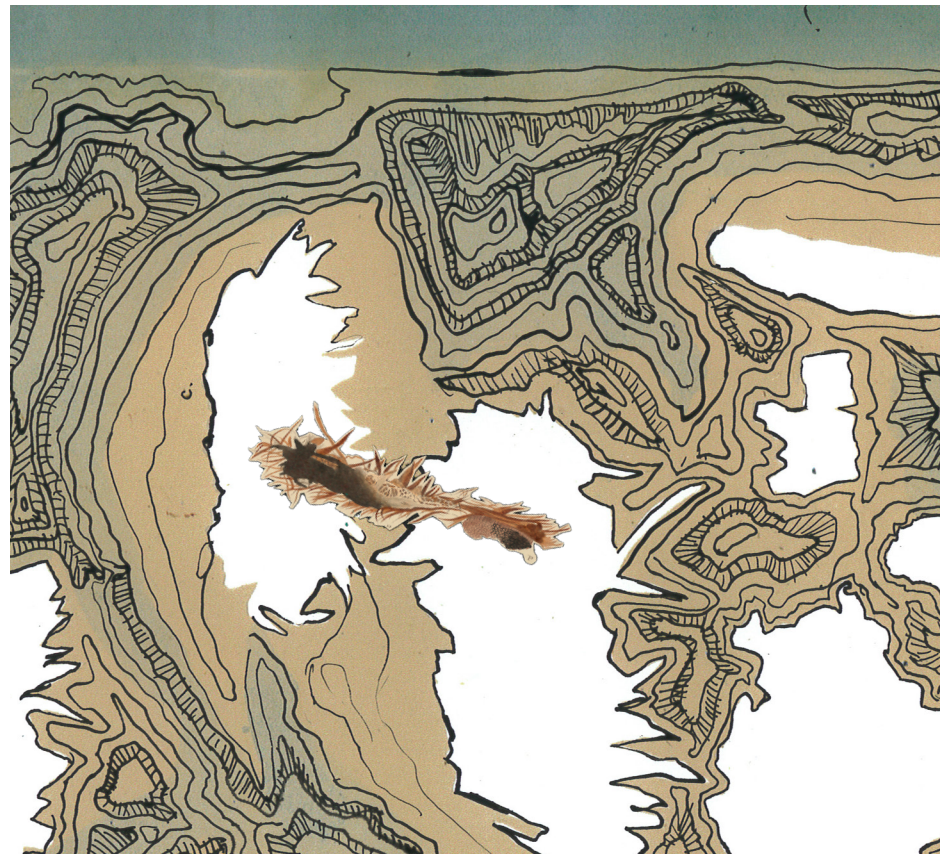
4. Dim the lights,  
maybe light candles,  
make sure everyone has  
a comfortable seat.



5. Play *Other Fantasies for Extinction* on whatever decent (or indecent) speakers you have.



6. Play it loud. Immerse yourself.





7. Listen. Dream.

8. When the piece is finished,  
reflect as a group in that dim light.





9. If you'd like, you can ask each other some questions:

When you think about Global Warming, what do you think about and how do you feel?

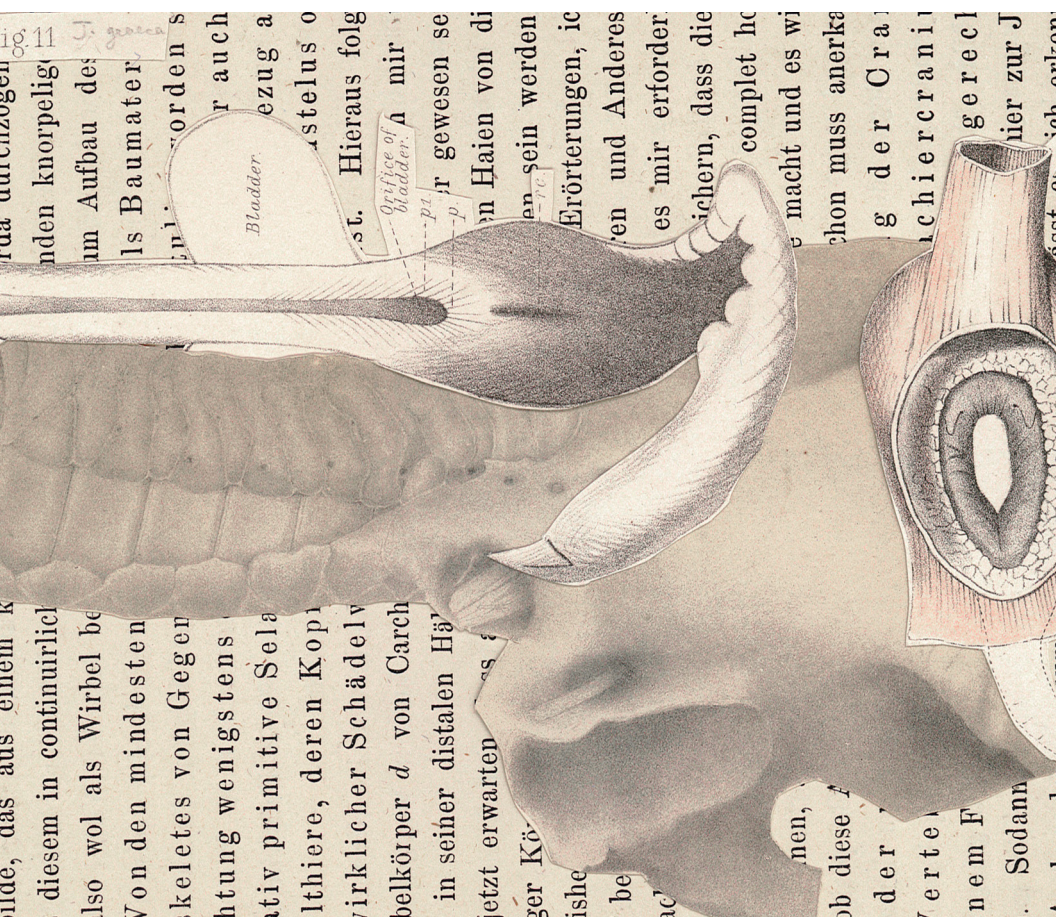
What does it feel like to experience unseasonable weather?

How does living in Climate Crisis impact the way you understand the past? The present? The future?

What do you fear for the future? What do you feel hopeful for?

In what ways does the Climate Crisis ask us to 'show up' for this moment?

What are some local Climate or Environmental Justice issues that effect our communities? What are some meaningful ways we can get involved to promote Climate Justice in our communities?





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2. 1832 and not given at all (argelense)

17. XII. PL.

TAB. VII. B.



*Pteridium*

*Argelense*

*Argelense*

The University of Chicago

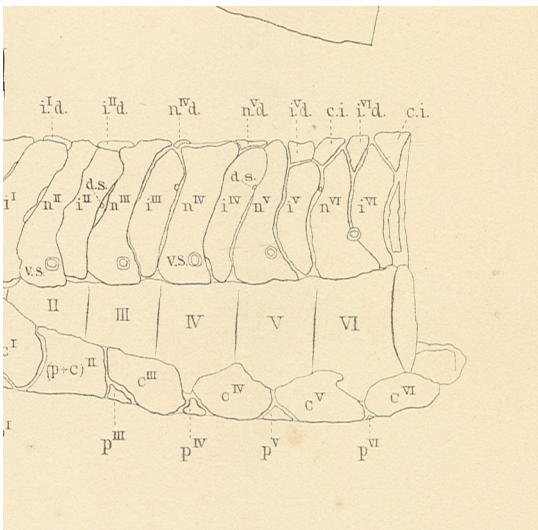


## A Note About the Project

I have had climate anxiety for as long as I can remember, although my memory, to be fair, is not very good. Nevertheless, I think I remember learning about Global Warming in elementary school, sometime around 1994. At the time, Global Warming (the George W. Bush era euphemism ‘Climate Change’ hadn’t yet been coined) was coupled with other environmental concerns such as pollution and the hole in the ozone layer and was probably taught around an Earth Day curriculum. General thinking went that Global Warming was a serious, but abstract concept, the effects of which wouldn’t be felt for another 100 years. Despite this timeline, to me the warming felt imminent, and I felt very anxious.

Fast forward 10 years and I am in college in Minnesota, where the winters are very cold. I am standing in the quad and despite the fact that it is February, the temperature is somewhere in the high 60s. Snow is melting all around me. Students in t-shirts are running around, high on spring fever. I am paralyzed with fear. I feel anxiety in my chest. Something is terribly wrong.

Whether the unseasonable weather on that day was caused by Global Warming, or whether it was just the result of typical inconsistencies in meteorological patterns isn't important. What's important is the fact that on a warming planet, there is something dread-full about an unseasonably beautiful day.



At the time, when I tried to share my feelings of existential anxiety, people didn't want to engage with it. People weren't really talking about the climate back then. There wasn't a language for talking about the experiences associated with the Climate Crisis, nor did I have the vocabulary to fully articulate my own feelings of dread on a beautiful winter's day. I felt as though the way I understood our global future (chaotic, unstable, unpredictable) didn't align with the way the majority of people around me understood it (stable, predictable, linear). It made me feel very isolated and afraid.

Our planet in 2020 is warmer than our planet was in 2004 and the effects of this warming has become devastatingly visible. As I write this in January of the new decade, Australia is on fire and Indonesia is underwater.

We are now living in our Global Warming future. I will tell you that it is very difficult for me to figure out how I weave that reality into the story of my own life. How has it been for you?

Something I think about a lot is the fact that most of modern humanity developed during a 10,000-year interglacial period of relatively stable climates. We built our cultures, our languages, our histories, and our value systems upon this solid foundation.

How does this moment of transition – a transition away from stability towards an increasingly warm and unstable planet – change the way we understand our past, our present, and our future? What new stories must we tell about ourselves?

*Other Fantasies for Extinction* is an exploration of new narratives that may be helpful tools for this moment. Stories can be useful ways to cultivate emotional resilience – something we desperately need as we face this uncertainty.

Another thing I have been thinking we need: Ways for us to gather together in time and space. Rather than as individual consumers, this moment urges us to work *collectively* to create climate solutions and to promote climate justice.

Recently I have been asking myself, where can I put my body and my time so that I can help make meaningful change? I think generally as a culture, we are not in the habit of working collectively or thinking civically. I know that I am not.

These Listening Parties are about getting people together in a room and talking to one another. The art creates space for conversation, and the party helps us build the necessary practice of community. How can we, together, mark this transition as one that requires reckoning, and brainstorm ways we can meaningfully impact the future?

The Climate Crisis is global, but its solutions are local. What are some ways that you can get involved?

Thank you so much for participating in, or organizing your own *Other Fantasies for Extinction* Listening Party. Let's keep our eyes open during a time when it's easier to keep them closed, and to keep checking in with one another about how we are feeling, and what we can do to help.

- RGC



Here are some local organizations you can get involved with that are working to mitigate Global Warming and are fighting for environmental justice:

**Other Fantasies for Extinction** is a collaborative project written by Rachel Garber Cole. The Listening Party was composed and produced by Michael Simonelli and performed by Rachel Garber Cole. Art for this book and for the **Other Fantasies for Extinction** artist book was made by Madeleine Boucher. Thanks to Phil Tortoroli / Anica Productions for supporting the project and giving it life in public.

[www.otherfantasiesforextinction.com](http://www.otherfantasiesforextinction.com)

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