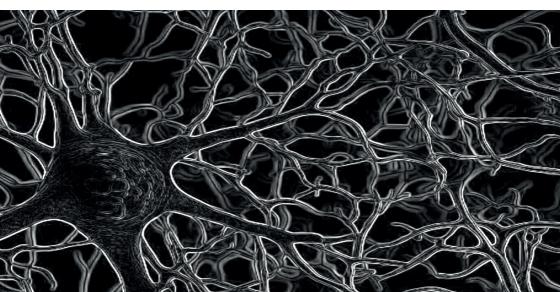
The artist sees it as an old woman dating back thousands of years. This old woman has stories to tell us, things to pass on. Dressed in the glittering powder that is mica, she wanders the land dancing and singing.



«LE CHANT DE LA RIVIÈRE» BY WENDY DELORME

During my first few nights at the residence, I could have sworn I heard voices, mystical chants.

I soon realised that it was coming from the Cervo, she was singing. This singing, which at first I found disturbing, lulled my remaining nights.

Is this river trying to communicate with me?
What does she have to say to me?

CERVO (IT)

CERVEAU (FR) / BRAIN

The 'Cervo(eau)' and its connections Branching Neurological network

A thought for the mycelium, for the neurons

Torrent

Whirlpool

Emulsion

Boiling

Freezing the movement of water A kind of fantasy

Divination? What is the river telling us? A new language

Giving a body, giving flesh

MICA,

micare, crumb, cat's gold

> Crushed mica gives rise to fine pearly particles commonly known as flakes, which are used in cosmetic products.

Cosmetics, from the Greek kosmeo meaning 'I adorn, I adorn', encompass a wide range of products designed to beautify, protect or modify the appearance of the superficial parts of the human body, such as the skin, hair, nails and lips, without altering their intrinsic nature.

Mica can be seen as the structure of the river, its skeleton, its bones.

Crushed to become powder. Sparkling.

LIFE BETWEEN THE SHEETS HYPOTHESIS

In 2007, Helen Hansma, from the University of Santa Barbara in California, proposed the hypothesis that the first living cells appeared in a film of water between sheets of mica.

The day-night cycle, by causing the thermal expansion and contraction of the mica sheets in or on the edge of the palaeo-ocean, would have provided the energy needed to break up and reconstitute organic molecules (RNA and cell membranes) on the surface of the sheets.



THE CARE

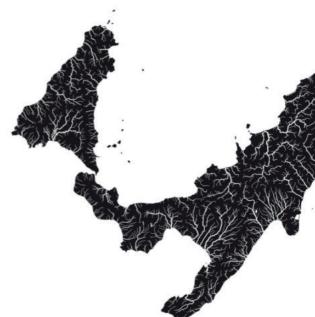
Borrow us from the river

Hers aromatic and medicinal plants Her water Hers minerals

The river, like a benevolent mother, offers us her care

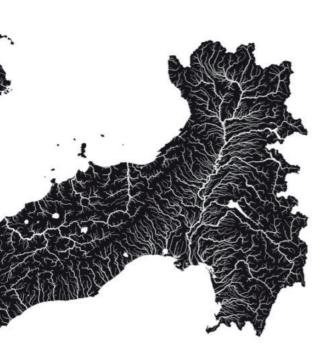


How can we take care of her in return?



MICA

Looking at this Mica, and thinking of the Cervo as an old lady, I imagine an old lady wearing a thousand and one pieces of jewellery. She would sparkle. In my mind, the mica becomes a jewel, a precious thing, a collector's item.



Giving body

Giving body to an entity such as the river is an anthropocentric position.

Human beings have this visceral need to be able to identify in order to develop empathy.

Giving a tangible body allows us to offer a new vision of the Cervo, to meet it in connection with it, to consider it as someone close to us.



Creating intimacy



REVEAL

Mica reveals flows

Wax prints reveal movement

Plants reveal a scent

SMELLS

The river is made up of many smells I decided to freeze the scent of plants, the familiar ones

Familiar smells remind us of our own sensitivity, our own memory baggage. Smells create connections between living beings

We understand ourselves through smells. I may or may not be able to smell someone, and this gives us an indication of how we perceive the other person and how we approach them. How do you approach the Cervo?

PARLEMENT DE LOIRE

In October 2019, in Tours, the first hearings of the 'Loire Parliament' will mark the inaugural act of an institutional fiction unprecedented in Europe.

Chaired by the writer Camille de Toledo, an information committee heard from the philosopher of science Bruno Latour, the researcher Frédérique Aït-Touati, the archaeologist Virginie Serna and the landscape architect Bruno Marmiroli. In the presence of around a hundred listeners, this commission has since been working towards recognition of the legal personality of the River Loire and considering the potential for a cross-species constitution. These hearings will continue in autumn 2020 with new guests, thinkers, lawyers, users and artists. This collective narrative in action, supported by POLAU, is based on legislative and case law precedents that have recognised subjects of nature as subjects of law: in 2017, for example, New Zealand law gave the Whanganui River legal personality. The Rio Atrato in Colombia and territories in struggle in the United States are using legal tools to defend indigenous ways of life in the face of interests that are destroying ecosystems. The bioclimatic crisis requires us to change our ways of living and welcoming the broader perspectives of living things.

The experience of the 'Loire Parliament' seeks to define the contours of an institutional transformation that will make the living, the environments, the stakeholders in a new balance of power.

So that nature and its components are welcomed as part of a broader social contract. Beyond the reversal of perspective that this implies, the approach is generating waves of interest on the part of local groups and organisations in charge of managing the river and ecological transitions. It is a narrative of the future that opens the way to a constellation of projects that contribute to local planning and development, based in particular on the report of the hearings of the 'Loire Parliament' and the hypothesis of a declaration of the river's legal personality.