I,
Us,
Other

Dear City-dweller,

These cards invite you to walk, sing, dream and draw, for 7 days in a row. The instructions and drawings are inspired by the *Chrysopoeia* (making of gold) of *Cleopatra the Alchemist,* whose work revolved around conception, birth and the renewal and transformation of life.

You may use the cards (printed or digitally) or your own materials to fill in your responses. Please send your responses to:

Esmee Geerken, Bilderdijkstraat 15-3, 1052 NA Amsterdam, or: info@esmeegeerken.com.

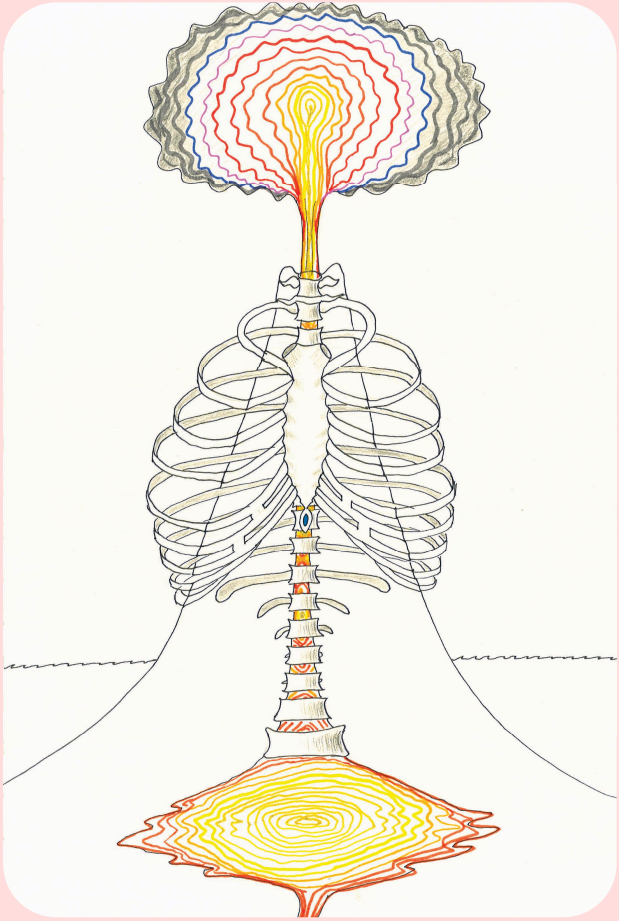
Your contributions will be combined into a collective artwork. Thank you for participating!

With love,

Esmee Geerken

I, Us, Other is part of the British Academy KNAW Knowledge Frontiers Anthropocene project

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Rock-Skeleton Cycle

Day One

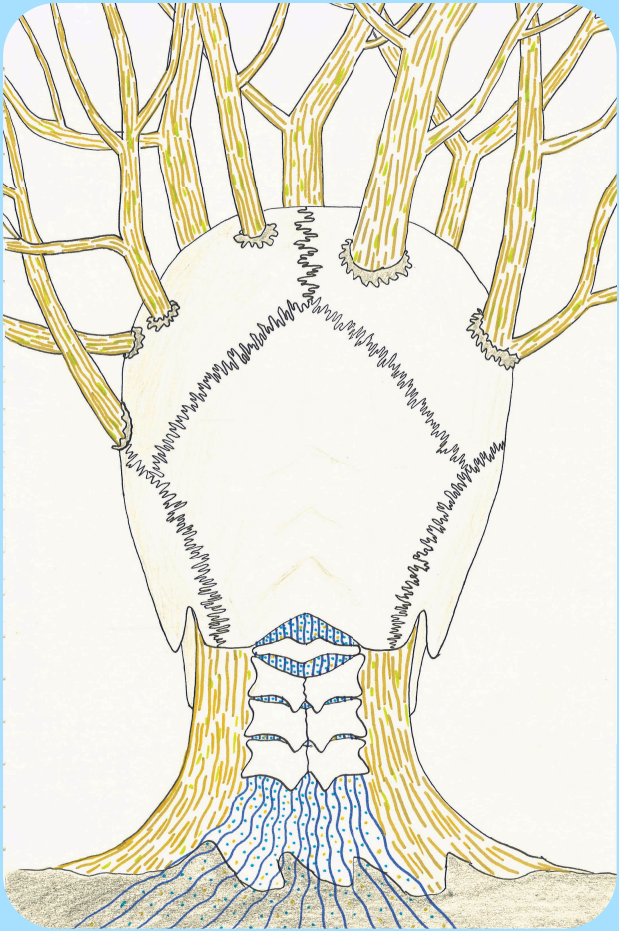
Go for a walk to a supermarket in your neighborhood. Observe the different types of minerals and rocks you encounter during your walk. Imagine how these tiles, bricks and asphalt roads once were part of mountains, cliffs, rocks, shells and bones.

In the supermarket, buy Himalayan salt and an onion. When you get home, put the onion on a special place for the night.

Take a pinch of Himalayan salt, let it melt on your tongue, and imagine how you and the Himalaya become one.

Name of a mountain range you'd like to be part of:

Which minerals did you encounter during your walk? Did you observe interesting rock patterns or fossils? Draw or write about them:



Me, You

Day Two

Pick up the onion and peel it, layer by layer.

With every layer, think of something you'd like to shed, something you do not need anymore.

If the shedding brings up tears, collect them in the provided vial, or another container.

(If there are no tears, cut the onion...)

Your tears will be recrystallized into micro-mountain range.

Ask a neighbor/stranger/lover/child/friend to do the same, and share your sheddings.

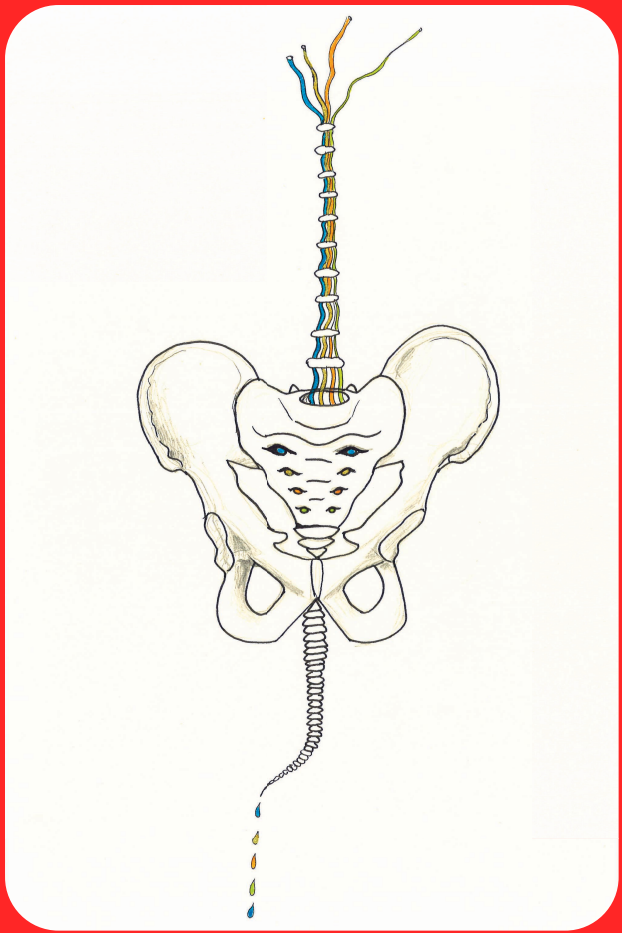
Me, You

Drawing of the onion:

Me, You

What did you shed?

Me, You



Mineral-Water Bodies

Day Three

Go back to the supermarket and pick two pieces of fruit, grown outside of your country of residence.

When home, look up a picture of the fruit tree. Place one piece of fruit on a table, and make a drawing of it. After finishing the drawing, eat the fruit and pay attention to its smell, color, taste and texture in your mouth. While taking up energy and nutrients from the fruit's body, imagine how the leaves of the fruit tree absorbed solar radiation and CO_2 from the atmosphere; imagine how the roots of the tree soaked up water and nutrients from the soil; imagine how other people have nurtured this tree.

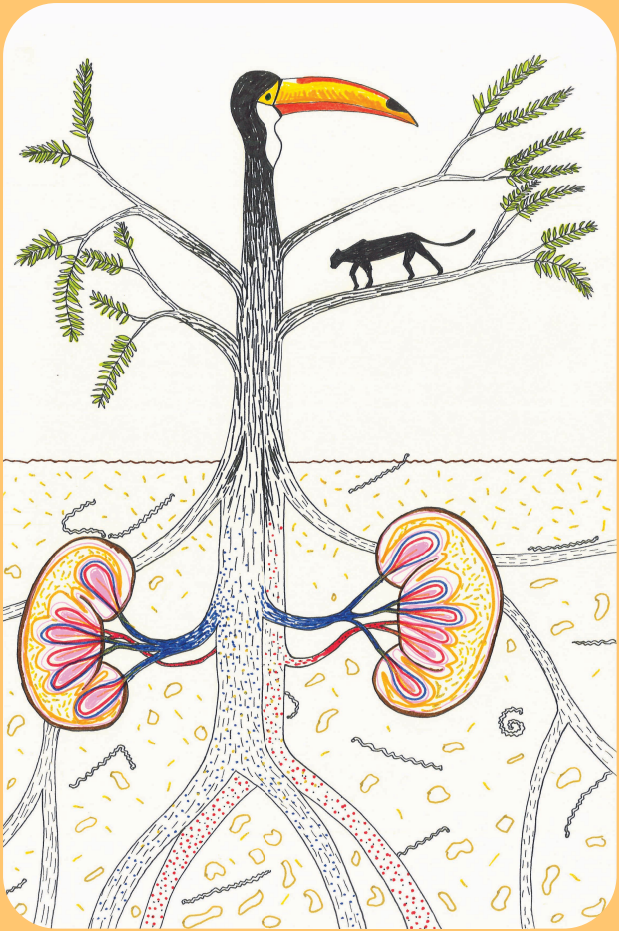
Then, imagine a special pipeline connecting the sewage system of your neighborhood to the soil in which the tree is rooted: one pipe for nutrients, one pipe for energy and wealth. In your mind, close biogeochemical and economic cycles on a planetary level.

Give the other piece of fruit to a neighbor/stranger/lover/child/friend and ask them to do the same.

Mineral-Water Bodies

Drawing of the piece of fruit:

Drawing of the special sewage system:



Web of Life

Day Four

Go for a City walk and look at all the other species you encounter: animals, trees, plants, funghi and perhaps even bacteria.

Pay special attention to 3 chosen individual organisms. Guess when it's their birthday (and if you care about this, their zodiac sign). How old would they be? If you think it's their birthday today, congratulate them, or sing a song to celebrate their uniqueness.

Instead of branching out into different species, sometimes evolutionary lineages come together and merge, a process called *anastomosis*.

Would you like to become *half fish-half human*, a *human-crustacean*, a *unicellular-human* or a *human-squirrel*, who can jump from tree to tree?

List of 3 organisms and their guessed birthdays (+ zodiac sign) and age:

Drawing of a merged *human-other species:*



Other Urban Ecosystems

Day Five

When commuting (by bike, bus, car) within the City, imagine the flows of energy and materials running through and within this *Urban Ecosystem*. Is it a self-sufficient system?

Imagine the ecosystems your ancestors have been part of (human or pre-homo sapiens). Do you, deep down within the cells of your body, still remember daily encounters with dark nightskies, matured soils, ancient trees, meandering rivers, wild animals, hunting, berry picking, crossing savannas and crawling out of the ocean?

What is the *Other Ecosystem* you lack the most, within your Urban Ecosystem? *Taiga, Tundra, Tropical rainforest, Temperate forest, Desert, Hydrothermal vents, Coral reef, Lake Ecosystems?*

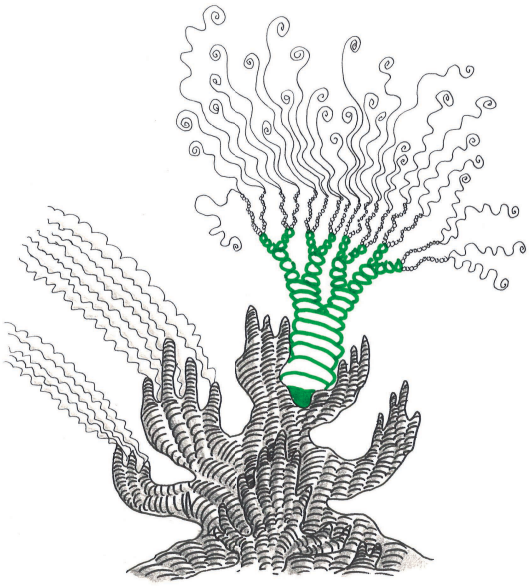
Imagine how your most missed *Other Ecosystem* is merging with the *Urban Ecosystem*, from within, at evolutionary timescales.

Now, reimagine your commute.

Other Urban Ecosystems

What is your most missed *Other Ecosystem?*

Drawing of merged *Urban & Other ecosystem*:



Other Biospheres

Day Six

Are there other life forms out there? How would they look like, and how do they live?

What is the energy source keeping these life-forms alive: radiation from a star, planetary heat, carnivory?

Which material cycles are regenerating these life forms: rock cycles, water cycles, carbon cycles, nutrient cycles, trace element cycles?

What is their environment like: gaseous, fluid, solid? Can they move around within this medium, and how do they propel themselves?

Are they conscious? Do they experience sadness, broken hearts, love, excitement, fear, joy? Do they communicate with each other, and how? Do they go to war?

Make a drawing of your imagined extraterrestrial life-form, or write about them.

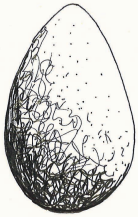
Ask a lover/stranger/friend/neighbor to do the same, and compare your aliens.

Other Biospheres

Draw or write about your imagined extraterrestrial life forms:









Other Geo-Solar Systems

Day Seven

Go for a walk in your neighborhood and collect a rock, some water and some air.

Sing a song to the collected rock, addressing *the lithosphere* - all the rocks. Do a little dance for the collected water, addressing *the hydrosphere* - all the water. Make a dish dedicated to the collected air, addressing *the atmosphere* - all the air.

Imagine you can harvest sunlight directly. This abundance of energy allows you to travel to a planet within another solar system. Which constellation will you travel to? (see next card for inspiration)

After arrival, you set up your tent. Perhaps this planet has a biosphere as well, perhaps it's a rocky or icy desert. But it has an atmosphere, and you can breathe. At night, when you cannot sleep, you get out of your tent to look at the night sky. Looking back towards the Earth, you see the sun, as a tiny star.

Then, you see a shooting star. Make a wish for someone or something you love.

Other Geo-Solar Systems

Star-Constellation you will visit:

Other Geo-Solar Systems

Wish for someone or something you love:

Thank You!

Stars - Constellations (as seen from Earth) to visit:

Proxima Centauri - Centaurus
Lalande 21185 - Ursa Major
Lacaille 9352 - Piscis Austrinus
Luyten's Star - Canis Minor
Tau Ceti - Cetus
Gliese 1061 - Horologium
L 1159-16 - Aries
Gliese 581 - Libra
Gliese 667 C - Scorpius
HD 219134 - Cassiopeia
61 Virginis - Virgo
Gliese 433 - Hydra
TRAPPIST-1 - Aquarius
55 Cancri - Cancer
Gliese 180 – Eridanus
Upsilon Andromedae - Andromeda
Gliese 221 - Orion

And then please return to:

Sun -
Constellation depending on your view point

‘One is All and through it is All, and by it is All, and if you have not All, All is Nothing’

- Cleopatra the Alchemist, 3rd century AD.