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Mythology of Uncertainty

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Mythology of Uncertainty

By

Connor Johanson

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts

In

Studio Art

Drawing

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Mankato, Minnesota

May 2021

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Mythology of Uncertainty

Connor Johanson

This thesis has been examined and approved by the following members of the student's committee.

Advisor, Liz Miller

Committee Member, Josh Winkler

Committee Member, Sudarshana Bordoloi

Mythology of Uncertainty

I think of my work as a mythology under constant revision that reevaluates our human perceptions of the natural world. The root of mythology comes to us from ancient Greek *mythos*. The original meaning of *mythos* was simply an account from memory—your *mythos* could be what your day was like, what happened and how you felt. We are all in the continuous process of building narratives of our individual lives, our cultures, and the world around us.

Human stories and values—*mythos*—underlie metaphors and analogies, meaning that no discussion of scientific ideas can be free of cultural bias. Discussion of symbiotic relationships between organisms has long been fraught with analogies, such as the market language of capitalism. Mass extinctions were first theorized as natural “revolutions”. Cancer has been characterized as individuals rebelling in the civilization of cells that is an organism. Our current stories have been useful in making sense of much of the world and as excellent thinking tools for discovery, yet they have their limits. Can we find comfort in a mythology of uncertainty?

Connor Johanson

Title	Medium
<i>Fossil</i>	Watercolor, ink, and acrylic on paper
<i>Leaf Fossil I</i>	Plaster mold
<i>Leaf Fossil II</i>	Plaster mold
<i>Moonlight</i>	Watercolor, ink, and acrylic on paper
<i>Green Man</i>	Watercolor, ink, and acrylic on paper
<i>Three Fates</i>	Watercolor, ink, and acrylic on paper
<i>Wildman II</i>	Acrylic and ink on paper
<i>Dead Tree and Lichens (Kasota Prairie)</i>	Acrylic and ink on paper
<i>Tree Geometry (Chamberlain Woods)</i>	Graphite on paper
<i>Tree Geometry (Rice Lake)</i>	Graphite on paper
<i>Tree Geometry (Blue Hill)</i>	Graphite on paper
<i>Tree Geometry (Kasota Prairie)</i>	Graphite on paper
<i>Doom</i>	Watercolor, ink, and acrylic on paper
<i>Radical</i>	Watercolor, ink, and acrylic on paper
<i>Talking Forest</i>	Watercolor, ink, and acrylic on paper
<i>Litterfall and Fungi</i>	Ceramic, acrylic paint, polymer clay, epoxy, fabric, and rope





























