

Your body as a body of water

RYAN! Feddersen (FLOW artist, Confederated Tribes of the Colville - Okanogan / Arrow Lakes): Where you're standing right now, think about the largest body of water. Imagine your physical relationship to it. Similar to how our noses are able to tell North, your body as a body of water can feel the pull of water on you as well.

Hi, my name is RYAN! Feddersen, I'm a visual artist based in Tacoma, Washington. I'm also a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, descended from the Okanogan and Arrow Lakes Bands. Well, I grew up on the Columbia River, a couple of steps away from it. When I was a young child, the Columbia River where I lived was a landfill. And that is a tragic way that, during industrial settler structures, people thought about water as an area of waste. And the, you know, the river was filthy, and so people didn't want to live close to it. And so they put the landfill there, and then we lived like, you know, on the other side of the railroad tracks by the landfill.

[ambient music plays in the background]

You couldn't swim in the river. You still can't at all times because of pollutants. But I did grow up where the river was the path home. And as I grew up I realized that I could always feel where water was, and started to realize that that could be a navigational tool. Once I feel where is water, I can then figure out where I am.

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