

Jennifer

Tee

Still

Shifting,

Mother Field

Jennifer Tee



Tampan World Mountain, Ancestral Creatures, 2022.

Welcome to the exhibition *Still Shifting, Mother Field* made by the artist Jennifer Tee. Jennifer Tee explores the idea of the wandering spirit or the lost soul and our disconnect with our natural environment through the exhibition space. With this activity, we are going to invite our spirits to wander into the artwork *Tampan World Mountain, Tree of Life* as shown in the picture on the next page.

Kunstinstituut Melly

Tree of life

Tampan World Mountain, Tree of Life is a part of a collage series called *Tampan Tulip*, which are all made out of pressed tulip petals drawing motifs from Tampan, square-shaped woven cloths. These woven cloths are found in the Lampung region of southern Sumatra in Indonesia and were exchanged during important rites of passage, such as the birth of a child, marriage, or a death.

The tulip is the national symbol of the Netherlands, the country where the artist lives. The Netherlands claimed Indonesia as a colony between the 17th and 20th centuries.



Tampan World Mountain, Tree of Life, 2021. Collection Centraal Museum Utrecht.



Scan this QR-code for an audio recording of the mediation assignment as outlined here on the right.

Stand in front of the art piece or use the picture shown in this activity and place your feet firmly on the ground. Take one minute to look at the art piece very carefully. Can you see how carefully the petals have been placed, piece by piece? If you look closer you can find a boat, a fish, a tree, and creatures all formed out of the petals.

Now picture yourself laying in the boat. Imagine how the tulip leaves are carrying you and imagine how this feels on your body, how this smells, and how your fingers touch the petals as you move along with the boat.

Imagine looking up and seeing how you are surrounded by tulip petals. Try and look at the art piece from this new perspective. Do you see the three creatures above you? What would they say if they could speak to you?

Somewhere in the middle of the boat, the tree of life is growing. Can you see it?

Imagine the tree of life is growing not from the ground but from your heart. Place the tree in your heart and imagine how your heart is the soil that makes this tree grow.

Think of one word that belongs to your heart or pops up in your imagination, and picture yourself placing this word in your heart.

Imagine a color that suits this word and make this color flow all over the tree from its roots all the way up to the top and its leaves.

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Tree of life

Now think of the tree growing higher and higher, even growing out of the art piece into the building, and even further, higher up to the sky. Finally, the tree grows so big that it can't go higher but now has to grow to the left and right and grows away from where its journey began.

Imagine it grows further and further and you pass by a big forest. You see the trees. You can feel the leaves of the trees touching you. You can smell the forest and the soil. What more do you see? A little stream of water maybe? Or some of the animals living there?

Look at this forest and be aware it was already there long before you were born, long before your ancestors were born, long before all humans were born. Imagine how this forest once was young and new, and picture your tree getting bigger and bigger as it grows into this young forest. It grows further and further, so far that it now stretches all around the world. Finally, it comes back to you while you are laying in the boat of tulip petals.

Imagine how you are one with the tree that has grown all around the world and traveled in time.

Imagine how your heart with the word was the beginning and the end at the same time.

Now imagine looking at yourself laying in the boat with the tree growing from your heart in the color you have thought of.

Slowly let go of the image and come back to your body by shaking your arms and legs a bit.

a.
Write down the word you have imagined, which has made the tree grow.

b.
Tear off the word and leave it on the ground somewhere you like.

c.
Take a picture of the piece of paper with the word and send it to activiteiten@kunstinstituutmelly.nl. We will put your picture on our website. We are happy to receive pictures of drawings made after doing this activity.

a. Write your word here