



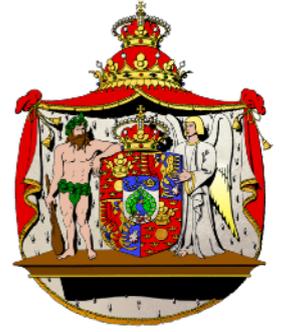
Swan Upping

The Duchess of Trumpington and Protector Extraordinaire of Animals

Marina Andrea Vélez Vago

in collaboration with

H. S. H. Prince Frei von Fräähsen zu Lorenzburg



Contextualisation

Drawing from ideas related to preservation and nurturing of ecosystems, this collaborative work explores other knowledges, imagination and pathos as a way of resisting political dominant systems of thinking and feeling in relation to other species and the natural world.

Loosely inspired by Citizen Science, Medieval and Enlightenment manuscripts and the present predicament of species extinction, our collaboration addresses the relevance of preserving ecosystems of knowledges which require imaginative rigour, adventurous spirit and entanglements of love.

This visual and audio guide is intended to be an explorative pursuit of trust, ethics and philosophical ideas of intra-species living and dying well.

The title is inspired by the British Royal custom of collecting data from, and caring for, the swan population on the River Thames. This practice is called swan upping and it has been adopted by the Principate of Lorenzburg.

As contemporary royals, it is our intention to stimulate and promote cross species kindness and good stewardship of inner and outer worlds.

We hope this guide is useful and inspiring to you.

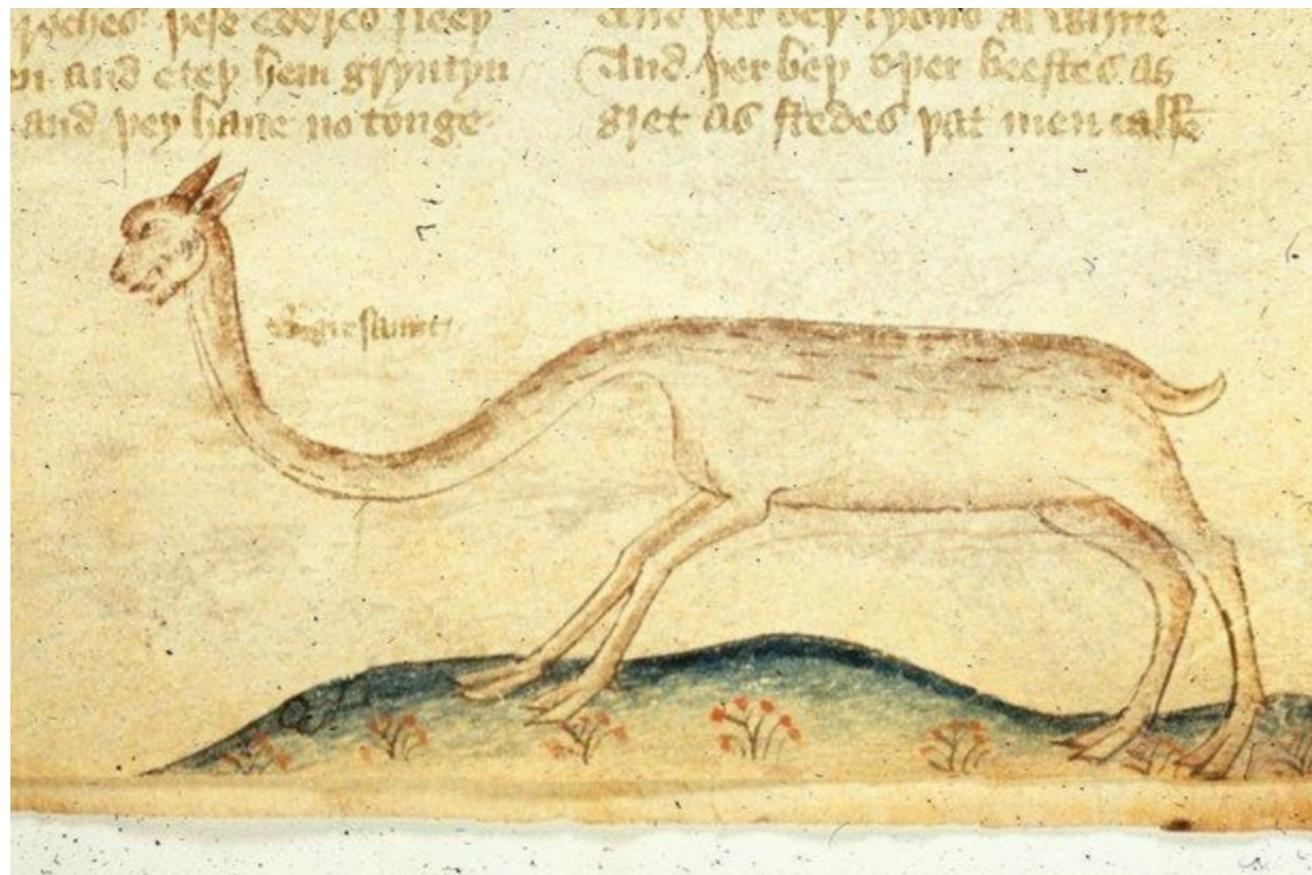


Methodologies

Spanish philosopher and environmentalist Jorge Riechman puts forward the idea that humans classify animals into concentric spheres of affection. Placing themselves in the middle of the inner group, humans allow into this sphere only certain animals, which they call pets. In this sphere the animals are invested with human emotions and they are looked after and cared for. This represents, according to Riechman, the endo-group. The next concentric sphere is where other animals, such as livestock, are placed, and this is the exo-group. In this group the animals are sometimes looked after but emotional bonds are not forged as the animals are used for profit. There is a third sphere, the outer-exo-group, in which humans place animals who are far removed emotionally. These animals are called pests and wildlife.

In this collaboration we wish to expand and enrich Riechman's ideas of endo and exo groups by suggesting that there exists another sphere created by human's emotional needs, wishes and desires: the mythical creatures group which we call the mytho-group.

The audio guide can help you to create spaces for intra-species empowerment and webs of emotional entanglements to occur.



The audio guide

How to use this audio guide:

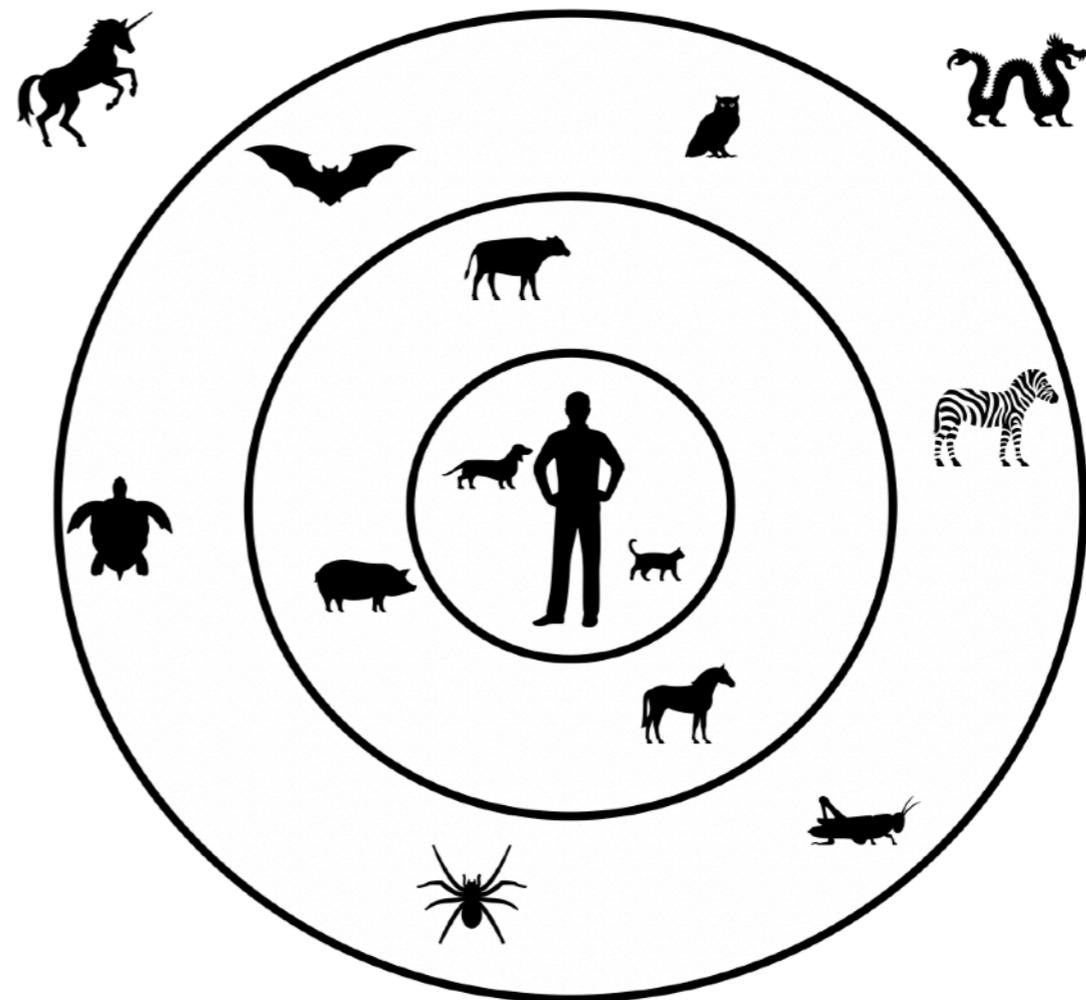
Please download the MP3 file to your mobile phone or computer. You can go for a walk in a nearby woods, beach or garden, find a safe space to sit down and listen to the audio. Alternatively, you can sit down in a comfortable armchair for the listening imaginative exercise.

In this audio guide to your inner safari we will ask you to picture yourself in an imaginary inner circle.

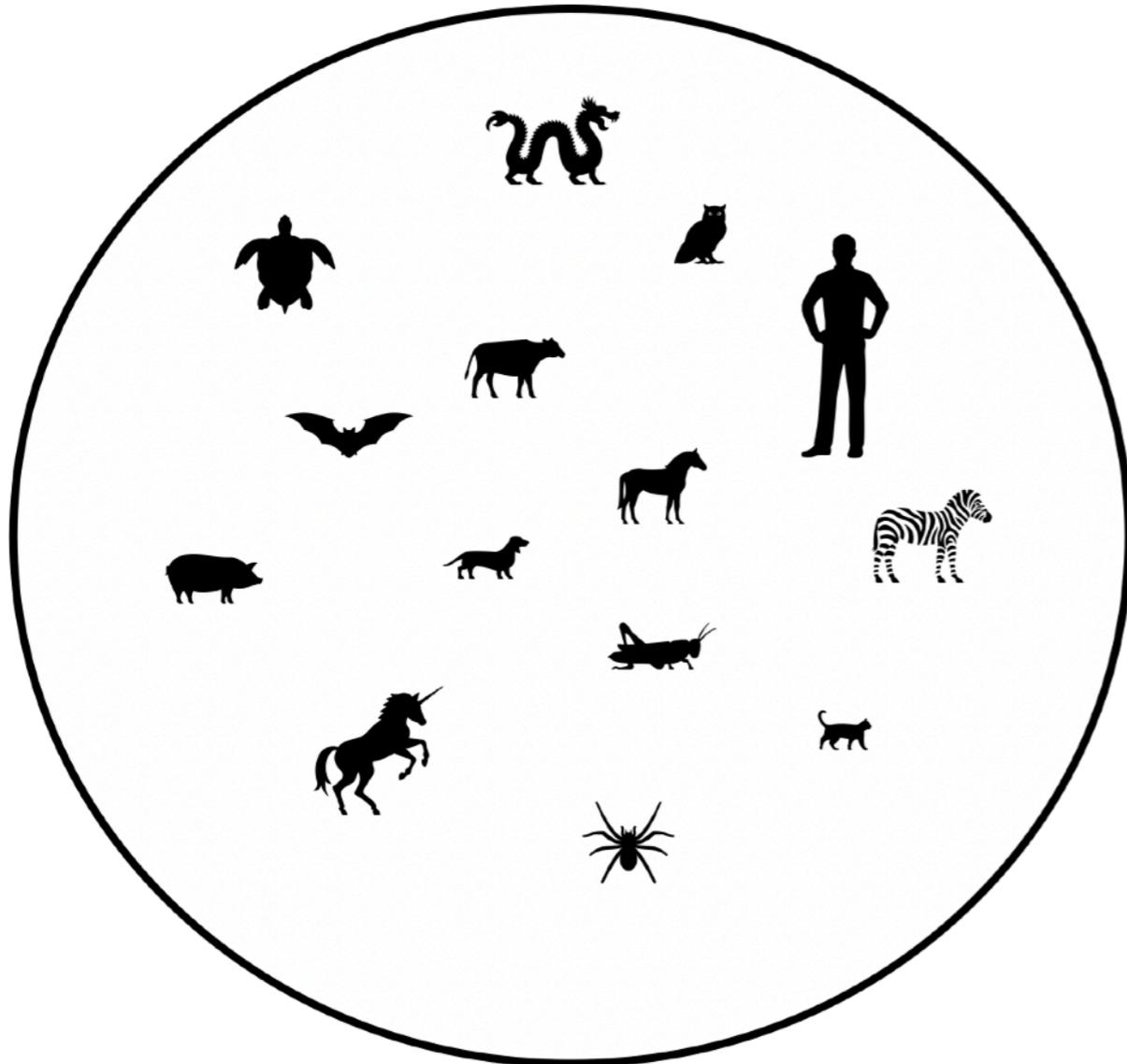
We will gently encourage you to remember the animals with whom you had an emotional attachment in your lifetime.

We will also ask you to picture animals you have seen, touched or smelled and place them in outer imaginary circles.

Lastly we will ask you to imagine animals you have never seen. These will be pictured outside the imaginary circles. See image on the right for guidance.



The audio guide



'It matters what beings recognise beings'

Donna Haraway

Ideally, once you have done the exercise following the audio guide you will feel radically integrated with the other critters of this world and beyond. Please see image on the left for illustration.

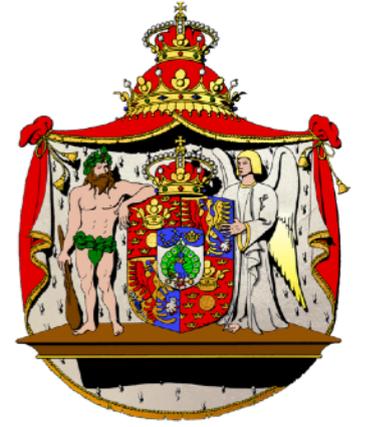
If the desired effects escaped you, please repeat the process until integration is complete. You can listen to the guide as many times as you need for the integration to be achieved.

Making kin. Making kind.

The background music used in this audio guide was produced by Scott Buckley and it is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#)



The questionnaire



We would be very grateful if you could complete this short questionnaire after experiencing the audio guide. Please send the questionnaire back to the following email addresses: marina.velez@marinavelez.com and frej.von.fraahsen@gmail.com

1- Ranging from 1 to 10, how much, or how little, would you say that the experience of our kin-making audio-guide has deepened your sense of connection to other beings on the planet?

2- Would you rescue and adopt a dragon? YES/NO

3- Do you find amusing the fact that the words pets and pest share the same letters in English? YES/NO

4- Did anything, or anyone or maybe one of your own reactions during the kin-making journey surprise you? If so, please share anything you are comfortable sharing.

5- Did you become aware of having a special bond or affinity with any of the animal groups you encountered? If so, which group and why do you think that is?

6- Did any of the animals you encountered during your kin-making journey offer any wisdom or knowledge? If you are comfortable doing so, can you please share some of transmitted wisdom or knowledge?

7- Did you encounter any species in the first three circles that you suspect will become extinct or relegated to the mytho-group in a near future due to loss of habitat and climate change? If so, which of the species are at risk of becoming mythological creatures for future generations?

8- Did you encounter any beings in the last circle, the Mytho-Group of animals, that you think may at one point have been more "real" than they are thought to be today? And did you meet any animals or beings that you would want to be more "real" than they are typically thought to be today?

9- What do you think you will take with you from this experience into your everyday life?