River Narrative(s)  A Tufts Institute of the Environment Research Project by Elly Stormer Vadseth

THE SYMPHONIC BODY/ WATER
Choreographed by Ann Carlson

A Gestural Orchestra based on everyday gestures related to labour and water in the Gallatin Valley, the 54 performers where community members including agricultural producers, politicians, anglers, environmentalists, business leaders, scientists, artists and more

RIVER RITE(S)
Produced by Elly Stormer Vadseth

3 Channel Video Installation shown at Water Symposium at the Rialto, Bozeman, Montana

CHERRY RIVER, WHERE THE RIVERS MIX
Produced by indigenous scholar Shane Doyle and Artist Mary Ellen Strom at the Missouri Headwaters.

The Performance was comprised of three scenes within several locations at Missouri Headwaters State park. The performers included three rivers meeting at the confluence, members of the Crow, Blackfeet, Metis and Aanih tribes, the Northern Cree and an Indo-European brass band.

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURES
Produced by MTW Center for Art, Design and Social Research.

Indigenous knowledges writer and artist residency + public symposium.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

How can we conduct research and impact collective change through inclusive methods that listens to diverse voices? What are the revolutionary possibilities that can occur when different knowledge epistemologies come together creating new matrixes of empirical science and affective and embodied strategies?

QUOTES FROM PERFORMERS AND AUDIENCE

"I think about re-inscribing Native history onto our landscape as a way to help save our waters"

"Art helps us break down barriers for conversations about the value of our resources".

METHOD

Use Mountain Time Arts 2018 Summer season projects as case studies to gain insight into research questions, combining artistic and qualitative research methods such as interviews, surveys, art making, participation and observation of all stages of production.

Within the production I worked as artist, production coordinator, dancer, photographer and social media manager.

STATISTICS

Over 125 community members participated in making the artworks.

Almost 1,000 members of the public attended the performances.

84% of respondents believe that art can help us understand environmental challenges.