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Discovery methods, speaking from the ancestral lands of the Shoshone and Paiute Peoples.

Excerpt from 10/29: Rudy is a lichen hunting dog. She led me to a lichen i hoped might live here, but could not “see”: *Xanthoparmelia* c., or tumbleweed lichen is a vagrant species that does not attach to substrate but tumbles, catching in the sagebrush. Often a sign of a healthy antelope population, *Xanthoparmelia*'s presence in the sagebrush ocean was unmistakable. I collected from a 5-mile radius, careful to avoid overharvesting. Calling on author/botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer, I sought permission from each outcrop to harvest some pieces for dye – I am still practicing this form of listening, I am



xanthoparmelia dye extraction



wild things are made from human histories, 2018

always practicing this form of listening. I lost my yellow hat on the hike—my favorite hat, and decided it was the trade for the lichen.

We encountered a rocky protrusion with a superabundance of crustose, foliose, and squamulose lichen communities. In a sea of sagebrush in the cold October Great Basin, the sunset oranges, ink blacks, rose pinks, and soft greens interrupt a dazzling monotony.

We left these lichens undisturbed and turned back for home as my ankles were sore in my new hiking boots. Eventually I walked 2.5 miles in only socks with my boots slung over my shoulders. Back home, I am going to attempt my first lichen dyes, using modern techniques modified from the long used dye recipes from the Navajo people. The simmering vats of *Xanthoparmelia* fill the small home with the smells of soil and a deep warm protection from the almost-freezing weather.

Work made at Montello Foundation is a part of *We are all lichen: Toward a resurgent symbiosis*, an upcoming public art installation in Albuquerque, NM, which will investigate the interrelationships of beings to one another, as well as the ways in which all parts of nature, including humans, create together triumphant and resonant ecosystems that have merged and altered throughout time. *We are all lichen* asks us to consider these questions in relationship to ourselves and our embodied surroundings. How can we create-together for a resurgent world? Thanks to Montello Foundation, I was able to further this project and others, while also breathing, thinking, reading, and learning: a fundamentally life/practice altering experience.