

# **Ecomedia Colorado**

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## **Abstract**

Ecomedia Colorado engages interdisciplinary and intergenerational groups in Colorado, USA to generate cooperative dialogue on local environmental issues and create spaces where meaning-making and creative representation of scientific data becomes possible. This project involves a web-based application powered by CitSci.org to collect observations and media from contributors about water and ecology, hosting workshops to curate this media and make collages, and an interactive projection showcase where visitors can use gestures to explore the digitised collages. Through workshops and interactive installations, the project elicits community and individual narrative expressions regarding the places and issues they care about that can be implemented through an app on CitSci.org or ideation prompts. The locations included are Las Animas County, Grand Lake County, and Boulder County, with workshops and installations in Trinidad, Colorado (2022) and Lafayette, Colorado (2023).

## **Keywords**

Participatory art, critical making, ecomedia, ecomedia art, intergenerational art, citizen science, participatory science, art and science, collage.

IS IT POSSIBLE

TO TRANSFORM

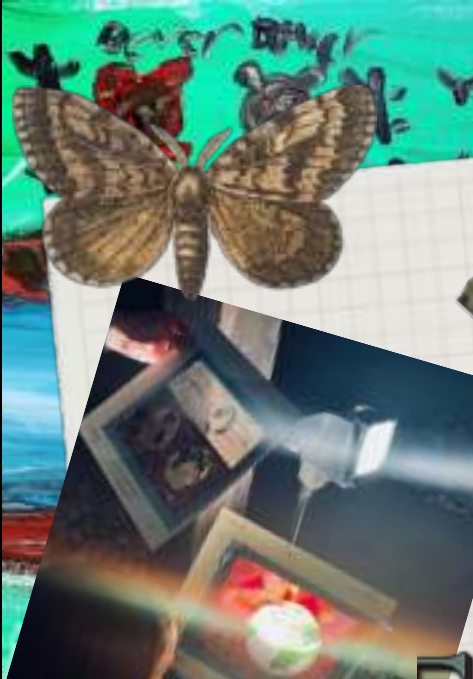
COMPLEX SYSTEMS

INTO SOMETHING WE CAN

FEEL, HEAR, SEE, TOUCH

OR MOVE THROUGH?

If people can't grasp something with their senses, or can't participate in its transformation, it's hard to comprehend.



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The importance of this work is to use media art to encourage people to recognise and appreciate their connection to the place and the ecosystem they live in or are visiting. This, in turn, can help communities better understand the human relationship with nature and how we are affecting ecosystems.

Ecomedia Colorado explores multimodal approaches to visualising data with interactive systems, and illustrating community voices from farmers, ranchers, activists, and artists.

Methods and approaches that elicit narratives and some of their component elements, knowledges, and emotions through surveys, questionnaires, and alternative modes of media-making can be used to improve understanding of community narratives, and collective behavior change affects sustainability pathways.



Workshops promote the integration of narrative and knowledge elicitation as a critical practice for implementing decisions based on diverse forms of knowledge-making, particularly in community art and education research projects addressing environmental concerns.





Positioning environmental degradation as a psychological and cultural issue creates and elicits new narratives on our connection to place. Individuals and communities should have collaborative tools and technological means to change their environments and social structures. This project encourages complementary ways which empower individuals and communities to promote a sustainable future.



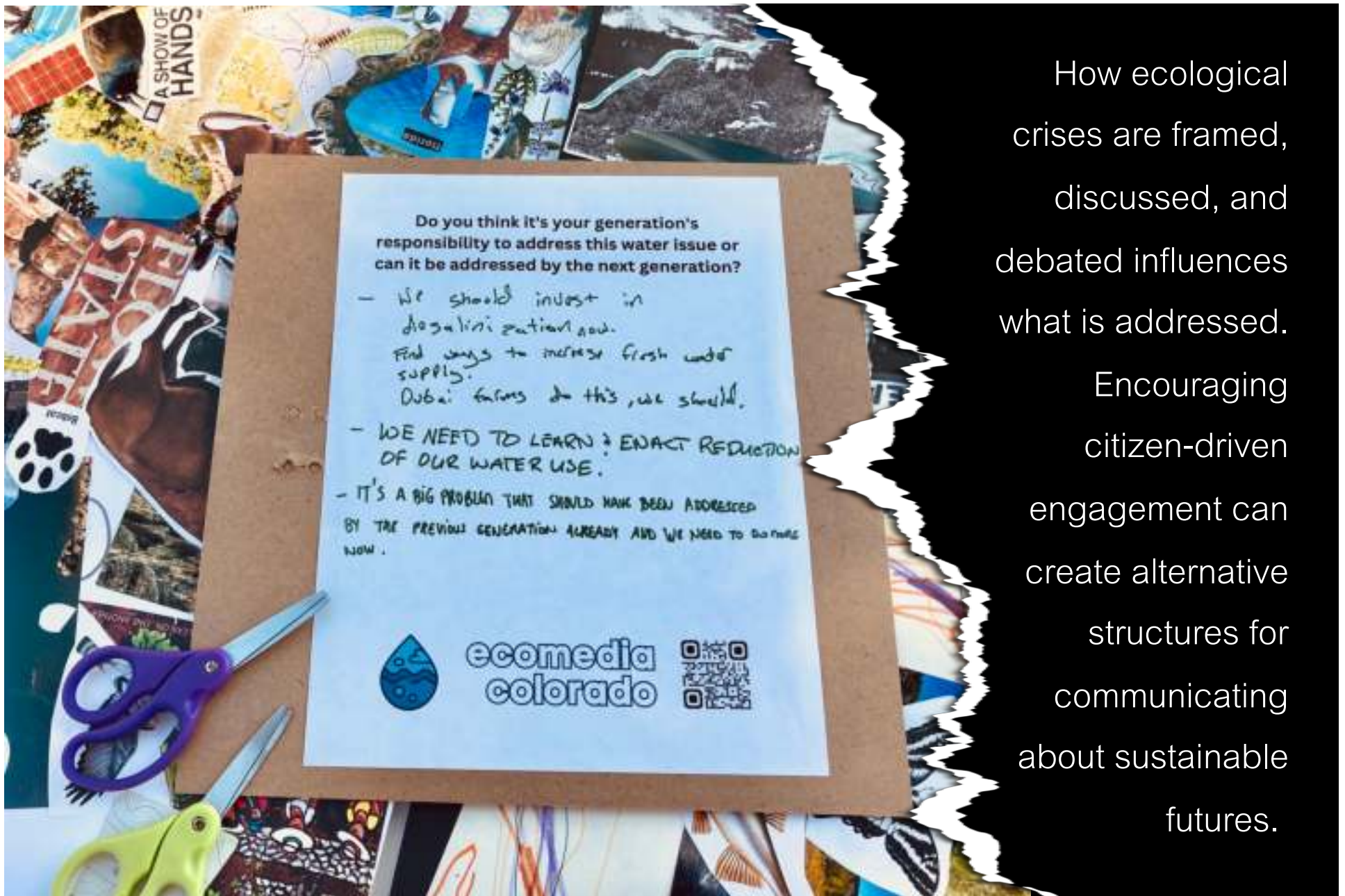
Ecomedia projects are critical of the materiality of their products and techniques in a manner environmental media and eco-art often ignore. [1]. This reflexivity concerns mediation, embodiment, and material connectivity in social systems and ecosystems. Participants can contribute to this project by adding an “observation,” preferably by signing up and contributing to the CitSci project page with text and images related to a particular geographical location. Ecomedia encompasses a wide diversity of media; visual art, quantitative and qualitative data, water samples, log notes, photography and videography of the lakes and their contributing watersheds, documentation of restoration efforts, poetry, traditional stories, and more.







Drawing inspiration from Haraway's "Symptomatology" and Guattari's "Ecosophy" and the interconnected "Three Ecologies", in navigating this landscape, the rhizomatic metaphor by Guattari signifies dynamic, decentralised thought processes that challenge static hierarchies, envisioning an interconnected and evolving worldview.



Do you think it's your generation's responsibility to address this water issue or can it be addressed by the next generation?

- We should invest in desalination now.  
Find ways to increase fresh water supply.  
Dubai farms do this, we should.
- WE NEED TO LEARN & ENACT REDUCTION OF OUR WATER USE.
- IT'S A BIG PROBLEM THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED BY THE PREVIOUS GENERATION ALREADY AND WE NEED TO DO MORE NOW.



ecomedia  
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How ecological crises are framed, discussed, and debated influences what is addressed.

Encouraging citizen-driven engagement can create alternative structures for communicating about sustainable futures.

## Acknowledgements

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## References

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## Author(s) Biography(ies)

Kimberley Bianca is an Australian media artist and community events organiser based in the United States. Her PhD research activities at The University of Colorado Boulder include workshops, site-specific electronic arts, networked performance forms, and platform design. In 2019, Bianca completed her master's thesis *Electrofringe: A Distributed Curatorial Platform for Electronic Art*, at UNSW in Australia while directing the arts organisation and festival, *Electrofringe*. Bianca has been a practising freelance artist, facilitator, media designer, VJ, and audiovisual technician since 2010. She specialises in developing participatory, mixed reality projects that bring socially engaged practice to performance and multimedia.