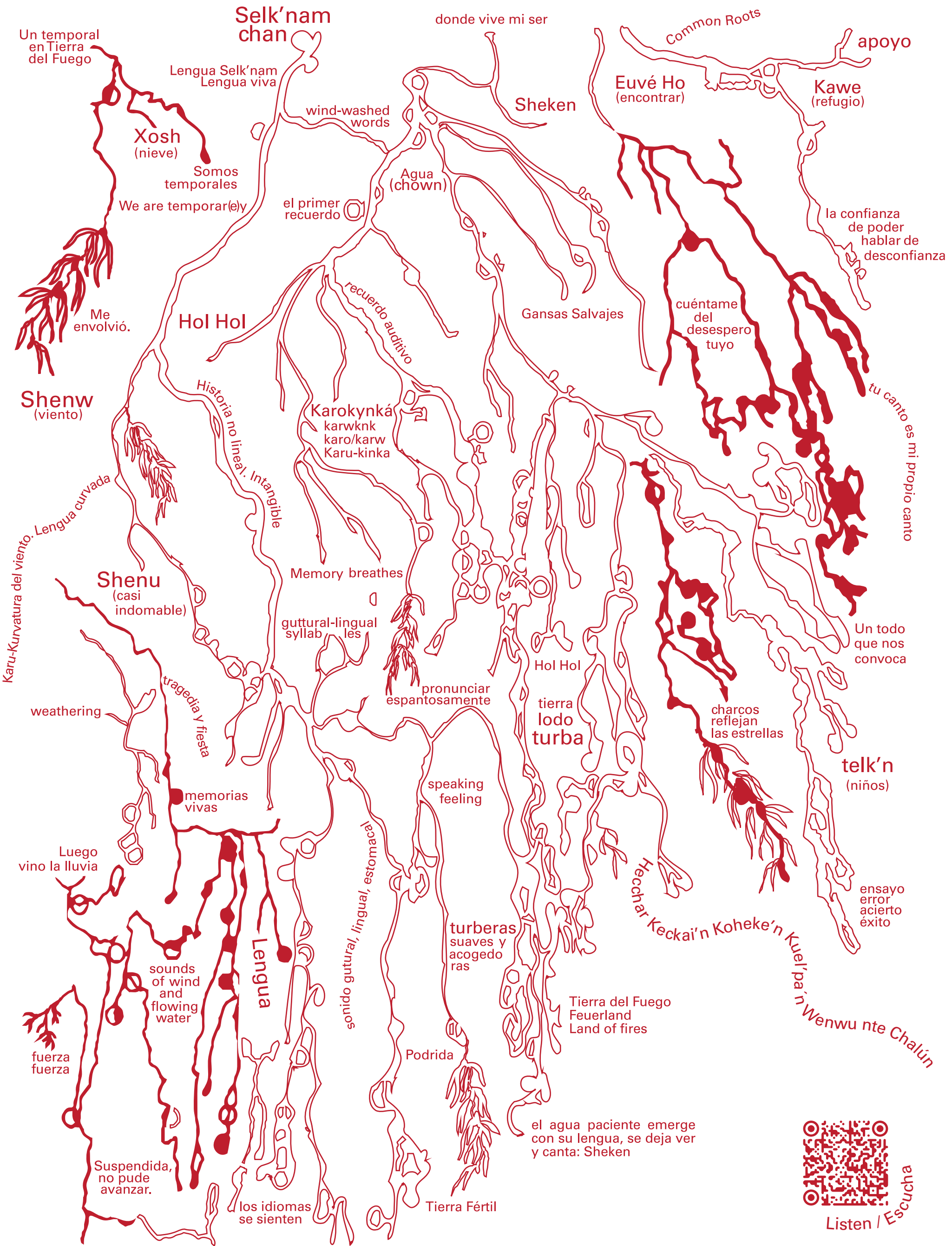


RAIZ COMÚN



MOH



Molina

proposed a path for us. We follow the lead of the language, recreating Selk'nam words with our bodies as if they were clay, attempting to emulate their original forms. With periodic, permissive, and structured gatherings, we began finding diverse ways of communicating—discovering along the way that language is one of many forms of communication. With patience and joy, we savored words with the memory of our tongues and guts, traveling by way of images and building in them a refuge to hold our desires, frustrations, and fears. Each member assumed a role molded to her capacity, endurance, and time. We switched roles often: facilitators, listeners, nerds, talkers, professors, guides, apprentices, lost ones, late ones, fun ones, supporters, constant ones, always sisters in the shared labor of watering the root.

WHEN



email to Sarah Riggs dated April 23, 2021, reads, "Soon we will send you a formal proposal for the Raiz Común project." We began this journey years after beginning a cyclical adventure on Karokynká, Tierra del Fuego. We continued our work in Venice. We kept returning to our homes in the Americas. We

gathered Wednesday, first monthly, then weekly. The rest of the year we kept each other's asynchronous company, stake planted in Porvenir, Tierra del Fuego, which we huddled around every week for three years.

We maintained a rhythm of permanent encounter, whether it was through faces on a screen, through our ears, or in our hands and hearts. The *when* becomes an always every time we meet, every time we wait for and yearn for one another. Always is a continual search for motives, which are never present, but we are. If this publication traces the ephemeral outline of another milestone in the making, the time that Raiz Común inhabits unfolds in our eternal hearts.



Selk'nam: An indigenous group from the large island of Tierra del Fuego, which is currently binational (Chile/Argentina). The Selk'nam people are nomadic hunters and gatherers with an occupation of more than 10,000 years, predating the colonization of the Chilean and Argentine states.

Hach Saye: Non-profit family foundation made up of members of the Selk'nam Covadonga Ona Indigenous community of Tierra del Fuego, Chile. The foundation works to strengthen the cultural identity and territorial status of the Selk'nam people.

Karokynká: Inhabited land. Karokynká is the ancestral territory of the Selk'nam people, colonially divided into Chile and Argentina since 1881.

Ensayos: An eco-cultural, transdisciplinary investigation practice initiated on the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in 2010. Working in Karokynká, ancestral Selk'nam territory, has shaped the ethics of collaboration and decolonization of Ensayos since its inception.

WCS: WCS is an international organization for the conservation of wildlife and its natural habitats. Karokynká, an ancestral Selk'nam territory, anchors WCS's conservation program in Chile.

Venice: This refers to collaboration on the project "Turba Tol Hol Tol" for the Chilean Pavilion of the 59th International Art Exhibition of the Biennale di Venezia in 2022.

WHERE



and intangible, the refuge we create extends into the heart of Karokynká, into the heart of the womxn who inhabit it. Co-created in speaking and listening, Raiz Común unfolds digitally and ancestrally through time. We create a mental alcove in the South of South America, connecting diverse knowledges and desires that enrich our own will and power, written words we transmit into the physical realm so that others may re-cognize it. This full and restless heart loops us back into the of Karokynká.



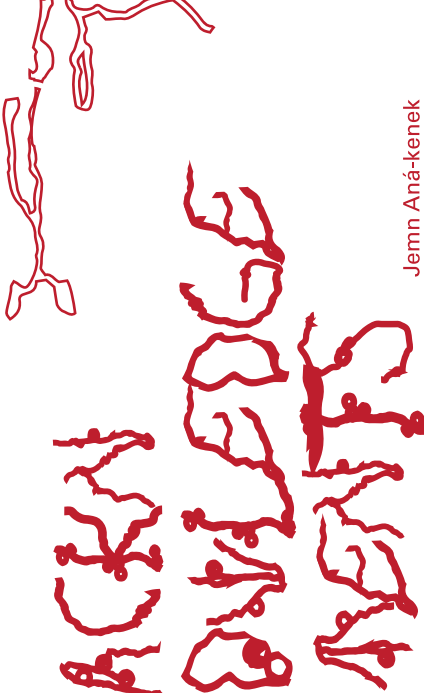
hachsaye.com
ensayostierraelfuego.net
chile.wcs.org
tamaas.org

Special thanks to the Tamaas Foundation, particularly Sarah Riggs and Malvika Jolly.

And to Rosario Ureta, *chulenguita*, who knows how to interpret, surprise, cooperate, and design like no other.

Today we thank our ancestors for showing us the path to Raiz Común (it is very important to the Selk'nam to begin by acknowledging our ancestors and then proceeding to all people and organizations to be thanked).

Jemn Aná-kenek
yikowak hoówen yatayken, miyorxiten wash ta'kar
mahaxen kar maqess Harry.



WHY



started by learning to speak Selk'nam **chan**—a language of the island of Karokynká, Tierra del Fuego. We began to weave our roots together because we needed to connect with a shared space. Just like the strands of *Sphagnum* moss braid themselves together—flexible, moist, spongy—we've joined our love and knowledge for the many lives of the archipelago, giving depth and volume to our commitment to the common good, present and future.

Committed to the Selk'nam community through Hach Saye, Ensayos, and WCS-Chile, we devoted ourselves to seeing, hearing, listening, speaking, and breathing for the recognition of a people.

To support a paradigm shift and a para-dignity to exist, we shed our skin in the process and began finding the dense meaning of the language in its connections to the guanaco, the wind, and the peatlands. Life spirals beautifully to forge its survival and evolution; healing the root is a necessary, just, and joyful eco-logic and aesth-ethic. We cannot surrender this path of sustaining connection, because this common root gives meaning to our actions. We rejoice in knowing, sharing, collaborating, and being part of a greater whole.

WHAT IS



It is a starting point, a space of discovery, a meeting point among many answers that seek adequate questions.

A collaborative journey unraveling persistent and untamed tongues, resisting in the land's memory, rehearsing, learning from each other.

A timeless space to anchor our experiences and realities.

A labyrinth where all paths lead to a safe space (**kawe**) and trusting haven.

A practice of time and containment, of lexicon formation to the beat of the heart (**tol**).

A generous offering to ourselves and others of lips and words, caresses and whispers, a soothing warm hug, creator of pasts and futures.

Raiz Común is born bubbling from immensities, emerging before first light. Raiz Común is Spanish for a "common root."

WHO



We are a group of womxn who value themselves and seek to share a YES, a felt sense of the possible. We are the soul of each of our ancestors speaking through us. An ecologist, an artist, a curator, a biologist, an art historian, a Selk'nam woman, a writer and teacher—and her daughter, who is a future mother and leader of her community. Precious rarities in a world that is lost, we are a group of womxn who navigate transformation while forging our own paths.

The path snakes, and we follow its divergences and curvatures.

We move together through the forest of memory, through emergent ancient synapses that connect as we name what we see and feel. From the North and South of the world, converging in the joy of co-advancing along this shared path that we've forged. The route of learning that we trace continues as its roots overlap, enmesh, run parallel, and bifurcate, desiring to extend to other womxn.