

Vaulting

A Multisensory Experience from
This Yearning.

Become Chlorohuman.



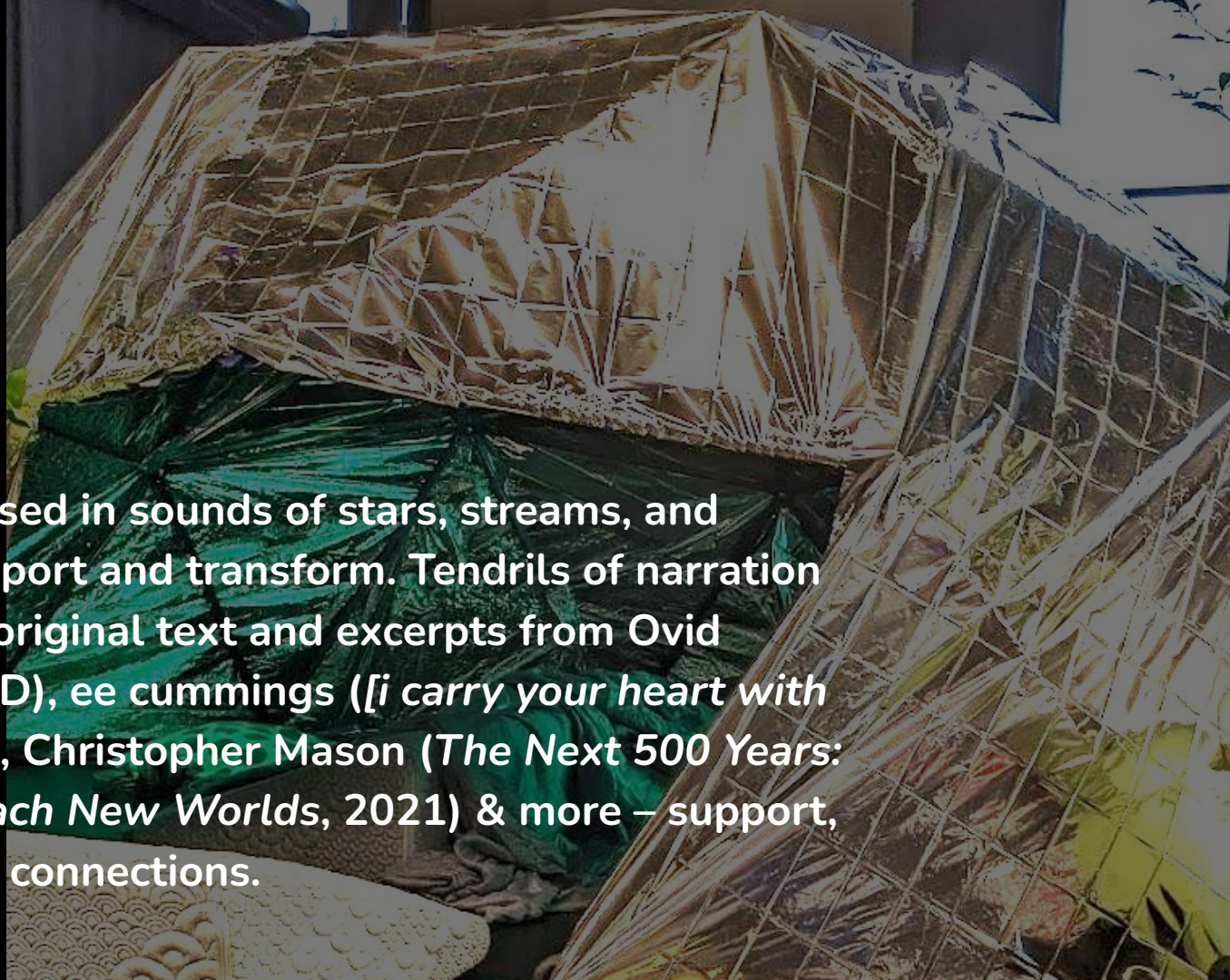
Tracy M Smith
thisyearning.com/vaulting
thisyearning@gmail.com



The background of the slide is a vibrant, futuristic space scene. It features a dark, deep blue and green color palette. Several sleek, futuristic spacecraft or drones are visible, some emitting bright green and blue light trails. A large, complex structure, possibly a space station or a large-scale experiment, is partially visible in the lower half of the frame, illuminated with a mix of green and blue light. The overall atmosphere is one of advanced technology and exploration in space.

The Experience

Vaulting is set in a near future when humanity is moving beyond Earth. Participants embrace a new genetic identity, capable of survival in harsh extraplanetary environments. **Based on the ancient myth of Myrrha** – who was transformed into a tree after succumbing to her illicit desires – and modern **space exploration** protocols, *Vaulting* immerses participants in **verdant sound and smell-scapes** that encourage novel sensations and the expansion of self into that of a greater macro-organism. The experience lasts ~30 minutes.



Participants are immersed in sounds of stars, streams, and susurrations that transport and transform. Tendrils of narration – entwining helices of original text and excerpts from Ovid (*Metamorphoses*, ~8 AD), ee cummings (*[i carry your heart with me (i carry it in)]*, 1952), Christopher Mason (*The Next 500 Years: Engineering Life to Reach New Worlds*, 2021) & more – support, grow, and expand new connections.

Vaulting grew out of a 2022 exploration into the nature of consciousness as part of a year-long Odyssey Works' Experience Design Certificate Program. Consciousness was viewed through lenses of neuroscience, non-human consciousness, and psychedelics. *Vaulting* is an consciousness-expanding experience that delivers the first of several "genetic treatments" to become a photosynthetic being, or Cholorohuman, able to nourish oneself using starlight.

Vaulting has been presented in a geodesic dome, a converted backroom of a diner, and in collaboration with VR therapy. It is easily adaptable to larger and more immersive venues.

The experience is multisensory; a story told through sound, light, and smell.

Featured scents

Myrrh

Sea salt

Pine needle

Grass

Cinnamon

Pheromones

& Tastes

Flower: *Spilanthes* (buzz buttons)

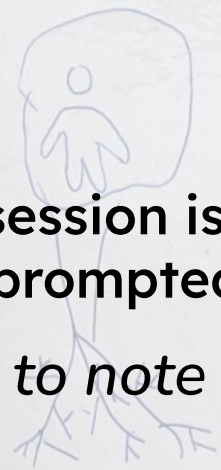
Wood: Cinnamon bark

Fruit: Juniper berries



MYSTIFIED
ETHEREAL
TRANSPORTED
ENSCONCED IN THE
TIMELESS MAGIC OF
NATURE

I felt Relaxed
and serene + calm.



I felt a longing
for immortality, and
a path to it through
connection. It felt
soothing, but not human

Lots of anxiety when my math
s started forming - was this
allergic reaction? Did I bring my
epipen today? Used mindfulness
techniques to talk myself down + try
to come back to the present experience.

After a Vaulting session is complete,
participants are prompted to:
"Take a moment to note how you are feeling."

This is what they say:

I'm feeling pretty mellow
As if I'm waking up
from the best sort
of nap.

feel
med

Sleepy
Relaxed

Lazarus
Death and back again
Yet also somehow more alive than
before

I SAW ANCIENT
CHINESE LETTERS
IN MY MIND'S EYE



Weighted word cloud of responses based on 200 words from > 60 participants

About Me

I'm currently Program Director, Education & Outreach for the Center for Integrated Cellular Analysis based at the New York Genome Center. I have over 20 years of wet lab experience, with a microbial and sequencing technology focus.

Through *This Yearning*, I design poetic and visceral experiences exploring consciousness and connection using natural materials (sound, video, scent, objects) for both physical installations and packaged at-home experiences. Past immersive projects have brought to life the Great Plague of 1665 (shortlisted for an Interaction Design Association [IXDA] Award in 2021) and a perfect summer day. I'm also the co-founder of Insurgent Theatre (Milwaukee, WI) and participated in writing, directing, acting and producing original plays and musicals from 2003- 2015.



Tracy M Smith
thisyearning.com/vaulting
thisyearning@gmail.com