

ARTIST STATEMENT  
BY  
EVAN TYLER

*WATER UNLTD?*  
*ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM*

*"Water. Magic Stuff. Liquid, ice, gas.  
Cloud, fog, mist, snow, sleet, drip, drop,  
stream, river, lake, sea, ocean, tide."*

This meditation of the many forms of water was written by John Caddy of the Center for Global Environmental Education, Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Water is universal and omnipresent in its connection to our planet. It is fundamental to life on earth, to the vegetation, and to human and animal alike. John Caddy follows the journey of a molecule of water and describes this contemplation in an interesting way that expresses how interconnected on so many levels that water is to our planet. I quote:

"Imagine one molecule of water off the coast of say, Hawaii. One sunny day it vaporizes and evaporates up into the air. It rises and becomes part of a cloud. A few days later, it rains down in Mexico. It is absorbed by the ground. Then a plant root sucks our molecule into itself and the plant makes the molecule part of its flower petals. After a time, the petals wilt and dry, and the molecule vaporizes again and lifts into the sky. Imagine the journey continuing. That molecule of H<sub>2</sub>O might sink deep underground and become ground-water, or it might get pumped up into a faucet to become part of your own blood sometime, or it might get locked up inside a stone or locked up in a glacier for a few thousand years. It might even be in a tear on your pillow."

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This installation invites the viewer to participate in meditation and contemplation. The act of meditation offers a sense of tranquility and the potential for greater self-awareness. It is my goal to transform a portion of the museum space into an experiential source of meditation, with simple, clean, sharp and comfortable presence built into the relationship of the physical properties of the work, and the internal response to the space.

I draw from "Kasina" mediation. It is a simple concentration meditation that offers a group of ten visual objects, one of which represents water. My reinterpretation of water is offered through video and sound. This work presents a visual image, and audio sound of water featured on three monitors. The number three symbolizes a universal balance as one monitor is balanced between two others: meditation between the mental and physical. The images featured are of the same narrow, continuous stream of water, filmed from a running faucet. This element of the work, water, is an everyday household property that was a catalyst for my own contemplation. As I heard water running from a sink tap, I became immersed in the beauty of the sound and image. The video presents as both static and motion. It would appear much of the frame is emptiness and stillness, but the central focus creates a subtle energy. It is a way to give the viewer room to rest the mind, and concentrate on both movement and stillness at the same time. The video and audio concentration of the water provides focus to diminish the clutter and intrusive thoughts of one's internal experience.

I view water as a universal symbol of life and death. It is essential for life, but without it (drought) and abundance of it (flood), can have a profound effect on our planet. I found water to be a powerful symbol for meditation that bridges a universal understanding and awareness of life.