

Narrative Shifts

Session 2: Recommended Prompt: Sift, sit, and settle into an archive — physical, virtual, or conceptual — until you find something that tugs at you or speaks to your writing in a way that it previously did not. Something that, only now that you are going through your archive, can you see how it was there all along, what role it can play, or where it fits into the context of you or your work right now. How would or could you weave it into a piece?

The archive you went through: _____

Use this space to reflect on what came up for you as you sifted through, or sat with, an archive. Feel free to take this prompt loosely. For example, imagine someone else (a grandparent, ancestor, or future kin) going through an archive, and/or a character of yours in a story. What do they discover, and what won't they find?

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Think: How many past archives do you have? What archives are you building? Where do you archive things? What tension, conflict, or connection do you feel when you look at, sit with, or encounter your archives? Are there archives you aren't yet ready to examine? Are there archives you wish you had access to?