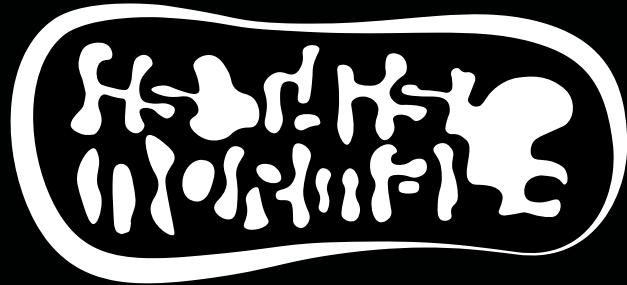


Is This Normal? vol. XIV

# The Ebbing Ecosystem

Jared Mason



**The Suite of Books: Is This Normal?**

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## *The Suite of Books: Is This Normal?*

<b>Normal (adj.)</b>	Volume I	Jessica Snyder	The New Standard
	Volume II	Kaine Gerry-Ofor	The Quarantine Lookbook
	Volume III	Germarys Rosales	My House has People in it.
	Volume IV	Mariana Neto	Apart
	Volume V	Melanie Devon	Resilience and Normalcy
	Volume VI	Priya Jurasinski	Design for a New Tomorrow
	Volume VII	Lisa Li	In Between
	Volume VIII	Victor Yao	Normal?
conforming to a type, standard, or regular pattern	Volume IX	Xinrui Duan	Ab-normality
according with, constituting, or not deviating from a norm, rule, or principle	Volume X	Yuchen Zhu	Extraordinary in Ordinary
<i>Merriam-Webster Dictionary</i>	Volume XI	Trevor Barlock	The Young Man's Journey
	Volume XII	Octavio Rubio	The Making of the Strange
	Volume XIII	Yelena Cochrane	The Unforeseen Hybrid
	Volume XIV	Jared Mason	The Ebbing Ecosystem
	Volume XV	Matthew Brunetti	80 Days in Spring
	Volume XVI	Brandon Marino	Vantage Point
	Volume XVII	Emma Nagle	Essential Guide to Inner Space
		Guest Artist	
	Volume XVIII	Carlos Rosas	Step and Repeat: Occurances

## **Foreword**

In 2018, I introduced a book authoring and publishing project for the Realization Studio course I teach at Penn State. This course is part of a prescribed sequence of studio courses for Digital Arts and Media Design majors in their second year of study in the program.

The Suite of Books project derives its name from the traditional practice of collaboratively editioned and published print suites often created by artists and printmakers where “suite” is generally defined as a series of paintings, drawings or prints linked by a common theme.

The Spring Semester 2020 group’s selected theme, *Is This Normal?*, links this series to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that has abruptly restricted most of the country and all Penn State campuses, upending the status quo through the need for social distancing, pervasive synchronous online communications, and the uncertainty for what some are considering to be the New Normal.

I would like to thank and acknowledge all of my students for their fortitude and dedication to completing this work during these unprecedented times. The ability to do so is a tribute to their perseverance and resiliency.



Carlos Rosas  
Professor, Digital Arts and Media Design Program, Penn State University  
April 2020

## **The Ebbing Ecosystem**

# Great Barrier Reef

At around 135,000 square miles, the Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system. It is located just off the coast of Northern Australia.

The Reef is home to a variety of different species, many of which can only thrive in its unique ecosystem. These include different types of corals, dolphins, tropical fish, and birds.

The corals themselves come in a wide variety of bright colors and complex shapes.



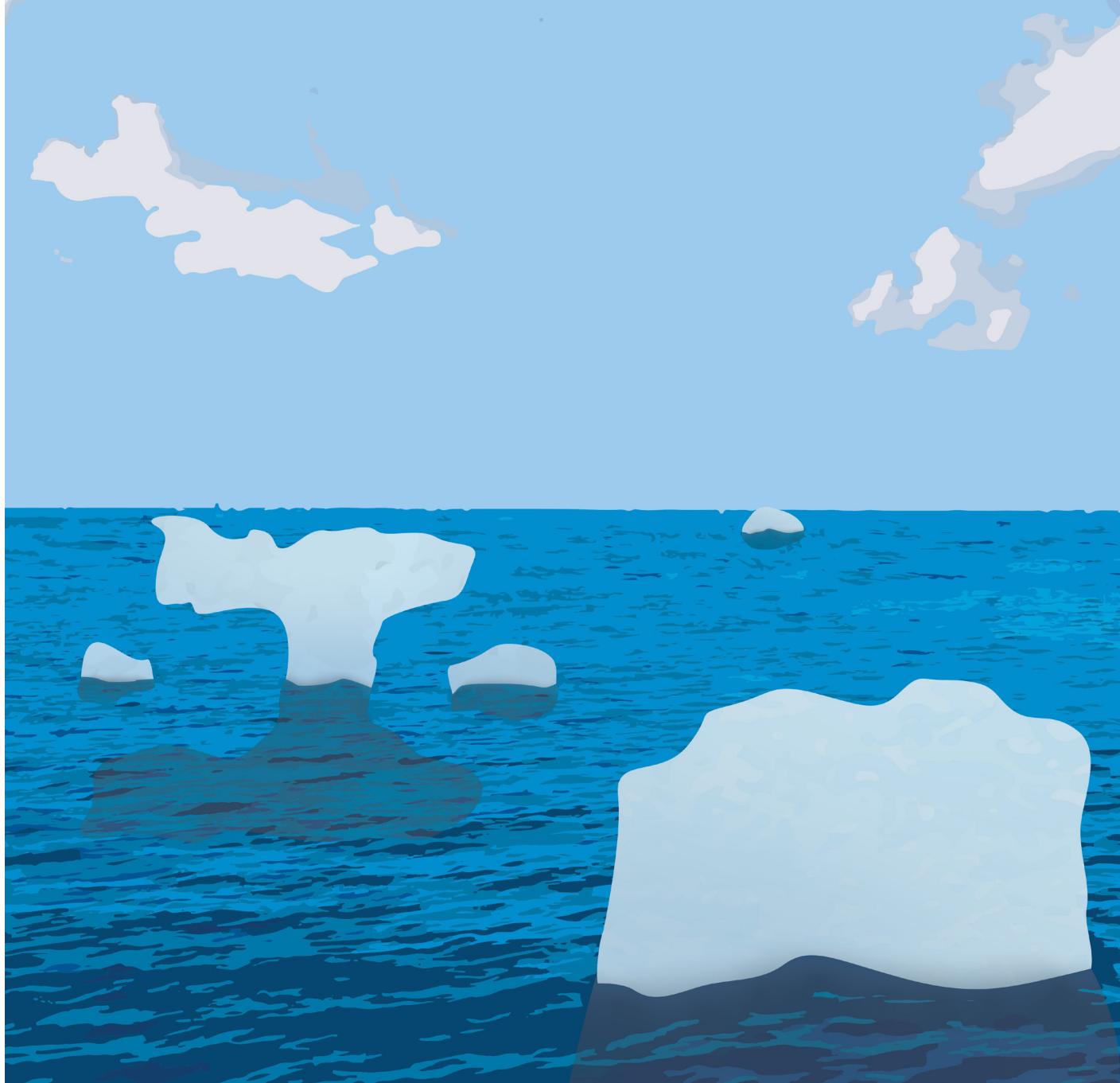
Climate change has caused ocean temperatures to increase. This change is killing large portions of the reef. Overfishing and pollution are also factors.

# Arctic Sea Ice

The Arctic Ocean is home to large amounts of Sea Ice. This ice covers vast amounts of the ocean's surface, creating an environment for many creatures to survive.

Polar bears and walrus both use the surface to aid in hunting and eating food.

Sea Ice helps maintains global ocean currents and weather patterns . The bright white surface also reflects excess heat back into the atmosphere.



Rising global temperatures are melting vast amounts of sea ice. This is causing global sea levels to rise, harming more than just the arctic poles.

# Pacific Ocean

At close to one third of the Earth's surface, the Pacific Ocean is the largest body of water on Earth. Its vast size means that different areas have greatly different climate.

This allows for many different species of plants and animals to call the Pacific their home.

A large amount of resources are sourced in the pacific ocean. These include most of the worlds fish and many different ocean based minerals.



Ocean currents have gathered plastic waste into a large garbage patch. This plastic will never fully break down and will hurt creatures.

# Galapagos Islands

Made up of 13 major islands and located 600 miles off the coast of South America, the Galapagos Islands are home to a wide variety of animals.

Many of these animals are similar to those found in South America. However, because of the remote location, many of these animals have evolved characteristics exclusive to the region.

These islands are surrounded by white sandy beaches full of nature and wildlife.



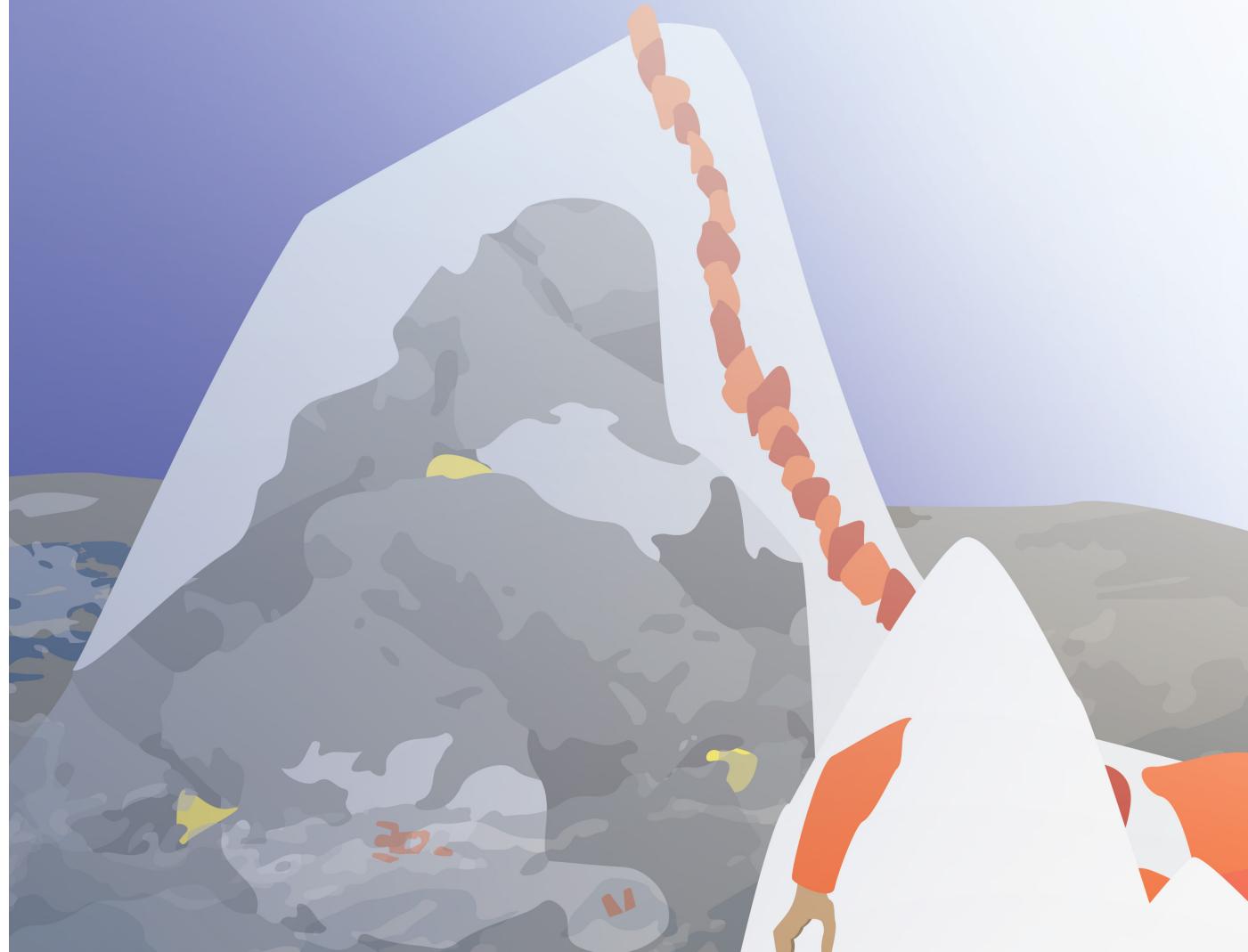
Tourism has taken its toll on the islands. It has disturbed the wildlife and filled the island with litter and invasive species.

# Mount Everest

At a height of over 29,000 feet, Mount Everest is the highest mountain on Earth. This mountain's grandeur has long been revered by the local people, even calling it a Goddess in their native tongue.

The mountain is covered in glaciers due to the cold temperatures.

The mountain's allure comes from its raw wilderness and as something for mankind to conquer.



Tourism has left a huge mark on Mount Everest. The peak is littered with trash and the corpses of past climbers. And the summit is a long line to the top.

# Aral Sea

Previously the fourth largest inland body of water in the world, the Aral Sea was the location of a vast fishing industry. The abundance of sturgeon and carp helped the region thrive.

The water helped the region maintain a regulated and balanced yearly temperature.

In the 1960's the sea's source rivers were redirected for agricultural use. Since then the sea has been drying up, as no water is coming to replace what evaporates.



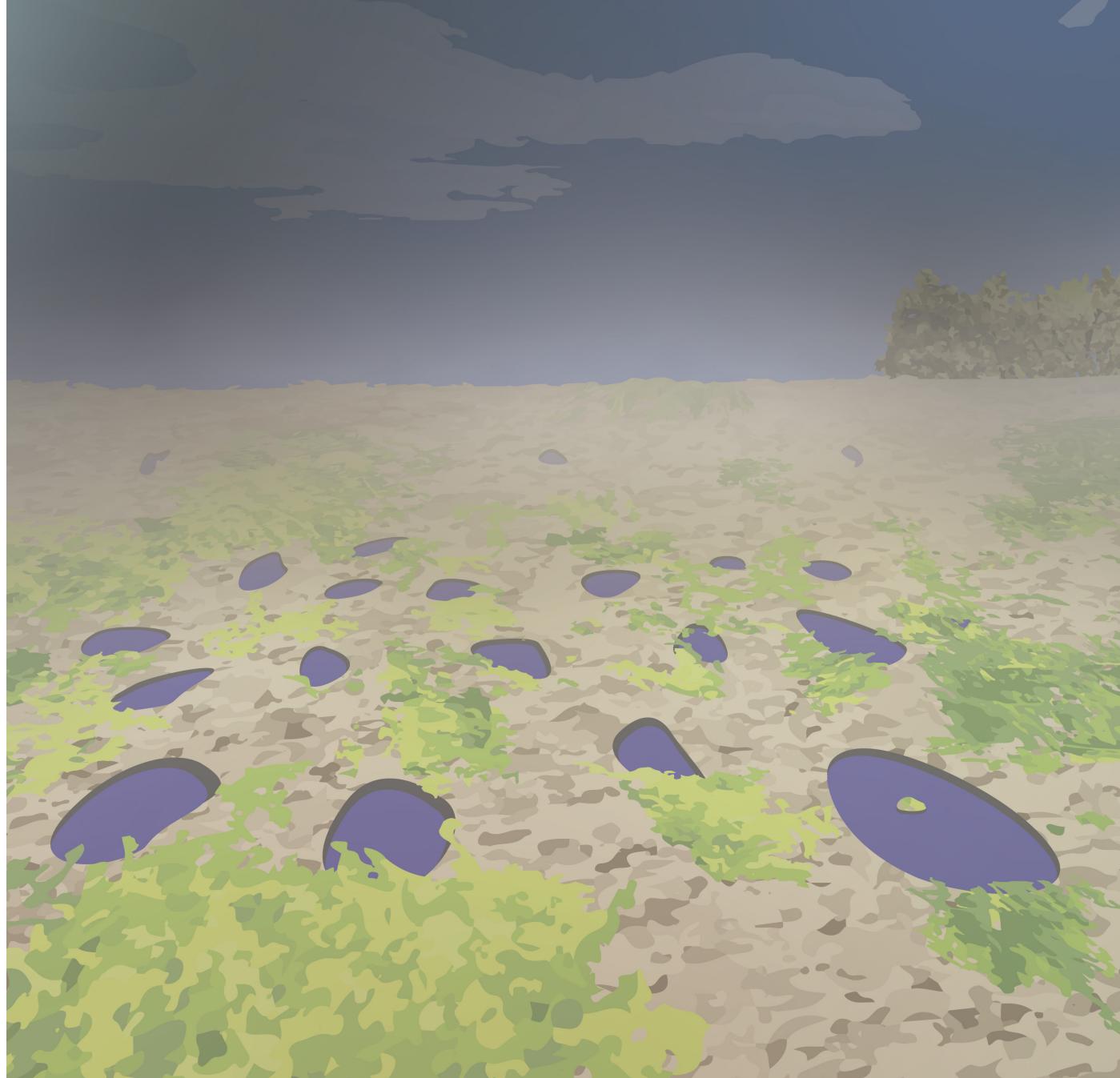
Dropping sea levels have led to many beached boats, killed most of the fish, and made the water undrinkable due to higher salt levels.

# Everglades

Located in southern Florida, the Everglades are a large freshwater marsh. The marsh is mostly made of slow moving water with saw grass growing out of it. This grass can grow up to ten feet tall.

The soil below is full of rich nutrients left over when the grass decomposes. This spongy soil is known as peat.

While the marsh is known for its crocodiles and alligators, it is also full of turtles, manatee, otters, deer, and a large variety of birds.



Rising sea levels are causing salt water to creep up into the Everglades. The salt is killing plants and animals and eating away at the soil.

# Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon Rainforest covers over 2 million square miles of northern South America. This region is characterized by its high rainfall, high humidity, and high temperatures.

It is home to several million forms of life. Many of which still remain undiscovered today.

Discovered life forms include a wide variety of plants, insects, birds, fish, reptiles, and mammals, making it the most biodiverse place on Earth.



Deforestation has been commonly used to make farm land or pasture for cattle. This land is typically cleared by burning down the forest.

## ***Acknowledgements***

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School of Visual Arts

College of Arts and Architecture

The Pennsylvania State University



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