

medula de Carla Cruz e Claudia Lopes

Medula

There was a word inside
a stone. I tried to pry
it clear, mallet and chisel,
pick and gad, until the stone
was dropping blood, but still
I could not hear
the word that the stone
had said.¹

¹The Morrow
Ursula K. Le Guin

Profundidade

Decalco, com a transpiração
da palma da minha mão, uma silhueta
abstrata na superfície da matéria-pedra
que apenas dura uns segundos em
desaparecer. Esse calor que irradia
a minha pele está agora, um dois,
três quatro, cinco, seis... com ela,
De forma totalmente recíproca, a minha
mão fica em alerta. Experimento uma
transformação profunda que me conecta
com a possibilidade de um envolvimento
material quase holístico.

Não poderia eu explicar tudo a ela,
nem ela a mim? Percorremos juntas
a orientação dos profundos rastreado
que ainda se adivinham da atividade
mineira. A céu aberto.

²Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology
of Things, Jane Bennett, 2010.

Silêncio-Lito

Sujeita, ao longo dos tempos,
a permanecer sempre ao lado
daquela força chamada de inerte.
Uma substância passiva, uma
matéria informe com vontade
de ser forma. Uma matéria que carece
de propriedades reativas, interativas,
produtivas... aquela que não reage
a agentes externos... convocada ao
silêncio. Muda, calada ultrapassando
as chuvas do inverno e os picos de calor
no verão. Vento, Carla, água, Cláudia,
fogo afinam o meu desejo de ser forma.
Matéria viva. Matéria vibrante².

Juan Luis Toboso, março 2023

Errância

Uma ação que não serve para
nada. Um gesto que se perde
voluntariamente na ladeira da
montanha. Declive. Rodamentos
e inscrições efêmeras. Um inútil
exercício de restituição que coloca
a nossa atenção na necessidade de
explorar as consequências de uma
inevitável transformação ecológica,
que anuncia uma crise do sistema
ambiental onde o esforço contínuo
de deses mínimos gestos é uma disputa
contra a inércia e o esquecimento.
Assim são os processos geológicos de
erosão e sedimentação, paradigmas
de uma contemporaneidade alheia
às suas causas. Movimentações de
matérias e trajetos sem destino para
marcar o peso de uma ação: uma
forma de inventar um caminho tão
absurdo quanto eficiente para pensar
"em" e "com" a superfície.

Interdependência

Acaso a ficção não poderá ser
uma componente indispensável
para poder superar o excesso
de realidade e compreender
o mundo sob o prisma de novos
imaginários?

Indecorosas e férteis formas
de relacionamento mudariam
a perspectiva das relações no campo
das ciências sociais, ampliando
nossa percepção para os poderes
ativos que emanam da matéria,
para agenciamentos inauditos
e coexistências não hierarquizadas.
Uma forma de encontro entre corpos
distintos, matérias e sensibilidades
múltiplas e diversas.

Futuro

...quando os resíduos e os sedimentos nos
tenham contado todas as suas memórias
sobre o fazer e desfazer do mundo, novas
alianças entre diferentes formas de vida virão
para instituir um futuro conjunto. Aquele
futuro que já é presente porque especulamos,
imaginamos e estamos a construir juntas.

Superfície

Processos, análises,
imaginações, incertezas...
a exploração mediante
a extração das camadas
da terra e as histórias, reais
e fictícias, que transversalmente
dormem e acordam. Relatos
que nos permitem questionar
a própria materialidade da
matéria e a realidade do real.
Tentar entender a intensidade
da nossa intervenção
na paisagem e seus enigmas.
Transições sutis entre ações
poéticas, corporais e políticas
em constante negociação
intensificando as relações
de contato, afetividade
e proximidade como formas
de resistência vital, rebelando-se
contra uma ideia de tempo
fechado e obsoleto, abrindo
nossa subjetividade a outras
formas político-estéticas
e outras temporalidades, não
unicamente unidirecionais.

marrow by Carla Cruz and Claudia Lopes

This publication was developed within the scope of the project "Soil health surrounding former mining areas: characterization, risk analysis, and intervention" (NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-000056), co-financed by the North Regional Operational Program (NORTE 2020), through the Portugal 2020 and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Text by Juan Luis Toboso
Design by Joana Lourencinho Carneiro
Printed by Tipografia Costa Carrregal
Print run 200 copies
April 2023

iZADS edições
iZADS – Research Institute
in Arts, Design and Society
Faculty of Fine Arts
University of Porto
izads.up.pt

Marrow

There was a word inside a stone. I tried to pry it clear, mallet and chisel, pick and gad, until the stone was dropping blood, but still I could not hear the word that the stone had said.¹

¹*The Marrow*
Ursula K. Le Guin

Errancy

An action serving absolutely no purpose. A gesture that goes voluntarily missing on the side of the mountain. Slope. Ephemeral bearings and inscriptions. A pointless exercise in restitution that turns our attention to the need to explore the consequences of an inevitable ecological transformation, which heralds a crisis in the continued system in which the minimum gestures efforts of these minimum gestures stand out in dispute with the inertia and the forgotten, the stagnation, corrosion, and exhaustion. Thus, the geological processes of erosion and sedimentation, paradigms of a contemporaneity alien to their original causes. Movements of materials and trajectories without any destiny to set the weight of any action: a way of inventing a path as absurd as it is efficient for thinking “in” and “with” the surface.

Interdependence

Could fiction not represent an essential component to be able to overcome the excess of reality and grasp the world according to the prism of new imaginaries?

Indecorous and fertile forms of relationship would change in the field of the social sciences, broadening our perceptions towards the active powers that issue from material, the astonishing agencies and non-hierarchical coexistences. A means of encounter among distinctive bodies and materials and multiple and diverse sensitivities.

Future

...when the residues and sediments have told us all their memories about how to make and unmake the world, new alliances between the different forms of life shall establish a joint future. That future which is already present because we speculate and imagine it and that we are building together.

Juan Luis Tobo. March 2023

Surface

Processes, analyses, imaginations, uncertainties... exploration through the extraction of layers of earth and their histories, real and fictitious, that transversally sleep and awaken. Accounts that enable us to question the very materiality of material and the reality of the real. Attempting to understand the intensity of our interventions in the landscapes and their enigmas. Subtle transitions and political actions and in constant negotiation to intensify the relationships of contact, affectivity and proximity as the means of vital resistance, rebelling against an idea of closed and obsolete time, opening up our subjectivity to other political-aesthetic forms and other, not uniquely unidirectional, temporalities.

Operations with a miniscule sensitivity. Trajectories and displacements that unveil the interactions with the material. An exercise in hospitality in which all human actors and more than just humans, we are altered by the friction of our bodies. A multidirectional encounter between the field of the biosphere and the fiction that proposes we open up the possibilities to discover the world based on minor observations and gestures. Actions that respond to the demands of a physically visible and simultaneously imaginary universe in which the consistent always emerges as something hidden. A physical and sensorial trajectory in which multiple intuitions nurture extreme alliances for understanding the narrative, social and political capabilities. The performativity of bodies. The performativity of materials. A process. A research. A gesture at reconstitution. Amnesia. Intuitive movements. Precise affirmations.

Depth

I trace, with the sweat from the palms of my hands, an abstract silhouette on the surface of stone-matter that only persists for a few seconds before disappearing. This heat irradiating from my skin is now, one, two, three, four, five, six... with it. In a totally reciprocal fashion, my hand stays before the alert. I experiment with a profound transformation that connects me with the scope for an almost holistic material involvement.

Can I not explain everything to her and her to me? We together span the unreeness of the mountain, seeking the orientation in the deep cuts foreseeable from that mining activity.

Silence-Lithium

²*Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*, Jane Bennett, 2010.

Subject, over the course of time, to always remain on the side of that strength named inert. A passive substance, a material informed with the desire to become a form. A material that is in need of reactive, interactive, productive properties... that which does not react to external agents... evoking the silence. Dumb, quiet in overcoming the rains of winter and the peaks of summer heat. Wind, Carla, water, Claudia, fire refines my desire to become form. Living matter. Vibrant matter².