

MARBLE

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We are indebted to and thank Fiona Hamilton for her cultural guidance and support to encounter colonial records of aboriginality in lutruwita (Tasmania). Accordingly, all language used is drawn from Plomley's records, to respect the palawa kani language for lutruwita aboriginal peoples.

We also thank Shannon Foster for her cultural leadership, advice and for the significant impact she has had on our lives. Her commitment to sharing her stories, knowledges, culture and plenty of love and laughter has inspired us to challenge the erasure of local Aboriginal knowledges from our disciplinary praxes and to educate future architects and landscape architects to do likewise.

Explaining Marble to a Nine Year Old:

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, BEFORE THERE WERE EVEN DINOSAURS, THE OCEAN WAS FULL OF STRANGE CREATURES. THEY WERE THE PERMIAN CREATURES AND THEY HAD CRAZY NAMES LIKE TRILOBITES, NAUTILOIDS, AMMONITES, AND THEY HAD HARD SHELLS AROUND THEM. THERE WERE ALSO SOME EARLY CORALS, AND BONY FISHES, LIKE HELICOPRION – WHICH WAS A BIZARRE-LOOKING SHARK.

WHEN THE SEA CREATURES DIED, YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW THEIR SHELLS AND BONES FELL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA AND COLLECTED THERE. THEY PILED UP A INTO HUGE LAYERS OF LEFTOVER PIECES – FRAGMENTS OF THE CREATURES AND THEIR LIVES COLLECTED TOGETHER. WHEN ALMOST ALL OF THE CREATURES BECAME EXTINCT, THEY LEFT A HUGE PILE, THAT SLOWLY GOT PACKED DOWN AND HARDER. IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU PRESS SAND INTO A BUCKET TO MAKE A SAND-CASTLE AND IT GETS FIRMER. IT WAS LIKE THAT BUT INSTEAD OF PRESSED SAND, IT GOT SO HARD IT FORMED A ROCK CALLED LIMESTONE.

IT'S STILL ONLY PARTWAY TO MAKING MARBLE THOUGH AND IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN MILLIONS OF YEARS!

NEXT IT HAS TO GET HEATED UP, SO HOT IT CHANGES EVERYTHING – THAT’S HOW THE GEMS LIKE DIAMONDS ARE MADE TOO. THERE’S ONLY ONE PLACE ON EARTH THAT GETS HOT ENOUGH – THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH. ITS ALSO VERY HEAVY DOWN THERE. SO HEAVY WITH KILOMETRES UPON KILOMETRES OF ROCK STACKED ON TOP OF OUR PERMIAN CREATURES. IT’S MELTED METAL DOWN THERE – MOSTLY A METAL CALLED NICKEL, WHICH IS SO HOT IT’S LIQUID, AND IT HEATS ALL THE ROCKS THAT GET NEAR IT. SOME MIGHT GET SHOT OUT OF A VOLCANO AS RED HOT LAVA – A LIQUID ROCK. THAT’S NOT HOW MARBLE IS MADE THOUGH. MARBLE IS MADE WHEN THE LIMESTONE ROCK (THAT WAS ONCE OUR PERMIAN CREATURES) GETS CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE HOT CENTRE OF THE EARTH THAT IT CHANGES ITS FORM. ALSO, IT GET SQUISHED FROM ALL THE PRESSURES OF MOUNTAINS AND OCEANS RESTING ON TOP OF IT. THE LIMESTONE CRYSTALLISES WHEN IT GETS CLOSE TO A LOT OF HEAT FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. IT’S THESE CRYSTALS THAT MAKE UP MARBLE.

THEN ONE MORE THING HAS TO HAPPEN. THE MARBLE HAS TO GET THRUST UPWARDS TOWARDS THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH FOR US TO FIND IT!

We acknowledge and respect the tyreddeme people of the paredarerme nation of Oyster Bay. We acknowledge their elders, whose traditional knowledge remains in and through their country. They have never ceded their sovereignty over the island now known as Maria Island.

MARBLE

He never even asked her name. He just decided
that he would call her Maria.
If I am generous, I might say this is his nickname
for her.
As he introduced her to others he used only this
name until everyone just called her that
#mariatoo

He wrote it into the documents about her, and
similarly entitled his drawings of her.
She is not Maria. If you listen she will tell you, but
you must care enough to ask.

Perhaps she is wukaluwikiwanya.

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF EURYDESMA SP, THE FOSSIL OF AN ANCIENT CLAM ABUNDANT IN THE OCEANS OF THE PERMIAN. IF YOU PICK THESE CREATURES UP, YOU CAN GAZE INTO THEM, INTO THEIR LIVELINESS. SMALL PERFECTLY SPHERICAL BUBBLES FLOAT OUT FROM WITHIN. SOMEONE SUGGESTS THEY ARE NO LONGER FOSSIL AND HAVE ALMOST COMPLETED THEIR TRANSFORMATION INTO LIMESTONE - LEAVING THEIR ANIMALNESS BEHIND.

as we walk, we lay down our own layers, sediment
our own stories.
muddy fractures, overlapping material and
disjunctive threads
geologic, socio-cultural matrix
oyster john paraganna tekartee lou marble jo
jeanette eurydesma

FOR THOSE WHO BELONGED TO AND CARED FOR THIS COUNTRY, ORAL HISTORIES WERE A CENTRAL CULTURAL REPOSITORY, A SITE OF POWERFUL SOCIO-CULTURAL LINKAGE BETWEEN GENERATIONS. FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS ON THIS ISLAND STORYTELLING WAS FOR THE APPROPRIATE CONTEXT, SHARED IN CONFIDENCE WITH THOSE CHOSEN TO RECEIVE THE NARRATIVE. THESE HISTORIES ARE NOT OURS TO DISCLOSE, OR TO FIND, AND NEITHER SHOULD WE CONSIDER THEM MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN JOURNALS OR UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SHELVES. OUR PROBLEM THEN IS THAT WE ALSO REFUSE TO PERPETUATE ERASURE. THIS IS NOT FOR THE SAKE OF COMPLETENESS OF OUR VOLUME. IT IS BECAUSE IF WE SEEK MORE EQUAL AND LOVING FUTURES, THIS FUTURE IS WRITTEN, DREAMED AND TOLD WITH AND BY THE TYREDDEME OF THE (OYSTER BAY) PAREDARERME.

WE CAN INTRODUCE TEKARTEE BUT WILL NOT TELL HER STORY FOR HER - IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO SPEAK FOR HER, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND DO NOT ERASE IT.
CENTRING THE PERSON IS A COLONISING WAY