

We are the rain on the open windows

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Unfolding the blue-black marbled cardboard cases holding Shimmer's archive of five years, mid-april, seated on the radiant yellow carpet, my body lands - it is here again, it walked the stairs without getting dizzy, without feeling like a wavering, liquid substance. It's been a while. Flicking through the folders with negatives, the many notes, colour swatches, postcards, test prints and holding a note written to Jason for his birthday, I ask, no slur in my speech, how do you decide if something goes into Shimmer's archive?

Some thoughts are named, and then, when we know we've been thought of, says Eloise.

What a clean way to describe not the notion but the feeling of access, I think.

As I am here, I think of you, of those of us without access.

Lungs, brains, stairs,

enraged, exhausted,

invisible, hypervisible.

"The scene in which I find myself or where does my body belong?" (1)

US  
ME  
IN  
E

Colophon

SHIMMER Special Newsletter #1  
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Our souls the smoke juice filling the space,  
held by tulip bag on river green floor

Voice breaks.

We are the rain on the open windows. The puddles of muddy water on the rooftop where Geo stands, singing all that gas, losing tune, breaking.

Handwritten notes on white paper with klm blue tape reading the letters G E O and, among other words, soul longs to leave the body

always moaning, stretching, yawning, reaching

I imagine our souls to stretch, drop, back in time, dwell, drip through the pipes of the building to Shimmer's ground floor, hearing Geo Wyeth's audio piece - hearing Geo Wyeth's voice through the speakers, rocks in his mouth, i'm smiling, he says, i'm smiling.

Thin, shiny, copper sheet with dents and fingerprints, embossed with letters that read R O T T E R D A M / unstable meters

a thick em dash leads to the words below sea level (2)

I imagine us rising like waves rising up to sea level, or, Shimmer's walls meeting LW's work facing LW's work

At the level of the sea or, Silence

"Presented in the space, we have shown an enlarged image of Louwrien's boat Silence from a faded photograph until recently forgotten. Silence is a boat to live life on the water, not in isolation, but in a gap of breath, to be unfixed." (3)

Inhale — exhale

I imagine us resting here. Laying our bodies down, flesh soft, bones light. We sink inside the river, wash through the Maastunnel, this strange underwater structure digesting us, spitting us out at the other side of town. The port, Shimmer's habitat.

Jason brings in more of the archive. A slim, white rectangular cardboard box with tape and the words LISA TAN'S POSTERS written on in quick handwriting protecting a cardboard tube protecting rolled up waves and cables printed on three a1 sized posters

"We make an unsubstantial territory" (4) the posters say, or, Virginia Woolf says.

As I scan them, brain inflamed by the dense air of a heatwave, I imagine these words to be about you.

Reaching you through simmering servers, I imagine us knowing, or not knowing that these words, cycled through data centres, cooled by water from rivers and from oceans. (5)

A correspondence [moving] between the flashes of light and dark, between the computer screen and the ocean, between buffers and load times. (6)

Or, Life, described and built at a distance by other bodies. (7)

"Here's where the wave broke." (8)

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Ruth Buchanan. My I, I, I be broke / Where I be Put (first published as part of "Evacuation Tapes", 2020. Later published as reading for "Across the Way With", Shimmer & PUBLICS, 2021).
- (2) Reference to a fragment of María José Crespo's studio. (Gifted to Eloise Sweetman in 2022 and kept with care in Shimmer's archive).
- (3) Eloise Sweetman & Jason Hendrik Hansma, Inhalation / Exhalation (Written in the context of "MOMENT VI | LW/LW", Shimmer, 2019).
- (4) Virginia Woolf, The Waves (As depicted on the exhibition poster for "MOMENT II | WAVES with Lisa Tan", Shimmer, 2018).
- (5) Lisa Tan, Waves Video, 2015 (Screened during "MOMENT II | WAVES with Lisa Tan", Shimmer & Goethe-Institut, 2018).
- (6) Eloise Sweetman & Jason Hendrik Hansma, exhibition text for "MOMENT II | WAVES with Lisa Tan", Shimmer, 2018.
- (7) Ruth Buchanan. My I, I, I be broke / Where I be Put (first published as part of "Evacuation Tapes", 2020. Later published as reading for "Across the Way With", Shimmer & PUBLICS, 2021).
- (8) Lisa Tan, Waves Video, 2015 (Screened during "MOMENT II | WAVES with Lisa Tan", Shimmer & Goethe-Institut, 2018).