

The background is an abstract watercolor wash in various shades of blue, ranging from deep navy to light sky blue. The texture is soft and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and color blending. The blue area occupies the left and center of the frame, while the right side fades into a plain white background.

Walking Ngurra together

GOANNAS, CO-BECOMING COUNTRY,
AND BEING POETICS

NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT COPY ANY
IMAGES WITHOUT PERMISSION

Sorting the Forest from the Trees

- ▶ Dharug Ngurra (Country) – aka most of Sydney basin
- ▶ Wallumattagal Ngurrunga – Snapper fish family – Ryde, Hunters Hill Local Councils
- ▶ Poetics: a text's different elements entwining and affecting the reader
- ▶ Ngurra as text – reading Country – a 65,000 year old literacy
- ▶ Ngurra as our Poet
- ▶ Co-becoming Country: our times/tellings entwined with Ngurra
- ▶ Being Poetics



Leanne Tobin's *Warraburra (Sarsaparilla) Healing* 2015. Reproduced with permission of the artist.

Ngurra: The Land

*The Land is the **great life force** that both created and further enables the continuation of all species including humans, providing for our nourishment, shelter and social organization and informing us of meaning and purpose ...*

Aunt Mary Graham
(2014, p. 18)



Loss leaks the longest
Dream.

It bleeds sunrise across
ledges,

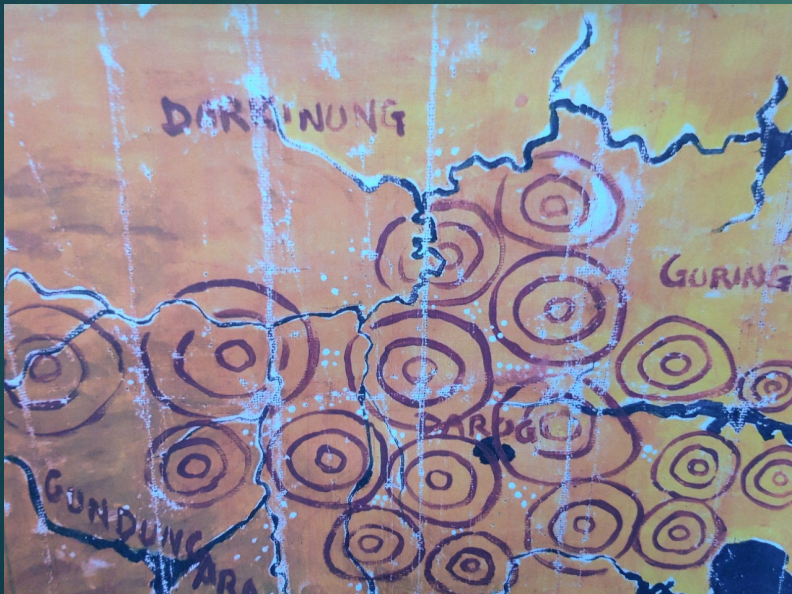
Scarred and scraped
sandstone,

Drawn in perpetuity,
With tear-strung pools of
long dreamt storms ...

J. Rey, 2015.

Ngurra: The Presences

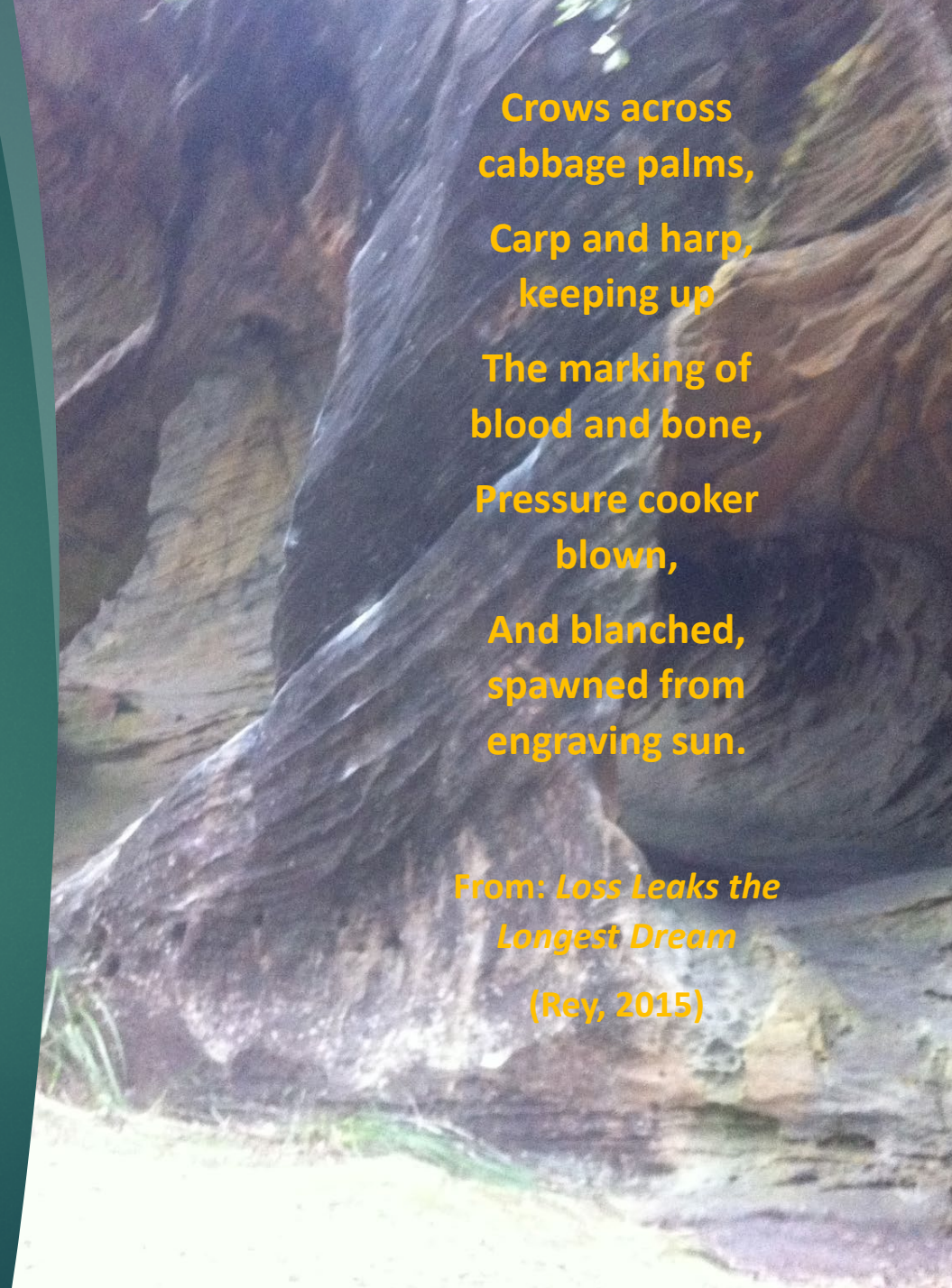
- ▶ Agentic
- ▶ Physical
- ▶ Metaphysical
- ▶ Changing
- ▶ A verb, not a noun
- ▶ Presences and Sentience



Dharug Ngurra Map
Artist: C. Tobin
(2012). Reproduced with
permission of the artist.

Crows across
cabbage palms,
Carp and harp,
keeping up
The marking of
blood and bone,
Pressure cooker
blown,
And blanched,
spawned from
engraving sun.

From: *Loss Leaks the
Longest Dream*
(Rey, 2015)



Ngurra: The Dreaming

- ▶ “ All things formed during the Dreamtime carried with them a vibrational memory that holds the memories that birthed that place... the blueprint of the ancestral spirits whose actions helped shape the land. The memory stored within the land is what we refer to as ‘The Dreaming’, which represents the primordial sacredness of the earth.
- ▶ The Dreamtime was the time before time... the Dreaming describes the continuation... in today’s world and remembering that sacred time still exists within the spiritual lives of Australia’s Aboriginal people to this day.”
- ▶ Bilawara Lee,
Elder, Larrakia Nation, Northern Territory,
Australia (2013, *Healing from the Dilly Bag*,
p.12).

Red Hands Cave, Glenbrook, NSW
(Image: J. Rey, 2013)



**Bed of sand,
seven thousand hands,
like ashes fired and
ochred spat,
That under stood
In sheltering bands,
The waves that once
were Dreamt and
wrought,
Bear witness once again,
To grow what bleeds and
sighs,
To hear Crow’s carped
harps, and still taste
Hawk’s delight.**

From: *Loss Leaks the Longest
Dream* (Rey, 2015)

Co-becoming Ngurra – the Entwining



- ▶ 'Smoking the Heart'. Art Installation by Aunty Leanne Tobin.
- ▶ Image: Shay Tobin, 2015. Reproduced with permission.
- ▶ Blacktown Native Institution site, Plumpton.

Spun silence sung,
Swooning in wrapped
heady eucalypts,
Loss leaks a hawk,
spiralling on a memory, a
hunch,
Gleaming moist,
spies smudged torn moss,
and drops,
Beside the rocked,
wracked,
sandstone spot.

From: *Loss Leaks the Longest Dream* (Rey, 2015)

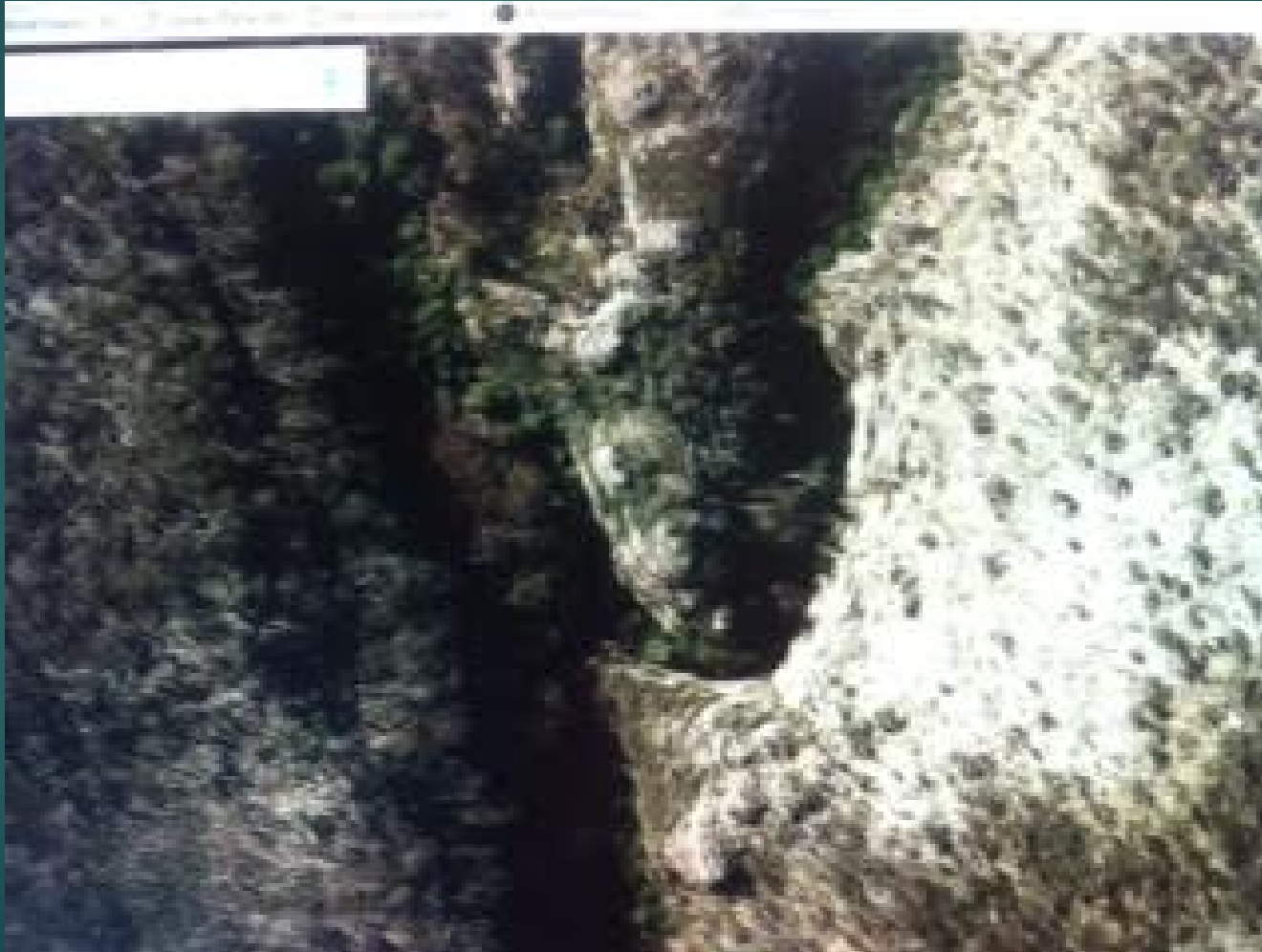
Goanna Walking as Ngurra

Goanna –
Durrumurragal
Ngurrunga

Image: J. Rey, 2016.



Being Goanna - Ngurra



Mapping Goanna's Journey



Being Ngurra – Being Poetics



Mother's Love

Today is good. You have come.
Here, sit and enjoy my gifts,
Warm sandstone, comforting sun,
Watchful birds, cooling breeze, new
growth on the gums.

Can you remember me?
I am Enduring, Timeless.

Being Ngurra – Being Poetics



My track is hidden,
respecting Mother's
face,
Away from unknowing
Ones' mistakes.
My sentries sing your
welcome,
This place I still keep safe.
Still.
Can you protect me?
I am Enduring, Timeless.

Being Ngurra – Being Poetics



You share no grief this time,
No tears of recognition,
For lost memories,
Lost Dreaming like the last,
Just the peacefulness of
knowing
I welcome you.

Can you feel me?

I am Enduring,
Timeless.

Being Ngurra – Being Poetics



Here is Mother's birthing
pond,
Pillowed in sandstone,
Foot pedestals in place,
Room for receiving the
new one,
Sheltered by the she-
oaks and shaded by the
gums.

Can you touch me?

I am Timeless,
Enduring.

Being Ngurra – Being Poetics



There,
there is washing-baby place,
Sparkling salt jewels
Encrusting sandstone lace,
After-birthing gifts continuing
in the sun
Sending placental pulses
Powering through space

Can you hear me?

I am Timeless,
Enduring.

Being Ngurra – Being Poetics



There, See,
See the Old ones dancing across me,
Cicadas sing, the thermals rise up my
face,
Birds wrapped in stillness,
You are here with me,
You are safe.

I am Timeless,
Enduring,

And cradle you in
Mother's Love.

(Rey, J. 2015)

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