

FIBER Dissolutions presentation notes

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DISSOLUTIONS



1 - 3 texts as explaining all and nothing - fascination



first:

Let the waters above the heavens fall,
and the earth will yield its fruit. [John Dee]

second from Ripley **top of scrawl**:

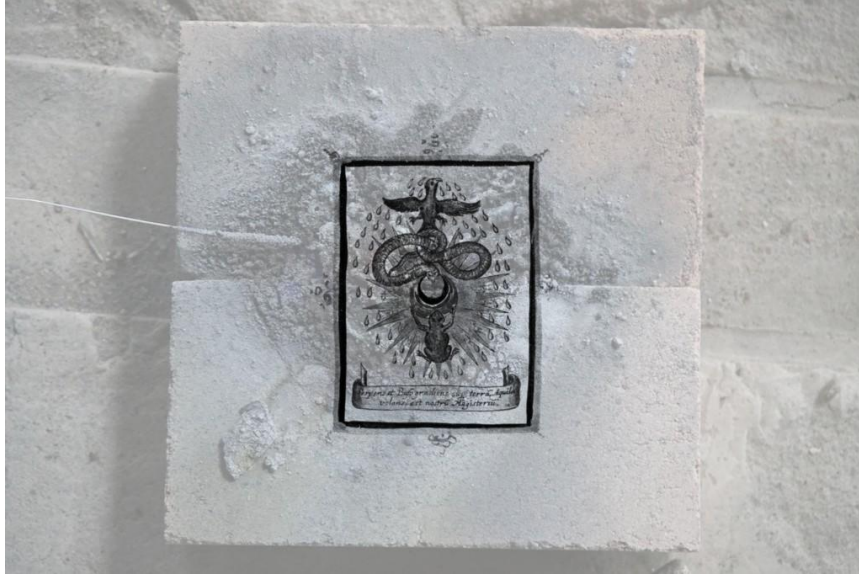
Here is the occult stone, buried in the secret fountain / it transmutes the
fermented stone, which tincturees everything

Zosimos:

The composition of the waters, and the movement, and the growth, and
the removal and restitution of bodily nature, and the splitting off of the spirit
from the body, and the fixation of the spirit on the body are not operations
with natures alien one from the other, but, like the hard bodies of metals and
the moist fluids of plants, are One Thing, of One Nature, acting upon itself.
And in this system, of one kind but many colours, is preserved a research
of all things, multiple and various, subject to lunar influence and measure
of time, which regulates the cessation and growth by which the One Nature
transforms itself.

And saying these things, I slept, and I saw a certain sacrificing priest
standing before me and over an altar which had the form of a bowl. And
that altar had fifteen steps going up to it.

2 - introduction

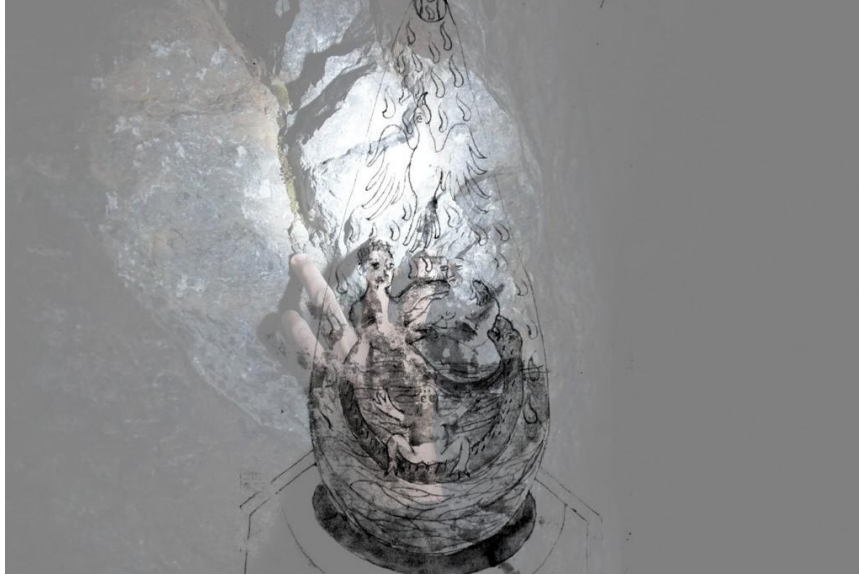


What these describe, what the emblems describe is this place - Rouyn Noranda in northern quebec, abandoned gold mines on the verge of re-opening. . .

What is Dissolutions - how to describe it, what are these emblems - how to describe them. . .

emblems which draw on hermetic cosmology, christian iconography, various encodings of laboratory experimentation, occult/natural philosophy, gnosticism across disciplines of biology, matter theory, physics, chemistry, literature/poetry and zoology - not as seperate fields. . .

3 - dissolutions



so what is dissolutions:

1-

Decoding ancient alchemical texts and emblems as (literal) instructions for the construction, execution and maintenance of a contemporary, geomantic and necessarily ouroboric live processor . . .

2-

links natural cycles, cycles of imagination (emblems) and industrial cycles (of extraction)

3-

- field trip where we were, what we saw. a bodily immersion under and overwritten by the price of gold, by the emblems of mining, recycling, smelting and technology: SUN microsystems, CISCO, DDR-4, Astrata, Glencore, CCR, SATA, SCSI, Horne, PDP, DIGITAL

4-

- Dissolutions is an artistic research residency and exhibition project

initiated by Berlin-based artist Martin Howse, curated by Peter Flemming in collaboration with OBORO and PERTE DE SIGNAL, with support from the

Goethe-Institut Montréal. Dissolutions is a series of playfully experimental situations (open labs, workshops, talks, field trips) that explore the material-basis of contemporary cultures, focusing on the transition from large-scale industrial technologies to the seemingly invisible realm of the digital.

5-

- Dissolutions attempts to dissolve technology using materials of the earth and of the air. dissolving and return of the materials of technology (mined from the earth) to the prima materia of alchemy; the first earthy and chaotic

matter for spiritual transformation which is also the philosopher's stone or gold.

4- the key emblem



A serpent and a toad coming up above the earth is our Magistry.

- explain: circulation, acid rain

- Forming the front page/cover of Ashmole's Theatrum Chemicum

Brittanicum (TCB) as engraved by Robert Vaughan

5 - the 3 emblems

Which refer to the three levels of the key above (from top: 1]bird, 2]serpent/worm, 3]toad/earth).

1/ MUTUS LIBER - eagle/crow - breath/sublimation/distillation - Mouska mine



- Acid rain. In tears. Acid from air/lightning. **1-DISTILLATION Bird/eagle/raven**

A common example is nitric acid produced by electric discharge in the atmosphere such as lightning. Acid deposition as an environmental issue would include additional acids to H_2CO_3 .

prima materia = that which is breathed out and distilled from any earthly substance

breath of the earth

breath of the angels
dew on the surface of some minerals. . .

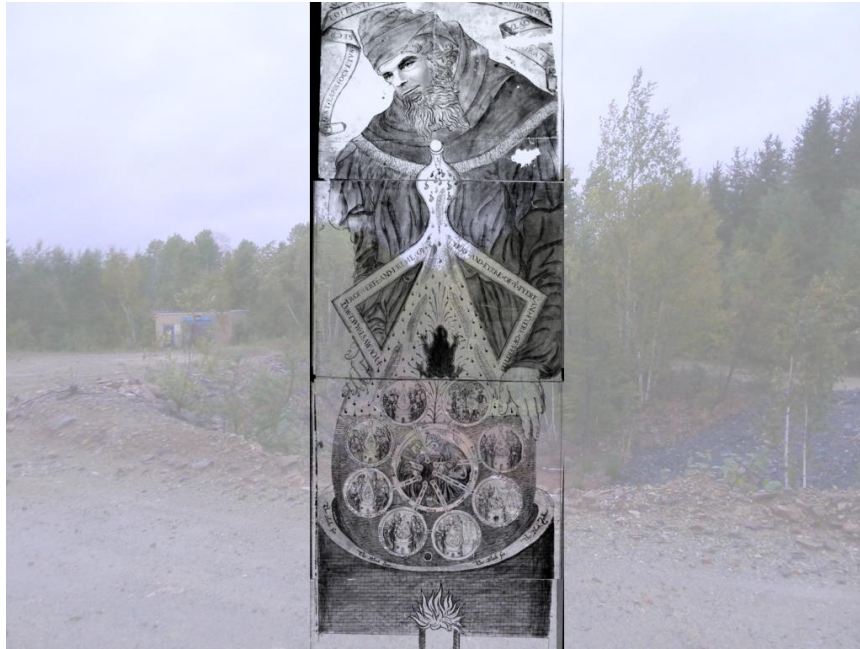
**2/ VALENTINE - salamander/serpent - Turing Machine/logic
- Lac Nicolet. First Key - now second key (1599)**



- The geomantic processor runs software which displays and which controls its own dissolution. It eats itself, it controls itself as this eating.

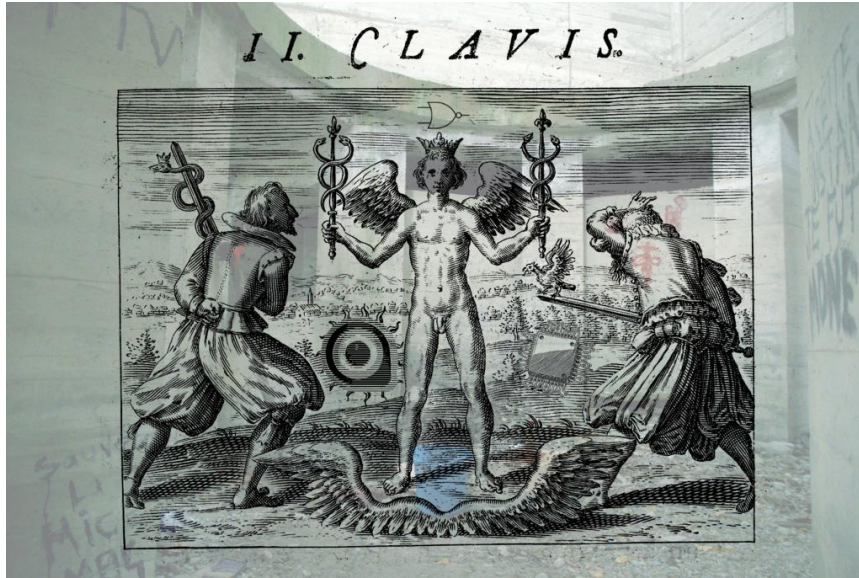
Alan Turing - gold, cyanide. prussian/berlin blue test Johann Conrad Dippel frankenstein

3/ AURORA CONSURGENS - toad/frog - earth/vessel - Elder mine also Ripley scrawl with alan turing



"In our water all modes of things are brought about...In the said water they are made as in an artificial vessel, which is a mighty secret." The Golden Tract depicts this vessel as "the true philosophical Pelican"

6 - basil valentine - our experiment



- explain final experiment - sublimation, distillation and dissolution
- return to Valentine's second key which encodes our experiment, our own dissolution

Explain: The very technological and engineered means of delivering this lecture (microphone and amplification) will be subjected to the described processes of dissolution. During the presentation certain minerals undergo high heat transformation resulting in the production of acids which will dissolve the metals and components of the industrially produced apparatus of communication, returning these to the noise and original chaos preceding their extraction and refinement.

Valentine:

“The precious water in which the bridegroom needs to have his bath must be made most cleverly and carefully from two fighters (understand two contrary things)... It is not useful for the eagle to make his nest alone at the top of the Alps, for his young would freeze from the snow high up in the mountains. But when you introduce to the eagle the old dragon who has dwelt long among the rocks, and who creeps in and out of the caves of the earth, and set the two upon a hellish seat, then Pluto will blow strongly and drive out from the cold dragon a flying, fiery spirit whose great heat will

burn up the feathers of the eagle and prepare a steam-bath so that the snow on the highest mountains must melt entirely and turn into water, whereby the mineral bath is rightfully prepared and can give the king good fortune and health”

From Lawrence M. Principe: The Secrets of Alchemy, decodes:

- eagle is sal ammoniac/ammonium chloride (as it sublimates or flies - also natural, hair and hooves)
- dragon lives in caves - is salpeter (potassium nitrate)

when mixed as here we shall do - places in a furnace (a hellish seat) and heated strongly (Pluto will blow strongly) results in distillation of aqua regia - a mineral bath which is capable of dissolving gold - the bridegroom (like cyanide) - full circle - mercury figure is dissolution - it has wings!