

LRG: ATTENDING

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TerraTending: 2179

TerraTending: 2179 is a site-responsive sonic simulation that presents seven speculative encounters with the earth.

These speculative encounters are set one hundred and fifty-seven years from now—after the earth’s rehabilitation is complete, the last hollowing tickets were relinquished, the handing back, underway.

The practice of TerraTending was developed at the beginning of the 22nd century, this geonto-technology¹ was quickly popularised and then later ritualised toward the 2150’s, making lignite listening a common spiritual practice.

The earthward orientation of human ears was a crucial contributor to what became known as the Third Geological Turn. It was at this point in time that the recognition of the human species as a “living part of a geosocial matrix”² had become widely understood and community members considered themselves to be geo-subjects, attending through interrelated deep-time-lines.

TerraTending requires a guide; colloquially known as Belayers. They collect surface artifacts, ancient copper, aluminium, and glass. These found objects are activated by the Belayer, and the sounds of these minerals are used to provide the listener with geophonic signs, during their descent.

While TerraTending, the ear of the listener would stretch into the earth, with their cheek pressed to the cold carbon, they would trace and tendere toward the blood of rocks, and ancestral salts, learning of the bovine and the bones that became the fuel and the fires of the past.

This composition features recordings of the materials that I collected from the Morwell Industrial Metal Recyclers and is composed from field recordings that were made during my time spent here in Morwell, on Gunaikurnai Country.

¹ The geonto-tech movement saw a shift in the invention of new technologies that supported earth ontologies, corporeal attending, and material recognition. Geonto-tech eventually superseded 21st century communications that focused on external relations.

² Yusoff, Kathryn. “Queer Coal: Genealogies In/of the Blood.” *Philosophia (Albany, N.Y.)*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2015, pp. 203–29.