

Pronouncing The Unpronounceable

Year: 1996

Level: First Years, Autumn Semester 1

Unit: 33062 Foundation Studies 1

Duration: 7 days

Dates: April 22, 29, May 2, 6, 9*, 10, 13 *Workshop with Tess De Quincy & Stuart Lynch

Origin

The genealogy of this project can be traced back through previous incarnations that operated through an invented language, as a set of abstruse instructions, to which clues are supplied that hint at possible directions. [*The Uselessness of Play* (95), *Song of the Claw* (92) and 'Onweg' in the *Birdnester* (88)]. This was prepared as the Interdisciplinary project, of the set of five offered through the Autumn Semester, one that would encourage both collaborative and performative possibilities. This project was offered in a slightly altered format in 2006 as 'Furtfallololi'.

Premise

The project was conceived to be staged out of doors, all the clues offered alluded to an exterior setting. Initially the students were divided up arbitrarily into groups of six, and required in their groups to peripatetically walk around the perimeter of the campus, discussing the text and the possibilities that it offered for collaborative performance of some kind, using any one of the many locations and settings encountered in their circumambulation. A video on synaesthesia was shown as part of the briefing and they were encouraged to view the evolving project on a multi-sensorial level, the production as a *gesamtkunstwerk*, that could activate or integrate all the senses.

Pronouncing the Unpronounceable

(816)

"Boerjonkakidjin uin suonka gaddogen, ingera alackti pishwahyalomgan. Oug lei lafta troiag ussa doy tungan insta puh. Biuten gor canda daggan eshta quongo-dochter elih elonghan lahgen oug sinter slaug.

Fuor tautta canda moyne lellugendefroet, telakrinten beo shaunta ashta onga furtle. Noi cheuffle duoi interdodden difden oiltedefrugen, vorda schwlunka difdaf ussa doy.

Kakacurn cringa linkum ud derurka, debouy aulla felunka flokali. Nafurthea sumsa sadoka cum lollacoli. Conka doy ussa puh ashta nestacrysta, loya gor canda furtfallololi."

Conjecture

The art of translation is the art of substitution. The translator in making "meaning" carefully selects substitute words of equal value. Hermeneutics is the science of interpretation, of reading between the lines. "Art" can be viewed as an interpretive activity susceptible to continual re-interpretation and re-evaluation.

The above text "spells out" as an incantation or recipe or set of guidelines the directions or instructions for the third project. "Meanings" have been ascribed to some of the words, but a large number remain obscure. It will be necessary to speculate as to the possible meaning of the undefined words in order to derive a clearer picture of what is being asked (Do you read me: an *operative* version capable of being acted upon).

For this project it is appropriate to collaborate in small groups, particularly during the initial stages in concocting a plausible interpretation. There are sufficient clues within the text to suggest that the working sites for this project are situationally *grounded* and *sounded* out of doors. Localities need to be carefully chosen in keeping with your own particular set of guidelines. Responses need to be prepared that are temporal in nature and with certain scenarios, capable of being performed. You may wish to work with a portion of the text, rather than its entirety and to utilise some of the techniques you acquire as part of the media studies component of this project as events unfold. The final day will be spent moving between all the chosen localities, and viewing the various outcomes, events and enactments along the way.

Selected definitions

Alackti	To turn inside out.
Boerjonkakidjin	Any metal parts that have become rusted together through prolonged exposure to the elements.
Canda	A preoccupation with creeping. By stealth.
Cheuffle	A mechanism whereby the internal sensation of being tickled is transformed into sounds that are not uttered but are generated mechanically. A light touch.
Difdaf	An inaudible, restless listening.
Elonghan	To paint in a single bright colour.
Felunka	Musical mud.
Furfalololi	Pronouncing the unpronounceable.
Furtle	To mumble clearly. A reddish-green.
Interdodden	The belief that the foot is capable of taking root if planted in the earth – hence the origin of toes – any ritual that implants or ‘earths’ the foot or feet. (see potato)
Kakacurn	Ephemeral footwear. The encasement of the foot in foliage. A temporary shoe capable of defoliation within a single journey. Shoe-shedding, any remnant of walking. The capacity to survive intact.
Lafta troiag	The peculiar sound associated with the manufacture of wahyalomga and the mimicry associated with these sounds.
Lellugendefroet	A discrete gathering of initiates, usually out of doors, engaged in activities variously associated with echo-planting or lung-plunging.
Linkum	A distinctive two-sided odour that alternates when in motion.
Lollacoli	Salt-scented.
Nafurthea	The softening of glass.
Nestacrysta	A cushion or blanket used to protect the trunks of trees, a silencing device.
Oiltedefrugan	Any ceremonial stamping. A measure of heart beat. Pulse, impulsive behaviour. Denouncing: to stamp out.
Pishwahyalomgan	Distantly visible shelter, often, but not always constructed out of wahyalomga.
Quongo-dochter	A desire to forage for the unobtrusive and amplify disproportionately insignificant occurrences. (see mole)
Schwlunka	The close observing of bird landings.
Shaunta	Bellowing.
Sinter	A bluish edge
Suonka	A dirty foot, when soaped and rinsed in a bowl of water. Any fish-like slipperiness (see soap opera)
Telakrinten	A collective gesturing that sustains an uncontrollable urge to act “normal”.
Wahyalomga	Oversized umbrella. Rain shadow.