SUBMERGED; UNEARTHED; EMERGENT: EARLY MODERN KNOWLEDGE UNDER THE SURFACE

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY REBECCA ZORACH (NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY) AND MONICA AZZOLINI (UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA).

In Underland, Robert Macfarlane notes that "a long cultural history of abhorrence exists around the underground spaces," associating them with fear, disgust, dirt, mortality, and brutal labor. In early modern Europe, what was underground as well as undersea was not only depicted as dark, dangerous, and mysterious but also as tantalizing sources of value and meaning that spurred speculation, exploration, extraction, and colonization.

By looking at practices of excavation and recovery, extraction and colonization, appropriation and manipulation, as well as theories of the origins of stones and sea animals/monsters, the challenges of sensory representation, the employment of rare stones and fish as materia medica or talismans to be ingested, used in proximity with the body, or as decorative or apotropaic elements within buildings, this conference will ask: How did 'thinking' join up with 'doing' in early modern conceptualizations of what lies underneath? Who did the observing? Who did the conceptualizing? How did the depths' very invisibility stimulate art and the scientific imagination? How did cultural difference inflect approaches toward the drive to know what lies hidden?

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IMAGES:

Cosmè Tura, *Calliope* (detail), 1460 National Gallery, London

Ulisse Aldrovandi, Octopus (detail), 16th century Università di Bologna

Pietro Fabris, A quarry from which stones were cut to make the pavements of Naples, showing strata of lava from Mount Vesuvius, 1776 Wellcome Collection

> Antonio Tempesta Pearl Fishing in the Indies (detail), 1618 Musée du Louvre, Paris

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SUBMERGED, UNEARTHED, EMERGENT: Early Modern Knowledge Under *the* Surface

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

June 17-18 / 2024

I TATTI

Monday, June 17

- 14:45 ALINA PAYNE (I Tatti / Harvard University) Director's Welcome
- 15:00 REBECCA ZORACH (Northwestern University) MONICA AZZOLINI (Università di Bologna) Conference Introduction

TRANSFORMATION AND GENERATION CHAIR: REBECCA ZORACH (Northwestern University)

- 15:15 ANNE DUNLOP (University of Melbourne) Asbestos and the In-between, c. 1300-1600
- 15:45 CATALINA OSPINA (Yale University) The Substance of Formal Analogy: Potosi's Virgin-Mountain
- 16:15 ANNA GRASSKAMP (University of Oslo) The Transcultural Body of the Mermaid
- 16:45 Discussion
- 17:15 Coffee

PLACE, KNOWLEDGE, AND CONSUMPTION CHAIR: MONICA AZZOLINI (Università di Bologna)

17:30 CHRISTOPHER P. HEUER (University of Rochester) Agricola's Energy



- 18:00 MARIA CONFORTI (Università di Roma-La Sapienza) Inhabiting the Deep Sea: The Anatomy and Physiology of Marine Creatures
- 18:30 JOSÉ RAMÓN MARCAIDA

(Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales-CCHS) Natural Knowledge "Under the Surface" in the Writings of Francisco Hernández

- 19:00 Discussion
- 19:30 Prosecco

Tuesday, June 18

11:30 Coffee

IMAGINING LIFE AND DEATH UNDERNEATH CHAIR: JONATHAN REGIER (I Tatti)

- 12:00 PABLO F. GÓMEZ (University of Wisconsin) Shipwrecks, Ancestors, and Monsters: The Underworld of the Early Modern Caribbean
- 12:30 JEEHEE HONG (McGill University) Mineral Imagination for the Dead, ca. 1000
- 13:00 Discussion
- 13:30 Lunch

EXPLORING HIDDEN FIGURES CHAIR: ANCA-DELIA MOLDOVAN (I Tatti)

15:00 IRIS WENDERHOLM (Universität Hamburg) Mantegna and the Stonemasons. Hiding and Showing the Mineral World

- 15:30 SACHIKO KUSUKAWA (University of Cambridge) The Tip of An Iceberg? The Early Royal Society and Submarine Experiences
- 16:00 MÓNICA DOMÍNGUEZ TORRES

(University of Delaware) Sensorial Engagement and Deprivation in Early Modern Images of Pearl Fishing

- 16:30 Discussion
- **17:00** Tea

EPISTEMOLOGIES OF EXTRACTION CHAIR: GABRIELE MARCON (I Tatti)

- 17:15 HILARY BARKER (University of Chicago) Cross-Industry Pollination and Emergent Archaeological Knowledge in Quattrocento Rome
- 17:45 KRIS LANE (Tulane University) Smells Like Money: Sensing the Subterranean in 17th-Century Potosí
- 18:15 Final Discussion
- 18:45 Prosecco

