
FERESHTEH TOOSI

Oil Ancestors: into the proofer

Remember when your dead bodies
rained down to the ocean floor?

I was waiting for prokaryotes to spoil me
to be caressed in underwater aerobics
and dissolve in their incantations.

And then

breathless.

My muddy cushion tickled by your corpses
We were blanketed
Panini pressed to the gooey core
heated weighted
waxy kerogen chrysalis

And then

into the proofer
hibernating for the rise.

Looking for the window of possibility
Heavy hearts dissolving into a new form

So much had to go right for us
to become one another
Oozing through the acne pocks
Accumulating power with time
Shoving water out of our way.

Whose room is this
that holds us liquid?

CHECKLIST:

“Remember when your dead bodies...”

Letterpress on black paper in gold-brown ink with a blind emboss of macroalgae
15 x 11 inches, edition of 56

“If a skin of petroleum jelly...”

Petroleum jelly pressed through stencil onto Arches Rives BFK
22 x 30 inches

Baar Products Crudoleum®¹

Petroleum Enhydro Crystals

395nm UV blacklight flashlight

Glass Vessel

¹ “Pennsylvania Crude Oil was mentioned many times in the Cayce Readings to stimulate and clean the scalp, to improve hair fullness and shine, and to help with graying hair and hair loss. It conditions the scalp as it moisturizes the hair, adding body and shine to dry, brittle or damaged hair. Crude Oil works to restore hair and scalp to a healthy condition. Our Pennsylvania Crude Oil is extracted from our oil wells in Pennsylvania. This is REAL crude oil with no refinement. It has a strong oil scent.” [from: <https://www.baar.com/crudoleum-pennsylvania-crude-oil-scalp-treatment>]

