

subterranean convergence

traversing the threshold: birthing a new sound

By LaRissa Rogers

I. OBJECT

Find an object connected to your idea of home.

Hold it.

Observe its weight, surface, material, wear, and evidence of use.

Write down the lessons or stories this object carries that tell us something about:

History

Social relationships

Politics

Culture

Environment

Create a sound for each response.

Repeat each sound until you can perform it without explanation.



II. WITNESS

If this object could speak,

what would it say about what it has endured, witnessed, or carried?

Say this aloud while performing the sounds you created.

Allow the voice of the object

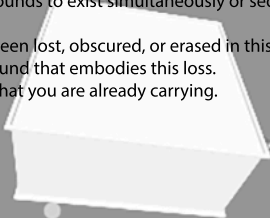
and your sounds to exist simultaneously or sequentially.

Ask:

What has been lost, obscured, or erased in this object's movement across time and place?

Create a sound that embodies this loss.

Add it to what you are already carrying.



Democracy relies on the people.

The people make a culture.

Culture comes from the Latin cultura, meaning "cultivation" or "tending," which originates from colere: to till, cultivate, inhabit, or care for the earth. It shares roots with words such as agriculture and cult, connecting culture to practices of cultivation, care, and worship.

If culture is a cultivation of what we tend to, care for, and worship, and if the quarrels among us come from the desires we battle within ourselves, this score turns toward those desires and asks:

What is living in the subterranean of ourselves, our nation, and our stories?

How can civic friendship become a framework through which we recognize one another as enfolded human beings?

What are the subterranean desires within you creating the soundtrack of your life, and how is that soundtrack producing the current landscape of culture?

V. CARE

Ask:

What forms of care, memory keeping, acknowledgment, or repair

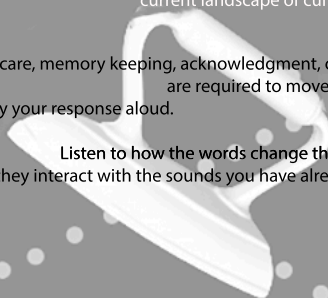
are required to move toward justice?

Say your response aloud.

Repeat it.

Listen to how the words change through repetition.

Listen to how they interact with the sounds you have already created.



IV. CULTIVATION

Based on its classification, ask:

What conditions would need to change for this object or story to move toward good ground?

Create a sound that embodies this transformation.

Do not erase the previous sounds.

Add this sound to them.

Allow what was endured and what might become possible to exist together, without allowing what was endured to become the identity of the sound created.

VI. CONVERGENCE

Bring all of the sounds and spoken phrases together.

Layer them.

Allow them to interrupt one another.

Allow some to disappear beneath others.

Allow others to return.

Create a soundscape.

Listen for what becomes dominant.

Listen for what becomes difficult to hear.

Listen for what remains underneath.

Meditate on what it means for these stories to exist simultaneously above ground and below ground:

visible and obscured,

spoken and withheld,

remembered and forgotten,

cultivated and abandoned,

carried and released.

VIII. TRAVERSING

Carry the object with you as you move.

What

can be

released

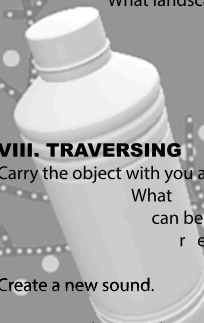
without being erased?

Create a new sound.

Let it enter the soundscape without silencing what came before. Repeat it until something shifts.

Until the wound is no longer the dominant frequency.

Until something new can take root.



III. GROUND

Identify the ground in which your object and its story have been cultivated.

HARDENED GROUND

Closed and impenetrable ground. Compacted terrain where nothing can enter, take root, or be retained.

This object or history evokes extreme sadness, lament, grief, or despair.

STONY GROUND

Rocky, unstable, and inhospitable terrain. Conditions where there is initial receptivity, but not enough depth to sustain pressure.

This object or history represents hope or joy that was ultimately crushed, a promise made and then broken.

THORNY GROUND

Layered terrain where growth is choked by accumulation, distraction, and inherited systems.

This object or history evokes struggle. It bears witness to difficult times, lost possibilities, or opportunities that have been repressed, obstructed, or denied.

GOOD GROUND

Stable, tended ground where depth allows for growth, endurance, and transformation.

This object or history is associated with memories of belonging, care, nourishment, and nurturing community.