

One Waterfall Floods Another

**Workshop / gathering in Kirkby Lonsdale - Documentation
photographs**

June 2024

An event organised in June 2024 to explore themes emerging from research in collaboration with Frank Pearson that has centred around a Waterfall named Weathercote Cave in Chapel-le-Dale.

I have been in conversation with Frank about the physical and imagined possibilities of caves since 2018. We have discussed and visited a number of sites and through this exploration shared discussions about the unknowable and endless fascination of the feeling of being within them, unable to discern one's own edge.

At the beginning of my time on this research project in 2020, I contacted Frank about the possibility of visiting Mulu in the Gunung Mulu National Park, Malaysia once the pandemic restrictions were lifted. I looked at pictures online and read about the decades of cave exploration undertaken by international and world class teams that had taken place in this phenomenal landscape. During our conversations we not only spoke about Mulu but also the caves Frank visits weekly, bothy's in Scotland and the hollows in the chalk cliffs next to which I walk most days. All of these places and descriptions began to converge into an imaginary landscape

What quickly became clear is that it was highly unlikely that we would be able to go to Mulu. I have a young family making it completely impractical and wildly expensive and Frank was at the time, unable to travel. So our conversations were steered closer to home, to the close by. To walks that Frank has been taking with his friends and family for decades. Rather than being a project about vast and unknowable depths, the work is about the imaginative potential of spaces that are close by, that are largely accessible. I could travel up for a night, stay with Frank and Feixia and go back on the train the next day. In a way, Weathercote Cave became a site through which to understand and imagine the more extreme, vast and distant spaces that Frank and his team have visited over the years. Through this process of listening and imagining, an entirely new space has opened up: Swifts nesting inside the caves, red tarpaulins being thrown up quickly into efficient tents in the forest, scum rings forming a crust around gaps deep in the ground because water so quickly filled and disappeared through the floor. Strangler figs leaving the host tree beneath their branches to disappear. Disorientation. Perimeters, shelters that are collapsed and constructed.

The artworks that I have made are in response to these sites; an imaginary place that can be opened up and folded away.

What I hope we will do collectively on the 1st June is imagine an entirely new landscape together through the experience of visiting Weathercote and combing the site with descriptions of recollections of places that relate to our discussions throughout the day.

The event included demonstrations and practice of Taichi and the concept of inner landscapes by Feixia Yu and the multiple tastes of food and drink by Hannah Yu-Pearson, the perception of sound and subterranean soundscapes by Shenece Oretha, discussions of landscape and cave aesthetics with Frank Pearson drawn from the experiences of Weathercote and from his and Feixia's translations of Classical Chinese philosophy and poetry related to the 'Mountains and Rivers' tradition, a presentation and discussion of 3D laser scanning of the world's largest caves, including the recent scan of Weathercote Cave, by Roo Walters, and a presentation and discussion of the stages of creating abstract paintings by artist, and caver and climber, David Parker. The discussions were generated by the other attendees: Professor of Geography at Royal Holloway, Harriet Hawkins, artist and caver, Diane Arthurs, local artist, Chris Stephens.

Feixa Yu leading a tea ceremony



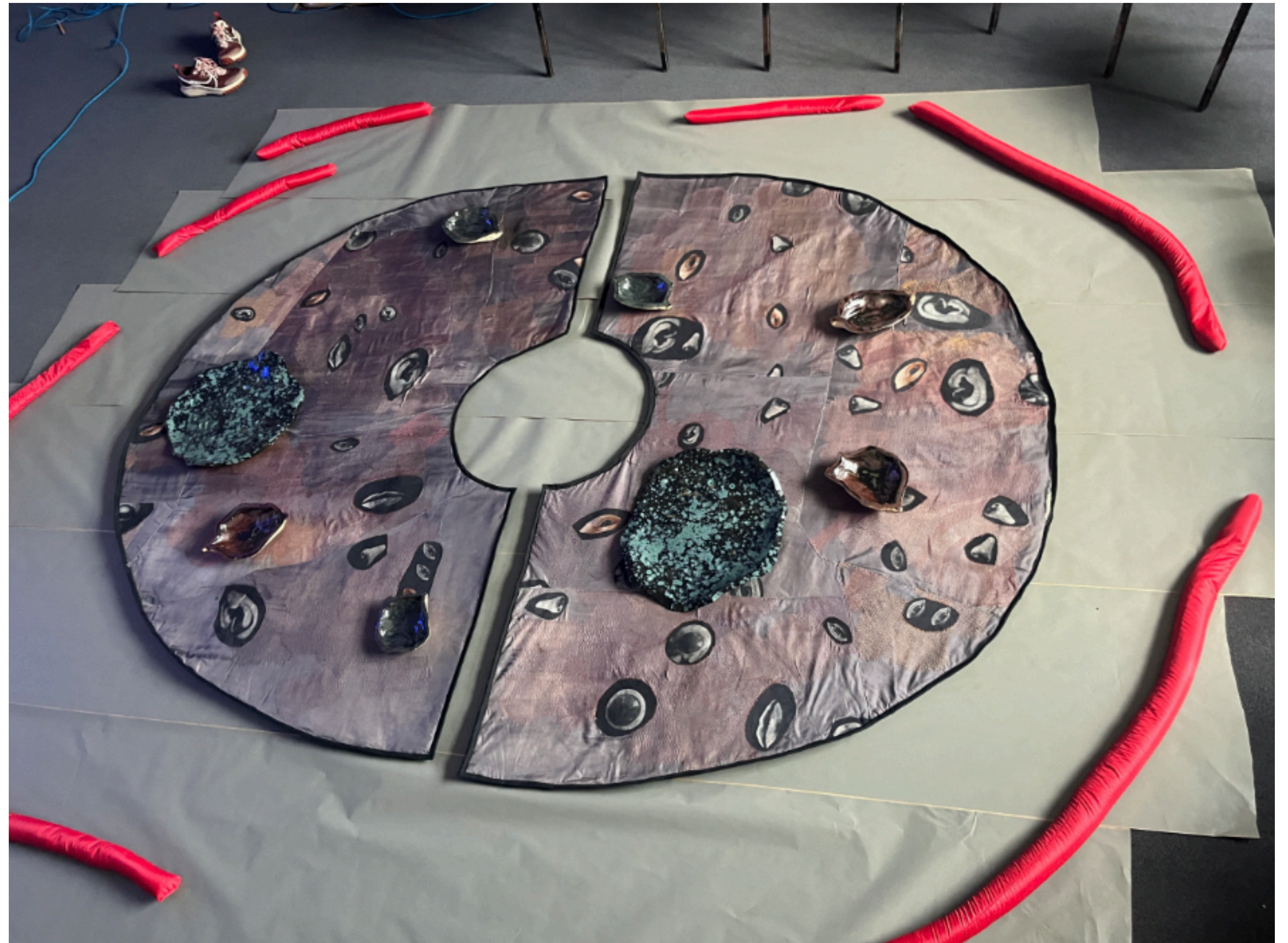
Food prepared by Hannah Yu Pearson
On plates made by Flora Parrott and an
embroidered mat



Hannah Yu Pearson preparing food



Embroidered mat by Flora Parrott



Embroidered mat by Flora Parrott with food prepared by Hannah Yu Perason



The team from the the day eating meal prepared by Hannah Yu Pearson



Detail of the mat after the meal and tea



Listening invitations produced by
Shenece Oretha

Score for carrying a waterfall with you

1. Listen within
2. Journey to waterfall – listen here.
3. At waterfall - write the sounds you hear in letters* along your scroll.

* This can be in words but is not limited to words

Tai Chi session lead by Feixia Yu
Next to Weathercote Cave



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Weathercote Cave





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