

The Salt, the Oil the Milk (**Bill Burns**) / The Distancing Years: Photographs of Hong Kong from 50s to 70s (**Holly Lee**) / Collections (**Mak Fung, Yau Leung, Ngan Chun-tung**) / camera etc (**Lee Ka-sing**) / 11 drawings on camera (**Tomio Nitto**)



DOUBLE DOUBLE 2022-02

Donkey, camera, and auld lang syne

A Holly Lee and Lee Ka-sing Publication

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## Donkey, camera, and auld lang syne

Bill Burns The Salt, the Oil the Milk



The following pictures are about my long-duration performance work called The Salt, the Oil the Milk. They tell about how the things we trade between each other, often called commodities, produce meaning. The first picture - of a promotional poster on a street in Sao Paulo - is followed by a group of pictures of a live performance, which is followed by a group of drawings about animals and advanced industrialism. The performance took place at the Oculus Pavilion in Toronto. The performance involved four goats, three goat farmers, a litre of goat's milk, three Georgian chanters, a new song about the largest corporations in the world, two donkeys who carried salt, two donkey keepers, a brass band, a beekeeper, many bees, a jar of honey, a master of ceremonies, a producer, many artists and observers, and several kilograms of salt. At the end of the day I mixed milk, honey and salt together. This was called "The Mixing of the Milk and Honey and Salt".

This salt, the several kilograms of salt that the two donkeys carried, came from the Windsor Salt Company which operates salt mines located at a large deposit under Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. This salt was unloaded at a modern concrete building, whose floating roof has a big hole in the middle, known as the Oculus Pavilion. The Oculus Pavilion is located on the banks of the Humber River on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, Haudenosaunee, and Huron-Wendat. This part of the Humber River is traditionally known as the Toronto Carrying-Place and has been an important trading area for about 11,000 years. The brass band played songs about love and tears while the Georgian Chanters sang about industry, chickens and bees.

The reader will not be surprised to learn that people have been trying to figure out what our things mean, how trading them creates tension, and why their value keeps changing for a long, long time. I am not the first to suggest that how we value and understand things, whether trees, honey bees, or microwave ovens, is tied intimately to knowledge, technology and mythology. Some of my pictures are documents of events that have already occurred while others should be considered pre-documents because they are about events that have not yet occurred. My small contribution builds on the work of many people including fishers, farmers, wanderers, anthropologists, economists, and of course artists.

Bill Burns Vancouver, February 2022













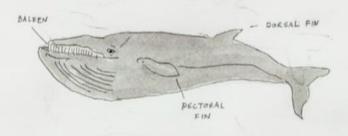
MY OLDEST BROTHER WAS AT GRADUATE SCHOOL IN VANCOUVER.

ON MY EIGHTH BIRTHDAY, THIS ALL ABOUT BOOK ARRIVED IN THE POST.

I AM INDESTED TO HIM AND TO FERPINAND C. LANE FOR MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE SEA.

The following pages are of drawings by Bill Burns, from his cross-media work **The Salt, the Oil the Milk**. Eighteen water-colour and pencil drawings on paper, approximate size: 145 mm x 192 mm.

## ANATOMY OF A HUMPBACK WHALE (EXTERNAL)





WHALE BLUBBER

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5

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COOPERATION RETWEEN SPECIES IS SO IMPORTANT. WE NEED MORE OF



PINE HUTS



COD FISH



A DONKEY

1000

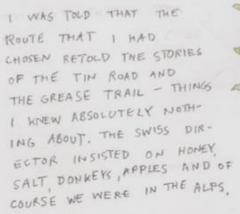
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- MARIE

-



A BEE



36

PEFFER CORNS



penn

-

WERE AWAKE EVERYONE HAD TELEPHONES
THEY COULD CARRY AROUND, PEOPLE TRAVELLED
BY AIR; MEDICINE, GASOLINE AND
APPLIANCES OF ALL KINDS WERE EASY
TO COME BY.



THE THREATS OF LEGAL ACTION AND DISEASE CONTINUED TO PLAGUE THE OPERATION. THEN THERE WERE THE FIRES,





GIANT HONEY BEE (ROUND DANCE)



(WAGOING DANCE)



ITALIAN HONEY TSEE (SICKE DANCE)

THERE WAS NEVER REALLY A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THE YOUNG CURATOR WOULD COM-CONTINUE WITH THEYOGA AND MEDITATION AFTER WE WON THE LAWSVIT, SHE EVEN GAVE ME HER STICKY MAT WHICH SHE ASSURED ME WAS MADE OF ETHICALLY SOURCES RUBBER AND NAT-URAL FIBRES, SHE ADVISED ME TO PRETEND TO HOLD A PENCIL BETWEEN MY SHOUL-DER BLADES AND TO SET MY MIND TO IMAGINING MY BELLY-BUTTON MOVING TOWARD MY SPINE, SHE FURTHER AD-VISED & PACK HORSE COULD MOVE SALT UP THE MOUNTAIN; A GOAT COULD RELIABLY PROVIDE MILK; WHILST BEES COULD BRING WAX AND HONEY TO THE EQUATION ,

- minering

-OFFINITE

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possedy





THE BEE

THE AIRPLANE'S CARGO WAS NOT DAMAGED BUT THE POTATOES EVENTUALLY SPOILED, THERE WAS CAUTION TAPE EVERYWHERE.





=

THE SOUND CARRIED LIKE A DRUMBEAT,
AND ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF SALT AND PEPPERCORNS WAS LOST.



OUR SHIPMENTS, AT TIMES MEET DELAYS, HIGHWAY SPEEDS TEST OUR AGILITY AS WELL AS OUR SURE FOOTED NESS, ARTICULATED TRANSPORT TRUCKS OFTEN SECRETE OILY SUB-STANCES, ESPECIALLY IN STRESSFUL SITUATIONS. PRIVERS ARE KNOWN TO CONSUME SUGARY DRINKS TO HELP THEM STAY ALERT.

SHEEP ARE VERY FRAGILE. CARE IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE WHILST IN TRANSIT, PARTICULAR CARE WHEN SHIPPING BY SEA IS ADVISED.

-Annes





WOOL PRODUCTION

-

JES-255

1000

CABBREVIATED VERSION) TAKES ABOUT 40 BLOWS. PROTECT THE SHEEP BY USING A COMB WITH AT LEAST 13 TEETH. THE EXAMPLES IN THE CHART ABOVE ARE ADVISED FOR BOTH EWES AND WHETHERS, STEPS 1-3: START THE BLOWS AT THE TOP OF THE BRISKET, WATCH FOR THE PIZZLE ON WHETHERS AND COVER THE TEATS ON EWES, STEPS 4-6: KEEP YOUR RIGHT SHOULDER LOW ON THE LONG BLOWS; USE STRAIGHT BLOWS ON THE BACK AND J STROKES AROUND THE NECK STEPS 7&8: WATCH FOR WRINKLES. TRY TO TILT THE ANIMAL AWAY. FROM YOU. MAKE YOUR FINAL BLOWS GENTLE AND SMOOTH.



DUNG IS PILED HIGH FOR FUEL AND OTHER PURPOSES. SHEEP AND GOATS HAVE SHARP TEETH AND A DELICATE JAW STRUCTURE THAT ALLOWS THEM TO EAT GRASSES DOWN TO THEIR ROOTS.



AS THE EVENING WORE ON OUR SONGS STRAYED NOW TO JILTED LOVERS, NOW TO COW BOYS, NOW TO DONKEYS AND GOATS.



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political

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LOVE, COURT MEMORY

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13110 ARTORT ROALRORTS



Bill Burns was raised in a book selling family in Saskatchewan where he learned about art and books from monks and poets. His projects about nature and advanced industrialism have been shown and published widely including at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; Mendes Wood DM, Sao Paulo; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Museum of Art, Seoul; and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

His artists' books and audio works include Bird Radio, Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther Koenig and KW Berlin and Cologne: 2011; The Flora and Fauna Information Service, ICA London: 2008; Hans Ulrich Obrist Hear Us, YYZ BOOKS and Black Dog Publishing. Toronto and London: 2016; and the Power 100 Meta List, Verlag Mark Prezinger, Vienna: 2018. His editions are included in collections at Cabinet des Estampes, Geneva; Tate Britain, London; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Getty Center, Los Angeles.

Bill believes that autoroutes should now be ploughed under to make room for more wild birds, flowers, vegetables and goats.

http://billburnsprojects.com