

Editor's Note

what's your favourite episode of
planet earth D. saying
—listen chen

TCR's Pacific poetries issue enters an ongoing conversation: from the texts that open and close the issue—Vancouver-based Nisga'a writer Jordan Abel's "Pacific ocean" and Chilean-Australian poet Sergio Holas-Véliz's "a part of the main"—the poems, essays, dialogues, and artwork accumulate meanings and refrains, contextualizing cultural production around and across the body/bodies of water that several pieces remind us was designated "Pacific" by Magellan. The issue features poems and translations from Rae Armantrout, Joanne Arnett, Jules Boykoff, Jaime Luis Huenún, Daphne Marlatt, Vaughan Rapatahana, Yeow Kai Chai, and many others; Northwest Coast weaver Meghann O'Brien's notes on her visit to Fiji to work with indigenous weavers; Lisa Samuels's folio of work from Aotearoa / New Zealand; and curator Kimberly Phillips's essay on an artist residency at sea. Artwork by Henry Tsang, Cindy Mochizuki, Sonny Assu, and Hong Kong-based MAP Office, plus collaborations by Diyan Achjadi and Glen Lowry (FabPac) and by Fred Wah, Nicola Harwood, and others (High Muck-a-Muck) intervene in dominant Pacific Rim discourses. One of the central features of the Pacific poetries issue is a series of conversations between Jacqueline Turner (Vancouver) & Kate Fagan (Sydney); Jordan Scott (Vancouver) & Susan M. Schultz (Hawai'i); Stuart Cooke (Gold Coast) & Dan Disney (Seoul); and Jen Hofer (LA) & Sesshu Foster (LA). Each short talk—conducted in May 2015—articulates current thinking and cultural work vis-à-vis Pacific and transPacific concerns: languages; environments; geopolitics; familial, colonial, military, and migratory histories; and the work of writing and art in communicating the state of things or in imagining alternate futures or "the next step." We hope you enjoy the collaborative, wide-ranging, critical, inventive work in the pages that follow.