

YA-WEN Ho / from *Some alphabet of hereness*

Aotearoa

āo ōu tì yǎ róu a

āo ōu

凹 鷗

A concave gull;

tì yǎ

替 雅

an elegance on behalf of

róu ā

柔 啊

a soft-spoken *ah*

Belong

bǐ lóng gē

bǐ lóng gē

彼 瓏 歌

Jade chimes, attune, in song

Chowick

qiáo wěi kè

qiáo

瞧

Look,

wěi kè

偉 客

a grand guest

Demography

dí mào gē rào fēi

dí mào

笛 茂

Lush flutes

gē rào fēi

鴿 繞 飛

on-the-wing doves, lingering

English

yīn gē lì xū

yīn gē

因 摺

Delayed –

lì xū

力 虛

strength wanes

Feijoa
fēi jiù a

fēi jiù a
非 咎 啊

Oh, place no blame here!

Godwits
gāo dé wéi dé cì

gāo dé
高 德
wéi dé cì
唯 得 賜

Unimpeachable virtue

the only one blessed

Home
hē wēng mǔ

hē
呵
wēng mǔ
翁 牡

A breath to tickle

old-man peonies

Islands
āi lán déshī

āi lán
哀 蘭
dé shī
得 失

The orchid grieves

loss and gain

Jafa
xiá fǎ

xiá fǎ
舡 法

This vessel; this law

K'Road
kāi ròu de

kāi ròu de
開 肉 的 The opener of flesh

Laughter
lā fú tè er

lā fú
拉 扶 Hold steady
tè ér
忒 兒 this toddling one

Mother
mā dé er

mó dé ér
嫫 得 兒 A crone begets a child

Nationalism
nà xiǎng nà lìzhēng

nà xiǎng
呐 響 Zealous chant
nà lì zhēng
那 力 爭 demand with reason

O-week
ōu wèi kè

ōu wèi
毆 未 A blow almost thrown –
kè
克 checked