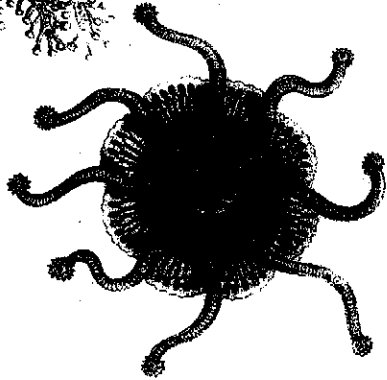
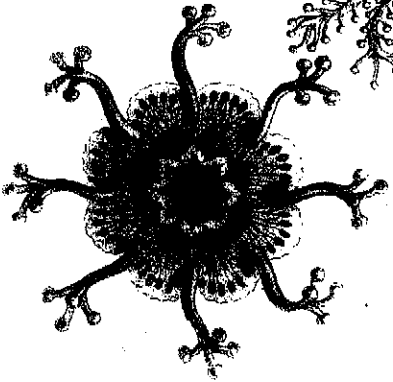
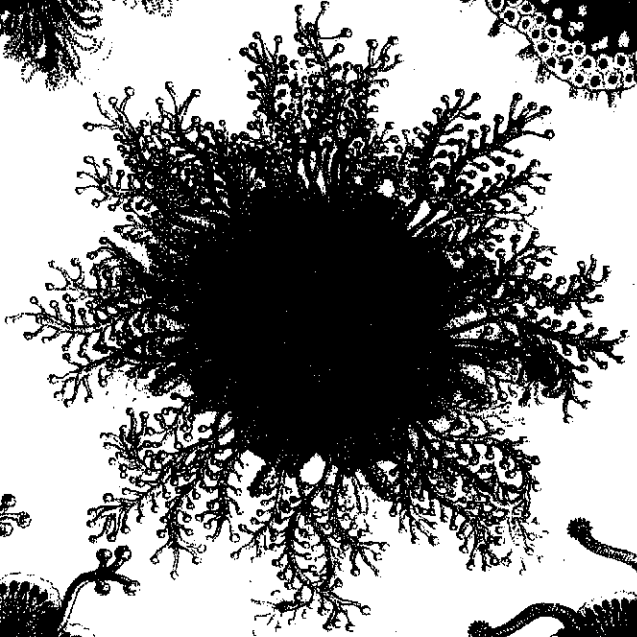
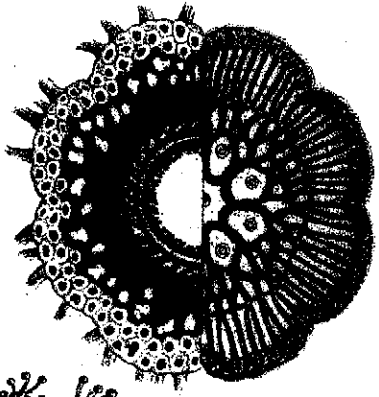
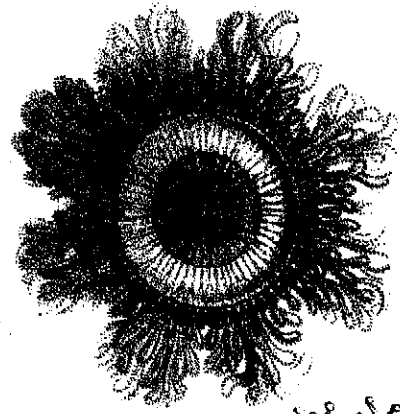


An Aquarium



Jeffrey
Yang

Dolphin

The Greeks thought dolphins were once men. The Chinese river dolphin was a goddess. Scientists tell us that if we rearrange a few of our genes, we'd become dolphins. Wouldn't that be real progress!

Dinoflagellate

The glow of crashing waves at night is caused by dinoflagellates. In great quantities, they cause ciguatera and red tides. Without them the sea would die. Some causes are invisible to the naked eye. Strive for equilibrium rather than neutrality.

Lobster

Impossible to doubt
the lobster's sorrow. Like a
wordless shudder pain
passes between us. Empty
shell of the subject
inscribes pain's grammar.
Sorrow and pain inflict
one another. Alive
the lobster's been drowned
in fresh water, packed in
sawdust, packed in ice, packed
in polystyrene, packed upright
in gel ice, boiled in brine, slow
frozen, knifed, banded, pegged,
electrocuted, and most recently
still absorbs most
of the world's lobsters. War
and protectionism:
two causes of starvation.

Manatee

Manatee *Carib manati*
mammary, Olmec sanctuary,
Guiana girl's grief morphed
watercow (what terrors un-
leashed on cows! to manifest mad
cow), gentlest of creatures, Columbo's
sirens, Colombia's most peaceful town.
Manatee, the world's happiest
vegetarian; skin's home to
algae and barnacles; mothers
nurse for twenty-four months; immune
systems's imitable; brain contains more
gray matter than humans, *homo*
sapiens their only natural predators
yet they welcome us with open limbs.
O Great Ancestors! Teach us
how to love our enemies.

Oarfish

Oar Old Norse Ar
fisc Midgard Jormungandr
ourbours oarfish Eihun
Vedder's sleeping serpent
a sleep of the heavens suggestive of thunder
and circumference
God's mystery at once center
Sor Juana induces *Todas las cosas*
salen de Dios.... But the oarfish?
One rare sighting
in the Sargasso Sea (weed
tar clumps, Eurtipized
plastic): "hat as a knife blade
snake-like head capped
by a rooster's cockcomb."
Echoes Lawrence at the Anapo:
look, look at him!
With his head up, steering like a bird!
He's a rare one, but he belongs....
Oor Oort Cloud sphere
oarismos amor gentle sweetness
pillow whisperings: *omnia*
vincti Amor: *et nos cedamus Amori*
other shore oared, angled
spar, silver
skin coruscates
rhombic crystals of guanine.

Nudibranch

You must be patient
to find a nudibranch
in a tidepool. Pretend
the tidepool is history
and the nudibranch a
lacuna of history. When
you do find a nudibranch,
its brilliant cerata make
blinds you with truth—
not the possession of truth
but the effort in struggling to attain it
brings joy to the searcher—
you're never the same again.

The Chinese world archetype

can be compared to a chariot: Heaven

the canopy, earth the cart, magick

square of 45 circles, 1 to 9 linked

center of 5, each side and diagonals of

3 links sums 15 concealing

a science of the mind. River

of causes to investigate

ideal order that underlies, an

anthropology, a poetry the witness

testifies and doesn't testify, a poetry

of the jury. 7 years

after 45, the first hydrogen bomb

was detonated at Enewetak. Preparations

had begun less than a year after

45 with Operation Crossroads

at Bikini Atoll. The native people

were forcibly moved from their ancestor home

by the U.S. government, atoll to atoll, while they

starved: Bikini to Rongerik to Kwajalein to Killi.

Able and Baker, 2 Hiroshima size tests,

contaminated the water and a fleet

of WWII ships in Bikini's lagoon. Then came

Operation Sandstone at Enewetak, 3 atomic

tests. Then Operation Greenhouse, 4 atomic

tests. Then Operation Ivy,

the first H-bomb test, and all the while

Ujelang to... The government

Ujelang; Kongelap to Lae; Woito to Lae;

Ujelang to...

named the H-Bomb Mike, the blast

vaporized Elnugelab Island: "Probably more

than 100 million tons of material were dislodged

and thrown into the air, great waves were

sent out that rolled over nearby islands, and a

huge mushroom cloud rose to a height of

130,000 feet in just 15 minutes. Mike was indeed

a superdevice, estimated to have a yield of about 5

megatons or the equivalent of 250 Hiroshima-type

atomic bombs." Then 9 years after 45 came Operation

Castle, created by Joint Task Force 7: the Army, Navy, Air

Force, contractors ("primarily from the firm Holmes

and Narver"), and Department of Defense people were

all involved, along with 28 U.S. servicemen that formed

a Radiation Safety team. This time people of surrounding

islands weren't moved and Bravo was detonated on the ground

of Bikini Atoll, March 1st 06:45 a.m. Kilo time, rather than

above ground "for minimal fallout" the all previous

tests, like those in Nevada, were detonated above ground, and the

weather conditions were downgraded to "unfavorable." Also

nearby at the time of the blast was a 23-man

Japanese fishing boat, the *Lucky Dragon*, that risked

being caught by the U.S. Navy in Trust Territory waters.

Uranium 238, lithium deuteride, uranium 235, metal mechanisms and

circuitry "erupted into a blinding white force of monstrous proportions

of heat and radioactivity. Accompanied by a deafening, thunderous

roar and an earth and sea-moving high-pressure blast, by 06:55 a.m.,

Bravo's giant nuclear cloud reached a peak of 21.6 miles tall. The yield

of Bravo is estimated to be near 20 megatons, or the equivalent of 1,000

Hiroshima-type bombs." Wind spread the cloud, particles fell, JTF 7

crewmembers aboard ships 30 miles east of Bikini were ordered to go below deck, the ships fled south, fallout snow fell on the *Lucky Dragon* fishermen who caught it on their tongues, and then on the people of Rongelap and Ailinginae, and then on the Radiation Safety team at Rongerik who some were in planes monitoring the explosion, and then over Utirik and Ailuk. . . . Children played in the snow. 34 hours later the 28 Americans were safe on ship after visiting Rongelap by amphibious plane and measuring the dangerously high levels of radiation. They left the people with 4 words: "Don't drink the water." 1 day after the Americans evacuated, JTF7 converged on Rongelap and Ailinginae to tell the people that they must leave immediately, or would die. Then the people of Utirik were evacuated, but not the people of Ailuk, tho Ailuk is nearly the same distance to Bikini as Utirik. The U.S. Atomic Commission issued a statement to the press calling Bravo "a routine atomic test" and that "There were no burns. All reported well." In the following years, doctors from the Brookhaven National Laboratory, run by the U.S. Department of Energy, carefully documented the "most valuable ecological radiation study on human beings. Since only small amounts of radioisotopes are necessary for tracer studies, the various radionuclides present on the island can be traced through the food and into the human being, where the tissue and organ distributions, biological half-times, and excretion rates can be studied." Tests and experiments were performed on the people; "some patients today still do not understand that their entire thyroids were removed" (tho human radiation experiments began long before as described in Welsome's *Plutonium Files*). Project 4.1 was planned in New Mexico months before Bravo, and was called "Study of Response of Human Beings Exposed to Significant Beta and Gamma Radiation due to Fallout from High Yield Weapons." 2 years after Bravo came Operation Redwing. Then Operation Hardtack. Then. . . . At least 67 atomic tests were performed. During these tests, the scientists discovered significant quantities of algae living in 2 places: in the sand and on dead coral; and inside the polyp tissues and skeletons of the coral themselves. This algae is a kind

of dinoflagellate that lives symbiotically with the coral, supplying it with oxygen and nutrients thru photosynthesis while transforming calcium ions from the ocean into calcium carbonate the coral uses to grow. In return the coral provides the algae with a safe home and access to food like carbon dioxide and nitrogen. Here finally was proof that tropical reef communities operated according to the same fundamental laws of nature that govern other food chains, built on a foundation of plants, and subsisting in an evolutionary relationship intimately defined by mutualism. The algae is called zooxanthellae.