

## Material Intimacies

Hearing aids allow far more than simply sound  
Here is a map to the intimacies I've found  
And if you listen closely you may find  
We are all endlessly intertwined

Is there a place where I end and they begin  
Or is this division from the mind within  
How can I measure the territory  
Of the intimate connection from material to me

And when this intimacy transcends physical measures  
When the only way to know it is through feeling and pleasure  
The way rivers flow and birds sing  
An intimacy with nature hearing aids bring

Here we are intimate not only with the Land,  
But with broader global issues, one must seek to understand  
Just because you can't see the link between great distance  
Does not mean the connection is non-existent

A person in China working for \$10 per day  
Their life and mine feel so far away  
But truly our lives are intimately near  
When their hands crafted something living inside my ear

May we move past the illusion of separation  
Tied together in intimate relation  
Whether human, stream, piece of plastic near or far  
There is no limit to how connected we are

So challenge your 'distance' to everything  
Forget the normative offerings  
and if the world ever makes you feel lonely and small  
Just remember that it's part of you, and you're a part of it  
all

## References

Alaimo, Stacy. "trans-Corporeal Feminisms and the Ethical Space of Nature." Edited by Stacy Alaimo, and Susan Hekman. Indiana University Press, 2008.

Haraway, Donna. "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective." *Feminist Studies*, vol. 14, no. 3, 1988, pp. 575-599.

Liboiron, Max. "Land" from Chapter 1: "Land, Nature, Resource, Property. *Pollution is Colonialism*. Duke University Press, 2021, doi:10.1215/9781478021445.

Lorde, Audre. *Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic As Power*. Tucson, AZ: Kore Press, 2000.

Tsing, Anna. "Arts of Inclusion, Or, how to Love a Mushroom." *Australian Humanities Review*, vol. 50, no. 50, 2011.

Limb, Charles J. "Hearing for the masses." *Trends in amplification* vol. 14,2, 2010 63. doi:10.1177/1084713810381273

Nemes, Judith. "Some imagine a world where hearing care is available to all." *The Hearing Journal* 58.2 (2005): 19-25.

Seelman, Katherine D., and Royce Werner. "Technology transfer of hearing aids to low and middle income countries: policy and market factors." *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology* 9.5 (2014): 399-407.