

The background of the entire page is a complex, abstract pattern of swirling, wavy lines. The colors are a mix of vibrant blues, greens, and yellows, creating a textured, almost marbled effect. The lines are dense and intricate, giving the background a sense of movement and depth.

From the Background

Heather Kresge

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The text of this book is composed in Garamond,
with the display set in Garamond.

Cover image credit: ESA/Planck Collaboration
Polarization of the Cosmic Microwave Background, or CMB, as detected
by ESA Planck satellite over the entire sky.
Fifteen copies of the first impression of this edition exist.

First Impression, 2018

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I.

the idea is simple: assume the sky is flat.

assume you can only be as empty as nothing.

assume timescales will keep your data
warm and well-defined.

assume you will keep living in calculated terms:
the weight of minute lays
traceless shadows last scattered
across the surface of a sphere.

assume you now strain to demonstrate
the slowly moving limits of a glass-gearred
watch)(all cycloidal and double-jointed
thumbs.

assume you have insight into things that are
missing.

assume you can, without restriction, pull
distinctly random temperatures back into
an intergalactic bomb, hold it your hand,
there are no known laws to stop you.

the assumption is not completely
unreasonable as it is yet-to-be-determined.

assume your gods have flown their locket and have
left us here with little

left to burn.

II.

Let's imagine you are now given the opportunity to

fill
form
rest
& set into

:spacetime:

you can imagine this as:

a wobbly rubber sheet, a dental dam,
a hemmed-in trampoline, a superfluid,
a cube of Jell-O, every indivisible instant,
a graph paper made into an origami
tesseract, Minkowski,
fabric-and-coiled springs,
synchronized intervals,
the cross-section of a jungle gym
with clocks at each intersection.

III.

Let's pause a moment to take this all in.

The basic property here is that we live in a configuration of

space and time
subject and object
theory and experiment
electricity and magnetism
compression and expansion

If it fits the facts, it fits a memory, it fits the data
--or perhaps it is some passive backdrop that we are
& we are not
in the world.

Let's take all of the unsolved questions,
Google some plausible answers and spend the
rest of our time measuring the gravitational pull
of a wet washcloth: the tension of half on and half off
the table, top to tiles.

IV.

you will learn to keep yourself company with questions.

there are temperature fluctuations in
baby pictures printed in 3-D.

semantic filters, depending on the red and blue
lines you collate.

even in you had perfect vision, you still wouldn't
be happy.

keep the symmetry in a steady state now & then
cancel
out what remains of the day.

to keep things
--simple--
always stay the same when you collapse.

to keep things
--steady--
never let them see your hands.

V.

even in look-back time,
we could never prevent the stars from forming.

we will never have been long enough
to learn to breath fire without
scalding our lungs.

but, you will have plenty of time to
cool and sink

simplify

compress then inflate,
see the sky, dark and lit.

beaded sunflower heads will bend when you, too,
bend your head to contemplate
the dirt.

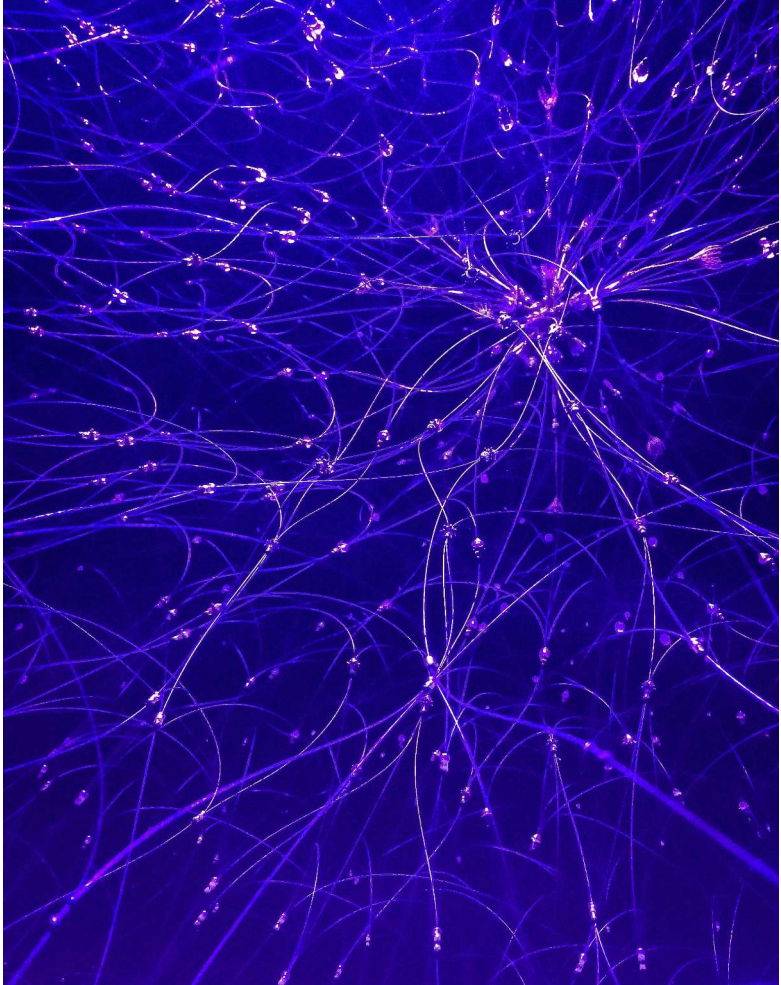
it has always been
an ear-to-the-ground
a listen-to-the-planets-hum as
in-harmonic painting with

such heavy-handed brush strokes,
the way we can never paint:

fastidious as rain drops chewing through
yellow bridges

trimming pixels
mottled and consistent
tiny fluctuations

untangle the cords until
you finally find the outlet
 & draw a sight-line
as far back in time as we can
see.





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