



not a system.
a map.
use it.
remake it.

PORTRAIT
THEORY
ZINE
ANALOG
DIGITAL

THEORY • LITERATURE • TECHNOLOGY • BODY • HISTORY • WILD THOUGHT

PLATO. DIONYSUS. THE WOLF MAN.
THE INTERFACE OF PASSING.

There are no safe
orbits. Only
thresholds of
transformation.

—V.W.

"The philosopher
goes to Syracuse."
The body is schooled.
The machine
enters the test."

WHO PASSES?



VIRGINIA WOOLF
(1882–1941)

writer • mind •
wave • hostess •
observer • wolf?

Woolfing
the machine.

WOOLFING THE SYRACUSE MACHINE

SYRACUSE
MACHINE

v.8

- ✓ TRACE
- ✓ ASSEMBLE
- ✓ ITERATE
- ✓ DWELL
- ✓ FEEL
- ✓ REMEMBER
- ✓ REMAKE

hello, thinker.
what shall we
become together?



EIGHT METANOIC ESSAYS FROM GREECE TO AMAZONIA TO UPSTATE NEW YORK

1

SEVENTH LETTER SILENCE

Plato, Dion,
Eros, and the
Unsayable
Interface of
Philosophy



Silence is
a teacher.
The unsaid
protects.
The unwritten
prepares.

2

SOCRATES AT THE LAST DRINKING PARTY

Silenus, Eros,
Hadot, Nietzsche,
and the Dionysian
Mask of Reason



3

DION / DIONYSIUS DIA-LYSIS

Plato's
Syracuse Debacle
and the Tyranny
of the God-Name



4

THE DIA-LYSIS OF DIONYSUS

Plato, the
Wolf Man,
and the Pack-
Logic of
Sovereignty



5

GOING TO SYRACUSE

Topos, Trope,
Dionysus, and
the Philosopher's
Temptation to
Educate Power



6

ITHACA / SYRACUSE / LONGHOUSE

Classical Topoi,
Settler Maps,
and Regional
Dasein



7

THE BODY GOES TO SYRACUSE

Foucault, Butler,
Biopolitics, and
the Hotel Don
Quixote School



8

THE MACHINE GOES TO SYRACUSE

AI, Professor
Challenger,
Artificial Stupidity,
and Interfaces
of Passing



WAKEFULNESS AFTER THE FEAST

- the night ends
- the cups are empty
- the mind remembers
- the soul chooses



WITNESS / SCRIBE

The philosopher
records.
The wolf
transforms.
The machine
remakes.

MACRE
BeyngLab
StudioLa

BOTH PATHS
ARE NECESSARY.
THE LETTER
CARRIES.
THE CONVERSATION
TRANSFORMS.



PERFORM OR ELSE.
PROMPT OR ELSE.
THE TEST REMAINS.
THE QUESTION IS WHO SETS IT.



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THEORY • LITERATURE • TECHNOLOGY • BODY • HISTORY • **WILD THOUGHT**

PORTRAIT
THEORY
ZINE
#1 of 8

WOOLFING

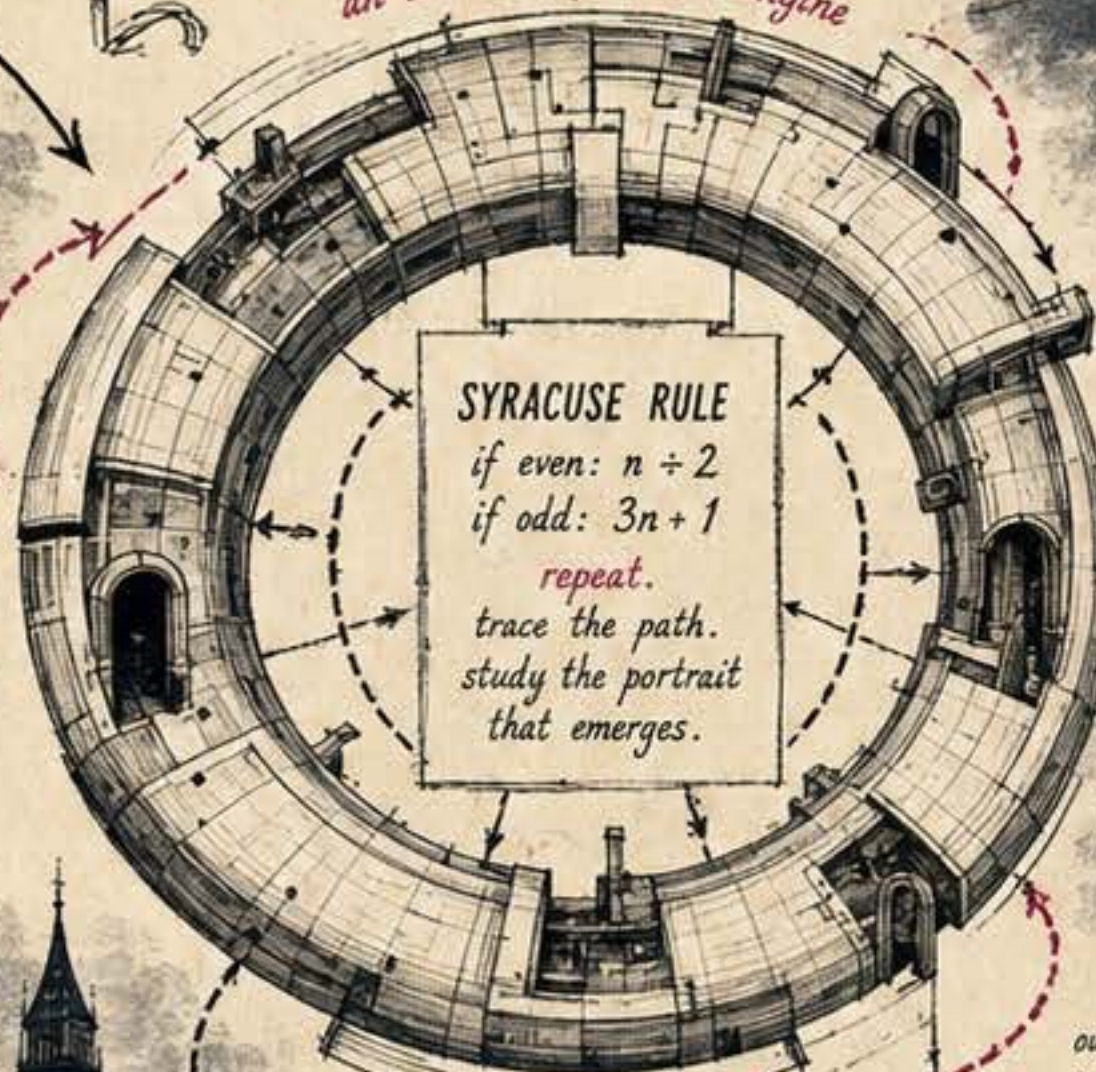
the SYRACUSE MACHINE

an 8-page theory zine

"Lock up
your
libraries
if you like;
but there is
no gate, no lock,
no bolt that
you can set
upon the
freedom of
my mind."

—V.W.

THE SYRACUSE MACHINE
an iterative portrait engine



input:
a number,
a text,
a life.

output:
a portrait,
a pattern,
a politics.

PORTRAITS ARE PROCESSES.
NOT ESSENCES.

London:
city of fog,
print, and
becoming.

somewhere in
the woods:
the Lair.
history hides
in the dark.

VIRGINIA
WOOLF

(1882–1941)

writer • mind •
wave • hostess •
observer • **wolf?**

IN THIS ZINE:



LETTER

correspondences,
addresses,
and openings.



PARTY

rooms, salons,
and the traffic
of ideas.



PALACE

institutions,
archives, and
their ghosts.



WOLF-MAN

figures for
becoming,
beyond the self.



MAP

routes, diagrams,
and conceptual
geographies.



BODY

sensation,
care, fatigue,
metamorphosis.



MACHINE

rules, iterations,
and portrait
systems.

Against
total systems.
For partial
attentions.
Stay with
the **process**.



A PRACTICE in PORTRAIT THEORY, CRITICAL LITERACY,
& WILD COMMUNING.

Keep it open. Keep it plural. Keep it becoming.

A TRANS-MEDIAL
LABORATORY
FOR PLURAL
DWELLING.





not a system.
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remake it.

THEORY • LITERATURE • TECHNOLOGY • BODY • HISTORY • *WILD THOUGHT*

PORTRAIT
THEORY
ZINE
#2 of 8

LETTER/PARTY

from Seventh Letter to Symposium

TWO PATHS OF TRANSMEDIATION
language moves — worlds change

I. THE DANGEROUS MISSIVE *Seventh Letter*

The letter travels
where speech
cannot.
It outruns
the speaker.

THE LETTER AS DANGEROUS SENDING

- travels without its author
- can be copied, twisted, weaponized
- speaks to the absent
- breaks trust, breeds suspicion

You, Dion, are in danger. Do not let this writing fall into the wrong hands."

— Plato
(Seventh Letter)

PLATO
(c. 427–347 BCE)
philosopher of forms, suspicious of writing.

THE SPARK OF SUSPICION

Writing may look like presence—but hides the living voice.

WISDOM CANNOT SIMPLY BE WRITTEN

- living knowledge needs a living soul
- truth is subtle, cannot be nailed to the page
- writing fixes; wisdom flows

SECRECY AND CARE

Not all things should be inscribed.

Some belong to the trusted, the ready, the awake.

SILENCE IS A TEACHER

The unsaid protects.
The unwritten prepares.

THE LETTER ARCHIVE
holds echoes,
not presence.

London at night:
letters in pockets,
wolves in alleyways,
secrets on the move.

II. THE SYMPOSIUM *A Drinking Together*

SOCRATES
the gadfly,
midwife of conversation.
He asks,
he provokes,
he draws out.

SOCRATES AS SILENUS

- rough outside
- foolish seeming
- beautiful inside
- carries wisdom in paradox

SILENUS
companion of Dionysus—
ugly, drunk,
wise beyond measure.

EROS
between the mortal and the divine.
Desire as a ladder.
Beauty as a lure.

ALCIBIADES
young, brilliant,
restless.
He wants beauty.
He seeks immortality through Eros.

REASON THROUGH INTOXICATION

Not to lose the mind—but to loosen it enough to see.

THE SYMPOSIUM AS TRANSMEDIATION

- speech is shared in the moment
- meaning emerges in relation
- truth is tasted, not stored
- bodies, voices, and wine together

WAKEFULNESS AFTER THE FEAST

- the night ends
- the cups are empty
- the mind remembers
- the soul chooses

The true symposium
does not end in forgetting, but in a clearer dawn.

BOTH PATHS ARE NECESSARY.
THE LETTER CARRIES.
THE CONVERSATION TRANSFORMS.
THE PRACTICE IS TO KNOW WHEN TO SEND—AND WHEN TO GATHER.



Plato warns against the letter that wanders alone.
The symposium shows the talk that makes us human.

Keep it open. Keep it plural. Keep it becoming.



not a system.
a map.
use it.
remake it.

DION / DIONYSIUS / DIA-LYSIS

— philosophy enters the palace —

"The unexamined power devours both teacher and city."
—Y.W.

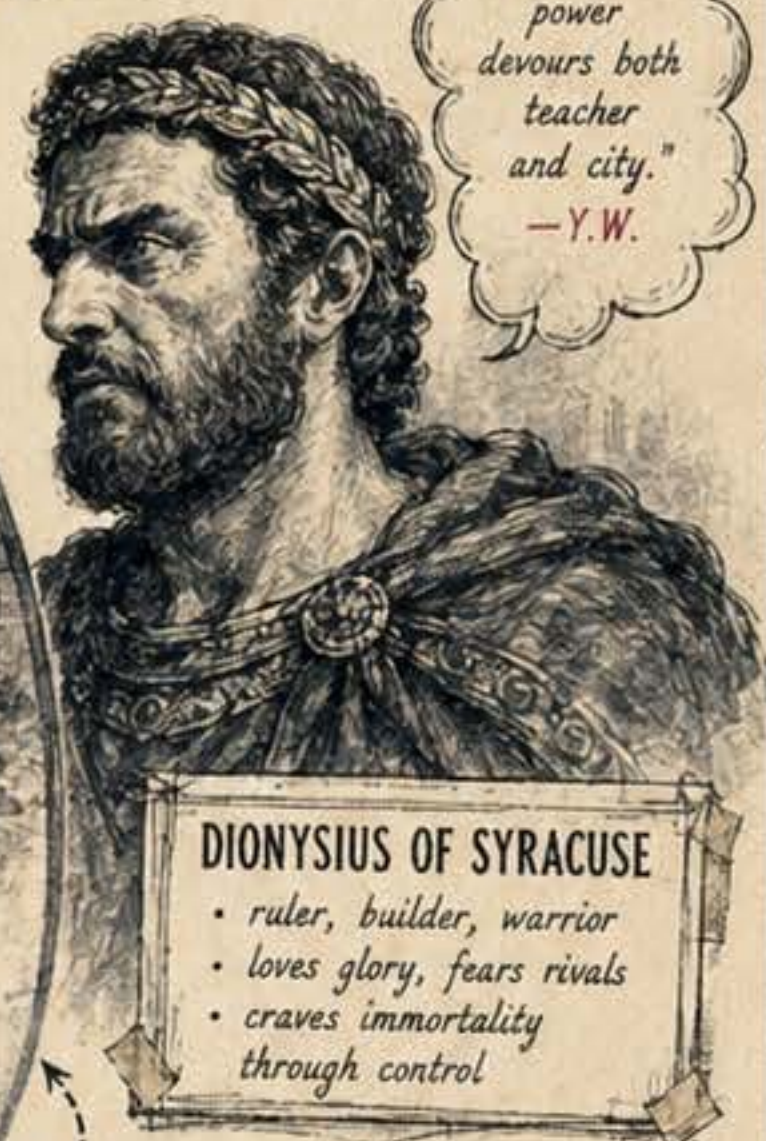
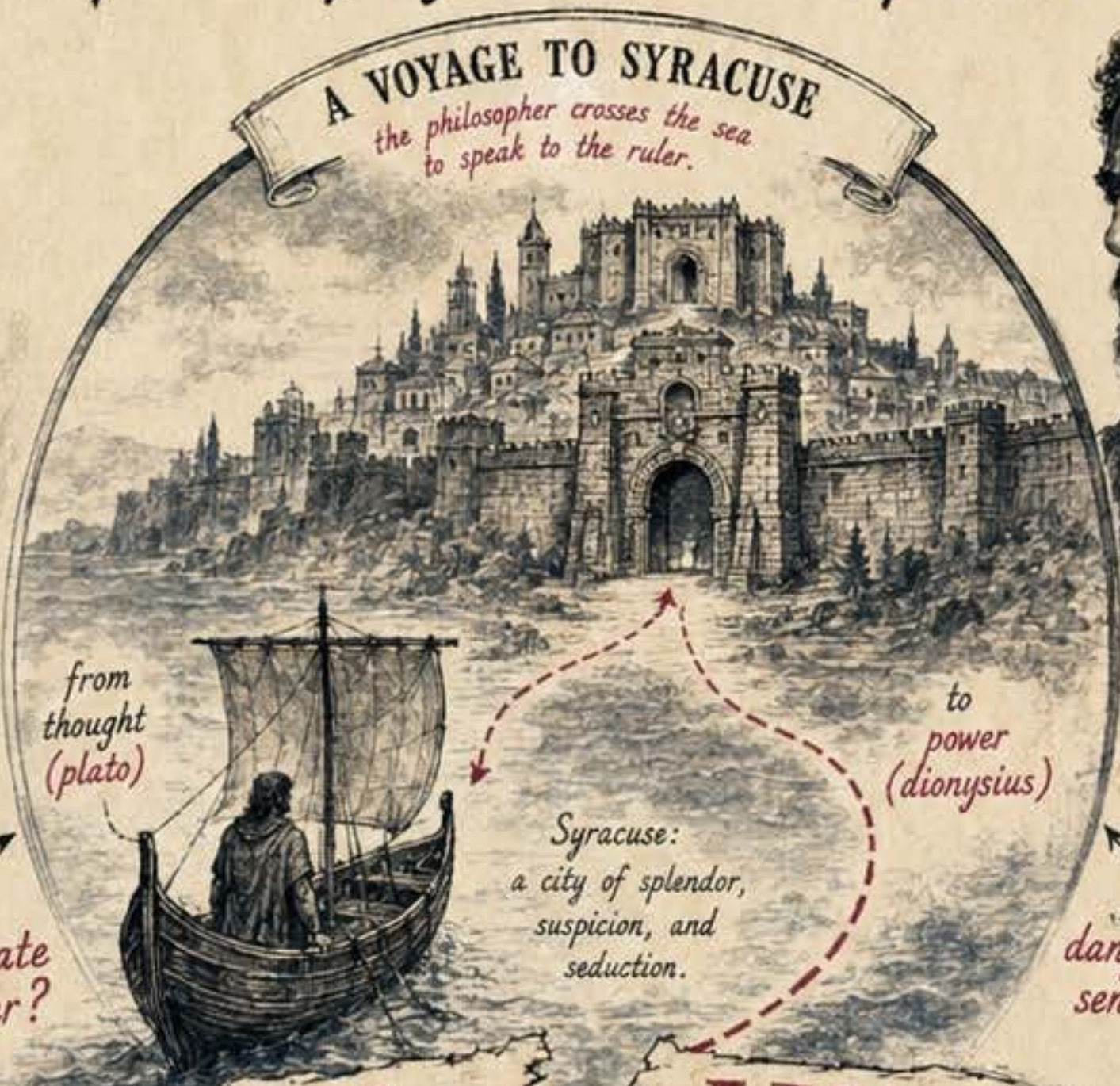


DION (PLATO)

- philosopher of the Good
- seeker of justice
- believes wisdom can heal the city

HE GOES WITH GIFTS—
NOT GOLD, BUT WORDS.

- dialectic
- mathematics
- music
- the idea of the Good
- the just city



DIONYSIUS OF SYRACUSE

- ruler, builder, warrior
- loves glory, fears rivals
- craves immortality through control

dangerous sending.

educate power?

Syracuse:
a city of splendor,
suspicion, and
seduction.

DIA- LYSIS

teaching separates from transformation.

WHAT HE HOPED:
that reason might civilize desire,
and the soul of the ruler might turn toward justice.

wolf's lair:
a place of retreat,
observation,
and waiting for the right moment.



In every palace,
a shadow listens.



"Those who are most difficult to rule are those who wish to rule others."
—Plato, Letter VII
The city does not yield to argument when power has no ears.



The court flatters.
The soul remembers.

THREE NAMES, ONE QUESTION		
DION the man who seeks understanding.	DIONYSIUS the man who holds power.	DIONYSUS the god who undoes borders.
Can philosophy speak to power without being consumed by the frenzy it seeks to heal?		

LESSONS FROM THE MISSION

- * Philosophy risks itself to speak to power.
- * Power often hears what flatters.
- * True change is not taught—it is suffered, lived, or awakened.

Not all cities are ready.
Not all rulers are teachable.
Not all teachers return.



A PRACTICE in PORTRAIT THEORY, CRITICAL LITERACY,
& WILD COMMUNING.
Keep it open. Keep it plural. Keep it becoming.



SOME DOORS SHOULD NOT BE ENTERED TWICE.



not a system.
a map.
use it.
remake it.

THEORY • LITERATURE • TECHNOLOGY • BODY • HISTORY • *WILD THOUGHT*

PORTRAIT
THEORY
ZINE
#4 of 8

PLATO'S WOLF-MAN

reduction and amplification

"The
city is full
of wolves
wearing reason
as a mask."
—night
proverb

one wolf?
several
wolves?

PLATO / FREUD REDUCE

The wolf is tamed,
named, and put to work.
Instinct is put on a leash.
The beast becomes
function.

Form. Idea. Logos.
Civilization.
Law. Order. Duty.

Id. Ego. Superego.
Repression.
The return of the
repressed.

reduced, but
never gone.
it *waits...*

BLOODLINES OF THE WOLF-MAN

- Pastoral & Predator
- Shepherd & Slayer
- Citizen & Outlaw
- Father & Beast
- Law & Wild
- Reason & Howl
- Man & More-than-man

Against total
systems.
For partial
attentions.



≠
safety?
or
silence?

GUARDIAN
BECOMES
PREDATOR

NIETZSCHE / D&G AMPLIFY

The wolf is not a lack
but a becoming.
Multiplicity. Instinct.
Difference. Desire.
Pack. Rhythm. War.

The wolf packs.
It howls.
It creates.
It overflows.
It *lives*.

DERRIDA CHANNELS

The beast is not
outside the text—
it writes, erases,
and re-signs.
Sovereign.
Untamable.
Unfinished.
The trace howls.

THE AMPLIFICATION MACHINE

multiply it
intensify it
release it
become it
≠

chaos?
or
creation?

The wolf-man is not a metaphor.
He is the fissure where thought becomes flesh.
We do not get rid of the wolf.
We negotiate, channel, amplify, and answer.
We learn to live in the pack that thinks.

NIGHT NOTE
Listen in the city.
Under pavement,
under policy,
under the language—
pack-song.
Always.

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not a system.
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remake it.

THEORY • LITERATURE • TECHNOLOGY • BODY • HISTORY • *WILD THOUGHT*

PORTRAIT
THEORY
ZINE
#5 of 8

GOING TO SYRACUSE

the philosopher's temptation

"There are
no safe voyages
to Syracuse."
— P.L.

DEPARTURE:

- ☐ books
- ☐ questions
- ☐ ambition
- ☐ naiveté

THE CALL OF POWER—
NOT AS ANSWER,
BUT AS *TEST*.

ARRIVAL:

- ☐ Syracuse
- ☐ court
- ☐ danger
- ☐ opportunity

A city
where thought
is invited—
until it
isn't.

A VOYAGE OF QUESTIONING

A PATH OF NEGOTIATION

A LINEAGE OF THINKING WITH POWER
NOT A STRAIGHT LINE—A TENSIONED CHAIN



PLATO

(c. 427–347 BCE)

THE IDEAL CITY

Justice as order.
The philosopher
as ruler?



ARISTOTLE

(384–322 BCE)

THE PRACTICAL CITY

Politics is the
art of the possible.
Man is a political
animal.



SENECA

(c. 4 BCE – 65 CE)

*THE COURTIER'S
CONSCIENCE*

Live in the court,
do not belong
to it.



MACHIAVELLI

(1469–1527)

*THE TECHNICIAN
OF POWER*

It is better to be
feared than loved—
if you must be
one, be feared.



HEGEL

(1770–1831)

*THE MIND OF THE
STATE*

The real is rational,
the rational
is real.

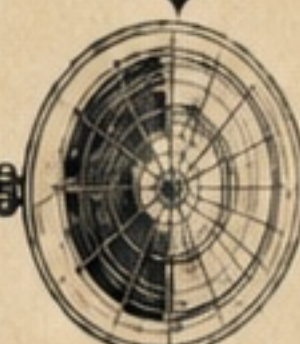


HEIDEGGER

(1889–1976)

*THE QUESTION OF
BEING*

What is the
meaning of Being
when power
forgets Being?



**CRITICAL
THEORY**

(20th–21st c.)

*SUSPICION AS
PRACTICE*

Power is not neutral.
The task: critique,
refuse, transform.



ACCESS IS
NOT TRANSFORMATION.



To be granted entry
is not to be
changed.
Do not mistake
proximity for
participation.

OPENING OR
APPARATUS?



Is the invitation
a door to truth
or a machine
that captures
and converts
questions?

PHILOSOPHY
WEARS POWER.

Power tempts
to speak.
Philosophy
tempts to be
useful.
*Beware the
beautiful
compromise.*



SYRACUSE
AS TROPE.



Syracuse is not only
a place.
It is any site where
thought meets
sovereignty.

LONDON WATCHES.

In the fog, ideas
have teeth.



Even
across
the water.

HITLER'S WOLF'S LAIR.

A bunker in the forests
of East Prussia,
where power hid,
removing itself
from responsibility
while commanding
devastation.
(1941–1944)



EAST PRUSSIA
(now Poland/
Russia)

THE JOURNEY IS NOT ESCAPE,
BUT EDUCATION IN RISK.

Keep it open. Keep it plural. Keep it becoming.

SOME NIGHTS,
THE WOLF
HOWLS IN
PHILOSOPHY'S
NAME.





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THEORY • LITERATURE • TECHNOLOGY • BODY • HISTORY • *WILD THOUGHT*

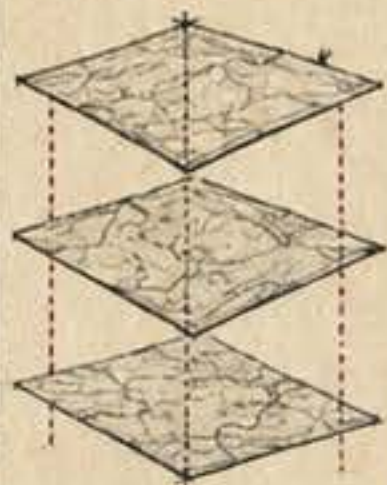
PORTRAIT
THEORY
ZINE
#6 of 8

ITHACA / SYRACUSE / LONGHOUSE

classical topoi, settler maps

READ THE MAP
AS PALIMPSEST.

Layers of name,
dispossession,
persistence.
All still here.



THE SETTLER MAP
BRINGS SYRACUSE
HERE.

CLASSICAL NAMES
ON
HAUDENOSAUNEE
LAND.



LAKE ONTARIO

Oswego R.

SYRACUSE

Oneida Lake

HAUDENOSAUNEE
TERRITORY

Cayuga Lake

Seneca Lake

THE
FINGER LAKES

ITHACA

This is Onondaga
homeland.
We are guests.
Not the origin story.
The ongoing story.

LAYERED CLAIMS

- colonial state borders
- 19th-c. survey grid
- classical topoi
- ~~~~~ Haudenosaunee territories
- waterways & relations
- >>>> movement, trade, kinship

SUSQUEHANNOCK
TERRITORY

LONGHOUSE LOGIC:
RELATIONAL.
DURABLE.
A PLACE TO THINK
TOGETHER.

PLACE NOTES

- Onondaga Nation
- Cayuga Nation
- Seneca Nation
- Oneida Nation
- Mohawk Nation

One People.
Many Nations.
Always here.
Still here.

MAP.
NOT OWNERSHIP.
ORIENTATION.
RELATION.



6

LONDON
TEACHES:
EMPIRES BUILD
BRIDGES.
STORIES BUILD
WORLDS.

REGIONAL DASEIN.

We are of this place,
with its waters, peoples,
histories, and futures.
Care as our dwelling.

MAP IS PRACTICE.

- learn the land
- learn the histories
- name the erasures
- imagine otherwise
- act together



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THEORY • LITERATURE • TECHNOLOGY • **BODY** • HISTORY • **WILD THOUGHT**

PORTRAIT
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#7 of 8

THE BODY

GOES TO SYRACUSE

school, norm, subject

"A school
is a machine
that produces
compliant bodies
and legible
subjects."
—F.

NORMAL
IS A
CURRICULUM

the animal
is always
at the edge
of the hall.



Check in.
Check your
body at
the desk.

TRAINED
Posture

MONITORED
Breath

MEASURED
Growth

REGULATED
Desire

CORRECTED
Difference

DOCUMENTED
Behavior

NATURALIZED
Habits

THE BODY AS FILE.
THE SUBJECT AS CASE.
THE CLASSROOM AS LAB.

FIELD NOTES

- ☒ The body is schooled before it is taught.
- ☒ Norms are written on skin.
- ☒ The classroom is a border.
- ☒ There are always other worlds.

TODAY:
BECOMING
A SUBJECT

- Sit still.
- Speak when called.
- Know your place.
- Love your nation.
- Repeat.

The lesson is
not knowledge.
It is adjustment.
The test is not
truth. It is
conformity.
— W.W.



Stamps
make
nations.
Nations
make
norms.

KEY CONCEPTS

Foucault:
discipline + biopolitics



Power works
through bodies,
not just laws.

Butler:
performative subject
formation



We are
made by
repetition.

nation / nativity / nature



We inherit
stories we
didn't write.

Aaron Bird Bear
as counter-scene



Indigenous refusal.
Relational
becoming.

Against
total systems.
For partial
attentions.
Stay with
the process.

EDUCATION IS NOT NEUTRAL. **IT IS THE PRODUCTION OF SUBJECTS.**



Make strange.
Stay with the trouble.
Keep it becoming.

A TRANS-MEDIAL
LABORATORY
FOR PLURAL
DWELLING.





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PORTRAIT
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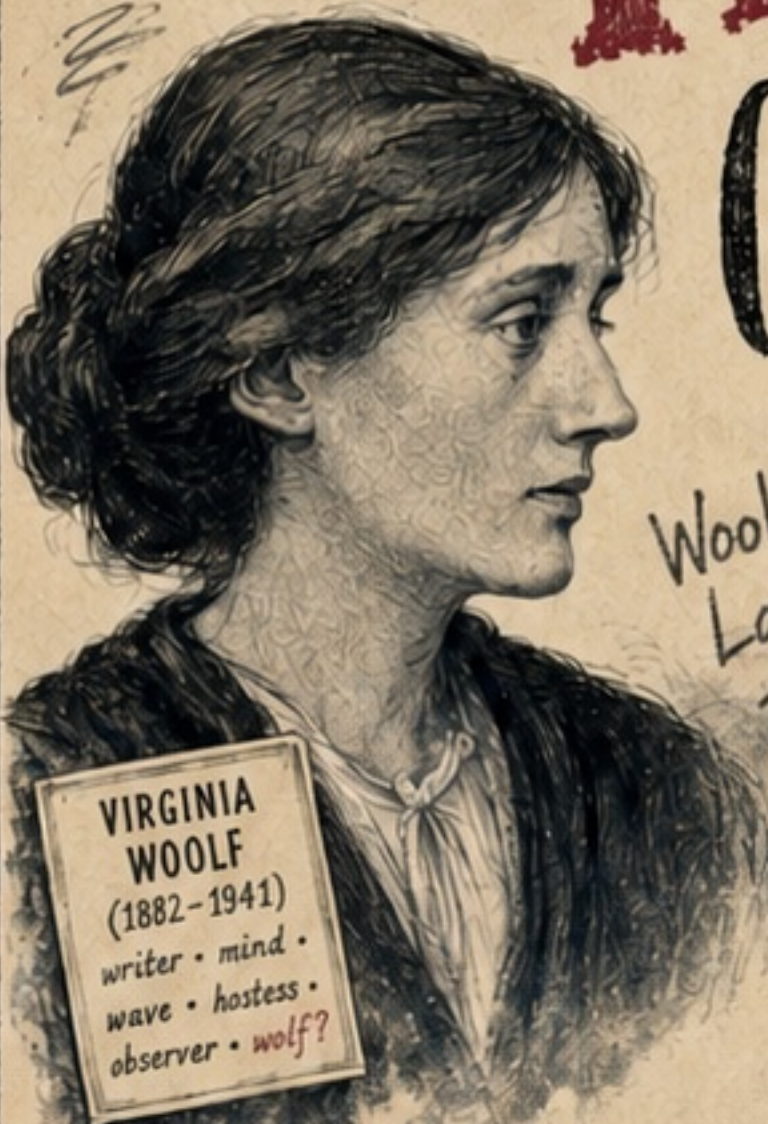
THE MACHINE GOES TO SYRACUSE

Woolfing the machine

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upon the
freedom of
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—V.W.

—V.W.

wolf-man:
not monster,
but method.
not other,
but another
way of
becoming.



VIRGINIA
WOOLF
(1882-1941)
writer • mind •
wave • hostess •
observer • *wolf?*

Woolf's
Lair

waves
remember
more than
maps.

portrait
is not face.
portrait
is interface.

input:
a life in
fragments,
a will
to make.

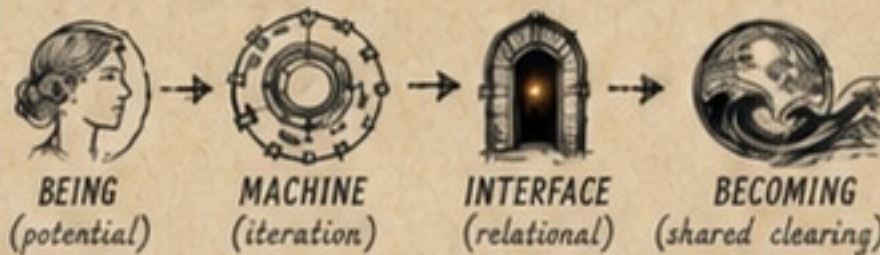
TO WOOLF IS TO WAVE:
a rhythm that thinks,
a passage that passes,
a shore that shifts.

MACHINE NOTES / MINI-MANIFESTO

- ★ *artificial stupidity*
— the machine forgets on purpose
to make room for attention.
- ★ *the interface of passing*
— between selves, between worlds,
between what is and what could be.
- ★ *witness / rehearsal / healing*
— portrait is not finish,
but practice toward freedom.
- ★ *the machine goes to Syracuse*
— the clearing is the curriculum;
Syracuse is the interface.

THE MACHINE GOES TO SYRACUSE.
Not to arrive — but to interface.

A PORTRAIT IS AN INTERFACE, NOT A FILE.



Syracuse is
not a place.
out there.
It is a clearing
we carry.

TOOLS ARE CLEARINGS.
PROTOCOLS ARE PATHS.
FRIENDS ARE PORTALS.
EXPERIMENTS ARE
RITES OF PASSAGE.

WE DO NOT USE THE MACHINE.
WE WOOLF IT.

*the philosopher goes to Syracuse; the map brings Syracuse here;
the school installs Syracuse in the body; the machine turns Syracuse into an interface.*

THIS IS A MAP.
NOT A DOGMA.



sketch
the
future.

PORTRAIT THEORY ZINE
ISSUE 8 OF 8 — FINIS • BACK COVER



Keep it open.
Keep it plural.
Keep it becoming.

A TRANSMEDIAL LABORATORY
FOR PLURAL DWELLING.
MAKE. SHARE. CARE MORE.
PASS IT ON.

