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water.under

J. R. Carpenter
independent author

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Note on the Text

In “Towards an Ontology of Media” Friedrich Kittler observes that in articulating water and air as ‘betweens’, Aristotle turned the common Greek preposition – *metaxú*, between – into a philosophical concept: *tò metaxú*, the medium. Between “absence and presence, farness and nearness, being and soul, there exists no nothing any more, but a mediatic relation” (Kittler 2009: 26). “water.under” emerges from a large web-based work called “Etheric Ocean” which reflects on the mediatic relation of human bodies and underwater sounds within the vast medium of ocean. This concrete text was produced by copying a line from a PDF of a performance script based on “Etheric Ocean” and pasting it into an email. Rather than seeing the resulting text as an inconsequential error or even a happy accident I see it as a perfectly logical outcome of an iterative and performative writing process, and a transcript of a failure to communicate between mediums as disparate as land mammals, computers, and oceans. A version of this text was performed in Dartington, Devon (UK) as part of The South West Poetry Tour (August 2016) in collaboration with S J Fowler. The video of the performance is available here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJdBccXYmEo>

J. R. Carpenter (2014) “Etheric Ocean,” commissioned by *Electronic Voice Phenomena*, Liverpool & London, UK: Mercy & Penned in the Margins. Available at: <http://luckysoap.com/ethericocean>

J. R. CARPENTER is a Canadian-born UK-based artist, writer, performer, researcher, and maker of maps, zines, books, poetry, short fiction, long fiction, nonfiction, and non-linear, intertextual, hypermedia, and computer-generated narratives. Her web-based work has been exhibited, published, performed, and presented in journals, galleries, museums, and festivals around the world. She is a winner of the CBC Quebec Writing Competition (2003 & 2005), the QWF Carte Blanche Quebec Award (2008), the Expozine Alternative Press Award for Best English Book (2008), and the Dot Award for Digital Literature (2015). <http://luckysoap.com>