

## Lightness of touch

Natasha Matila-Smith

A response to *Salome Tanuvasa: A feeling of; a sensation of* at Page Galleries, Te-Whanganui-a-Tara (1 – 22 December 2022).

Morning stomachache, boyfriend's long-sleeve cotton shirt, cool-ness, aching, eyes bright, sleep, bad skin, no shoes, cars swish on wet roads, a flag dances, lights still on, coffee grinds hit the rubbish bin from underneath, familiar, trees, people keeping on, floating, hitting the pavement, blinking red man, soft tread like on cotton wool, indicator left, bus, lil bit anxious

The willow tree in Cambridge reminded me of the talking bush by the urupa

Panting, plural, a group saying 'hurry along', be calm, it's a gift

The exhale from the grass, dry and long, reaching up

Walking in an encroaching heat at Wysing

The slow release of a sting on the pinnacle of my foot

The pinnacle of success for this ghost wasp

It hurt like a motherfucker, made me limp

I took it as a sign of acceptance

From the Lady of the Forest

Might've been a curse

I belong to her now

Something about the place is familiar

## CLOUD PAINTING AGAIN

Red, blood, period, angry, orange, sunset, sunrise, warm, glow, brown, sticky, mud, sludge, black, line, smoke, angry, cloud, woosh, whisper, furious, seeping, appearing, apparition, curl, curve, circular, cyclic, sweet, mist, smoke, again, overarching, a pair, together, two, tumultuous, relationship, turning, sickly, a television, a pairing, two in the same, blood, runs, together, together.

Graphite~Wrought Iron~Mopboard Black~Onyx~Tricorn  
Black~Peppercorn~Nightfall~Ebony Field~Soot~Iron Ore~The  
Moors~Swamp~Torture~Cast Iron~A Heaviness~Book Made of Human  
Skin~Accused~Barbaric~I Keep Thinking That I Love You~Medieval  
Times~Executions~Eight pounds each~Lego Sculptures~Scotch Eggs~Scones with Clotted  
Cream~I Feel Anxious Being Away From You Here~It's OK you just went to Marks &  
Spencer

Softly spoken sun, oscillating branches

May 8th, 2021



Serious Gray  
Smoky blue  
Solitude  
Breathless  
Duck Egg Blue  
Forecast  
Neutral Bay  
Regent Grey  
Raven  
Shuttle Grey  
Rhino  
High Tide  
Coast  
Blue Night

Craggy . precipitous . rocky . rugged . stony . asperous . broken . cragged  
Retreat / withdraw / retire / pull back / seek refuge

## MUSTARD HEARTS

Picking away at hearts, one by one

Lollies, people

Yellow, mustard, happy, airy, lightly, floating, pulsing, clamoring, steaming, stream, heart, love to you, aroha, it's coming, popping out, custard, candy, popcorn, butter, sense of relief, happiness, daffodil

*she comes in colours everywhere, she combs her hair, she's like a rainbow*

Gold, bouquet, champagne, chandelier, hello, apricot, sunbeam, almond, bumblebee, buzzy bee, naples, buttercream, dandy lion, lemonade, lemon, pecan, thor, sol, raincoat, moon

Safety yellow, crayola yellow, light yellow, light yellow 1, light yellow 2, light yellow 3, light yellow 4, bold yellow, bright yellow, clear yellow, classic yellow, vivid yellow, golden poppy, goldfinch, grapefruit, tangerine yellow, mango, pale peach, corn, corn harvest, creamy corn, cornsilk, glazed corn

In Berlin, I was terrified of wasps, so I ate inside. I took a mental health day because I knew we were going to eat outside and I didn't want to get stung by a wasp, aggravated by the barrier between me and my lunch.

I'm going to Waikanae for Christmas. Beachside Blue-Green. Batch Chipped Teal. Dingy Public Tin Shed Toilets Charcoal. Tent Damp Floor Navy. Blow up Bed Plastic Blue. Mosquito Black. Sand Yellow. Sand in Hair Yellow. Sandy Crotch Brown. [I had this dream last night. I had a full 70s bush. What a strange thing to dream about. Sleeping on the Grass Green.] Breathing in the Air Gloss Finish. Pohutukawa Kirihimete Red. Pinecone Brown. Battered Fish and Chips Beige-Yellow. Getting Stung by a Bee Pink. I've Never Been to Waikanae Clear Finish.

## PINK SQUIGGLE

I've known Salome for over a decade. Such a kind and tender-hearted soul.

On our last day of Masters we went to the asian food court under Queen Street for curried prawns and rice. I felt quite happy, quite content, relieved. We took a selfie and I smiled the widest smile. I don't really like my smile but I liked that one. It felt real and genuine.

Now we catch up when we can, usually at Xian for hand-pulled noodles, the number 38 dish to be specific. Sometimes Amy (Weng) also comes. It's our little friendship ritual. We talk about our lives, most of the time we bitch about things.

MERRY / DESIRE / CHERRY / FUSSY / GYPSY / PUSSY / CORAL / FUSCHIA / PROM / PRETTY IN PINK / HEARTTHROB / HOT / DRAGON FRUIT / PANACHE / PARTY / VIVACIOUS / LUST / FEVERISH / POSITIVE / DARING / FRENCH ROSE / LIGHT AMETHYST / LIGHT ROSE / MISTFLOWER / MOSS PHLOX / ORCHID SMOKE / PEONY PINK / PINK RAPTURE / RASPBERRY CREAM / ROSE ASH LIGHT / WILD PLUM LIGHT / CHERRY GLOW / CHIC PINK / CREME DE VIOLETTE / BUBBLE GUM / MAGENTA

I love the prom dress that the sister wears in *10 Things I Hate About You*. A pavlova pink taffeta and tulle floofy skirt with a cropped saturated-fuschia satin top. I was a teenager when that movie came out. My nana made me a long taffeta purple skirt and I paired it with this one sided silver top from Pagani. I recall doing some kind of futuristic makeup thing that I asked my friend's Mum to do. It was like a combination of silver and purple. She had just finished a course in Make Up Artistry.

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Pink is love, sure

Meat juice running on the wooden chopping board

Attempting to make it look presentable on the plate, like on Masterchef

You have to let it rest, let it breathe

Or else

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flushed skin, nude flesh (but not all people look this way of course)