



Mermaids

ECL 305: Literature and the Environment

Fall 2025. Professor Pressman

Day 20: Gabrielle Tesfaye, *The Water will carry us home* (2018)

Undergrad in an ECL class?
Drop in for free tutoring from
ECL's Writing Fellow!

DROP-IN WRITING TUTORING

Raine Porath
Office AL 232

Wed. 11:00pm – 2:00pm
Thurs. 2:00pm – 4:00pm

No appointment needed!



More extra credit



**Making Zines
and Memes**

A DIY Publishing Workshop
in collaboration with SDSU Zine Club

Thursday, **11/13**
2:00-3:00pm
in the **Digital Humanities Center**
(Bottom of the Dome)

Featuring
digital+physical
publishing tools

You have ideas.
Do you know how to
bring them to life?

Making Zines and Memes

A DIY Publishing Tools Workshop

Thu, Nov 13 2:00-3:00pm

Learn how to publish your own work using both physical and digital tools! Attendees will get to experiment with different tools and techniques for creating, publishing, and distributing their own zines, memes, and other short-form art and literature.

In collaboration with the SDSU Zine Club

ADMIN

- Revision deadline 11/9
- Essay 2 deadline 11/16
- No class on Tuesday- Veteran's day
- Next Thursday- continue with "The Water will Carry us Home" and Walcott poem

Peer Review of thesis statement

- What is the insight?
 - WHAT- What text is being discussed?
 - HOW- What aspect of the text?
 - What is the argument or relevance of this insight? WHY/ SO WHAT

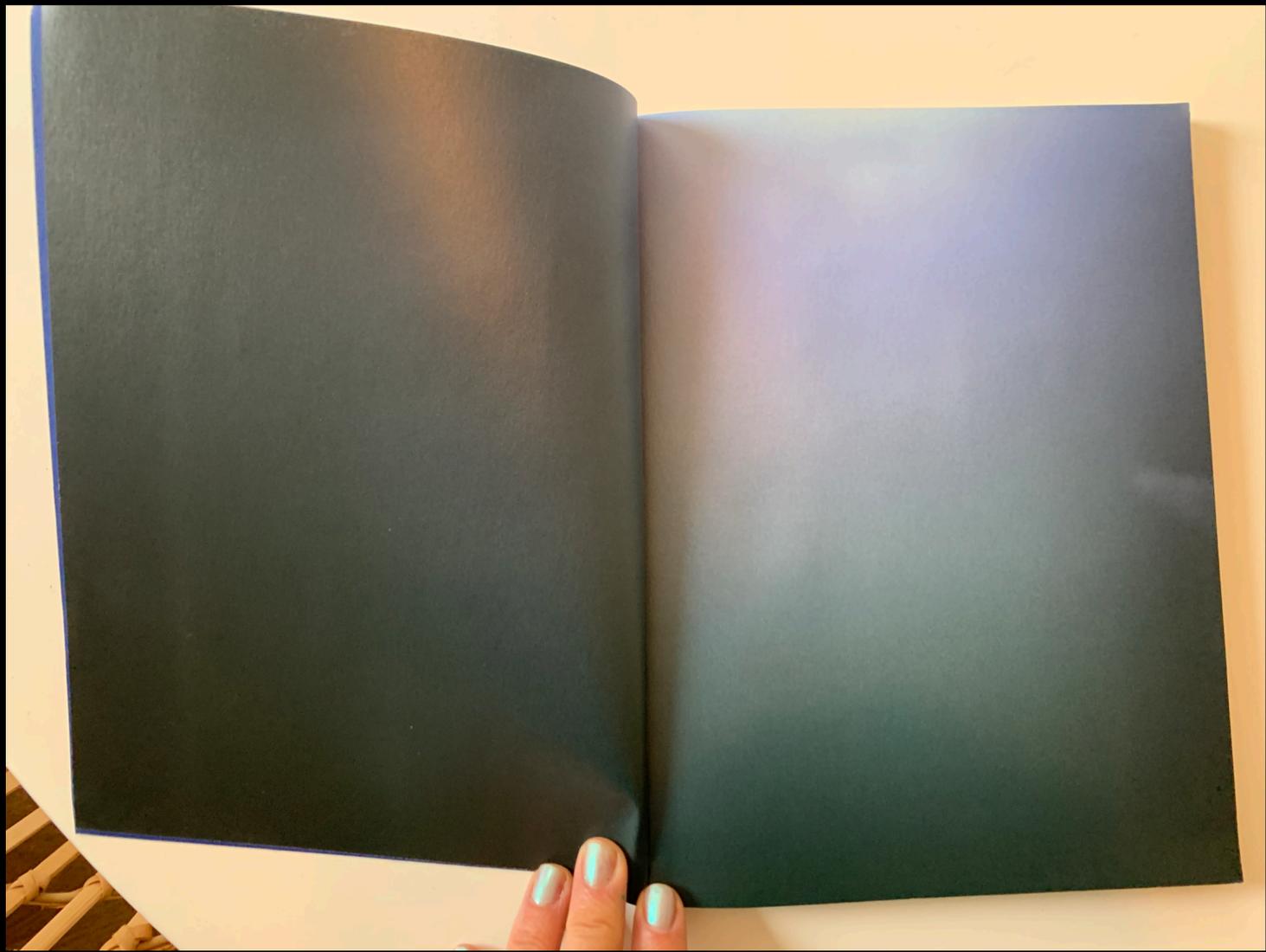
SIRENOMELIA

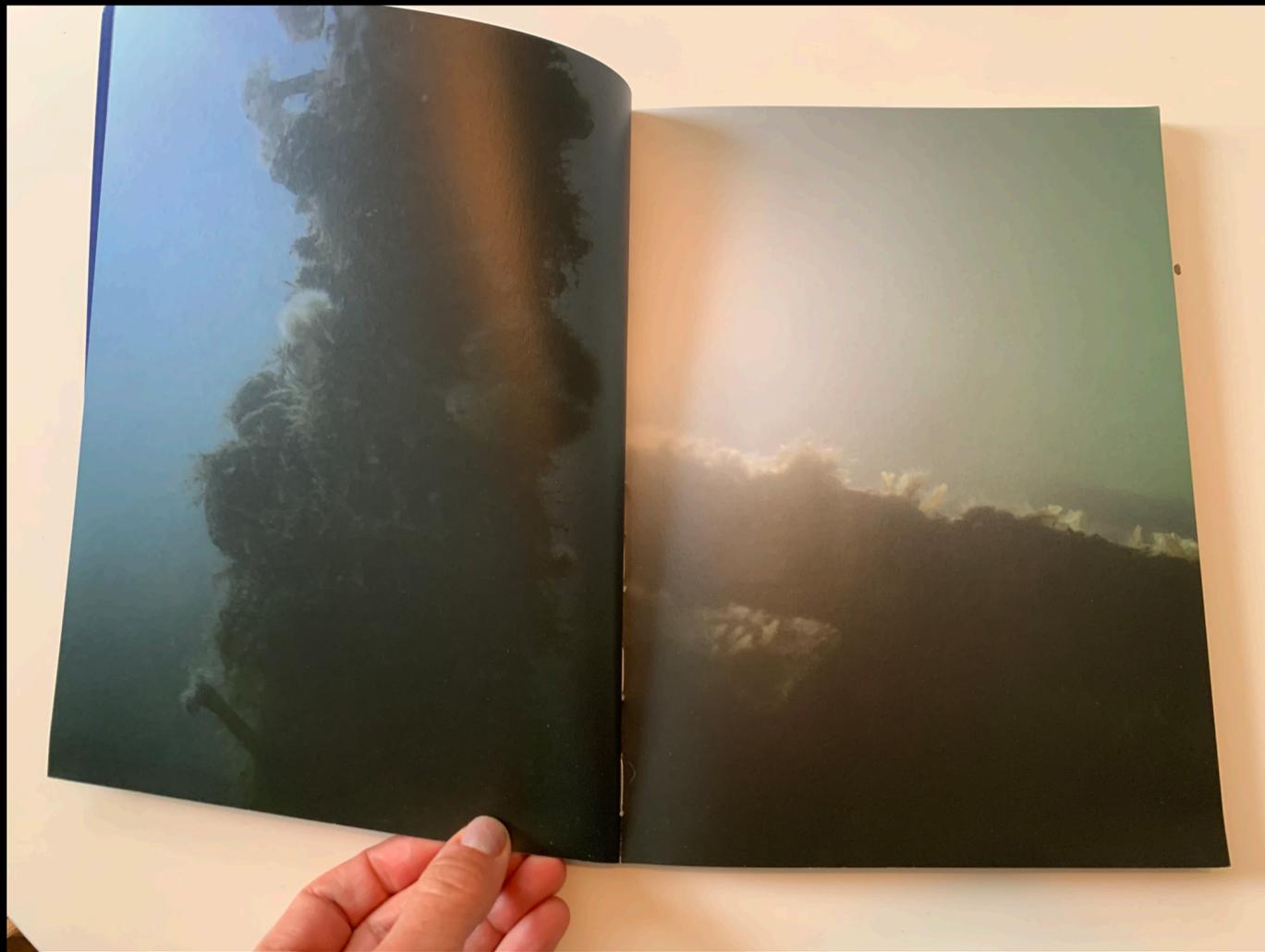


SternbergPress ✨

EMILIJĄ ŠKARNULYTĖ

Edited by Andrew Berardini
Contributions by Andrew Berardini, Sir Roger Penrose, Nadim Samman, Alison Sperling
• Sternberg Press, May 2021







Discussion

- Remaining points from *Sirenomelia*?

Discussion

- What does this film add to our learning, discussion, process?

Gabrielle Tesfaye

Gabrielle Tesfaye is an interdisciplinary artist versed in painting, animation, film, and design. **Her work is rooted in responding to cultural heritage preservation through the intersections of art, tech, traditional craft and storytelling. Her multicultural roots of Jamaica, India and Tigray echoes itself in her mixed media approach to art making and cross-cultural content.**

Tesfaye's background in film started at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, and continued at Mahidol University International College in Bangkok, Thailand...

—<http://www.gabrielletesfaye.com/about>



Discussion

- What did you think?
- What do you want to discuss?



2018

From your blogs- ocean as archive

- HAHNNAH: This short film helps further the idea that water tells a story; it's something that encapsulates all of its own history. The mermaid in this story gave the lost people a sense of purpose and another chance at life. Almost like the water was their escape, it gave them a newfound freedom, as well as a place where they could feel they belonged.

From your blogs- reclaiming

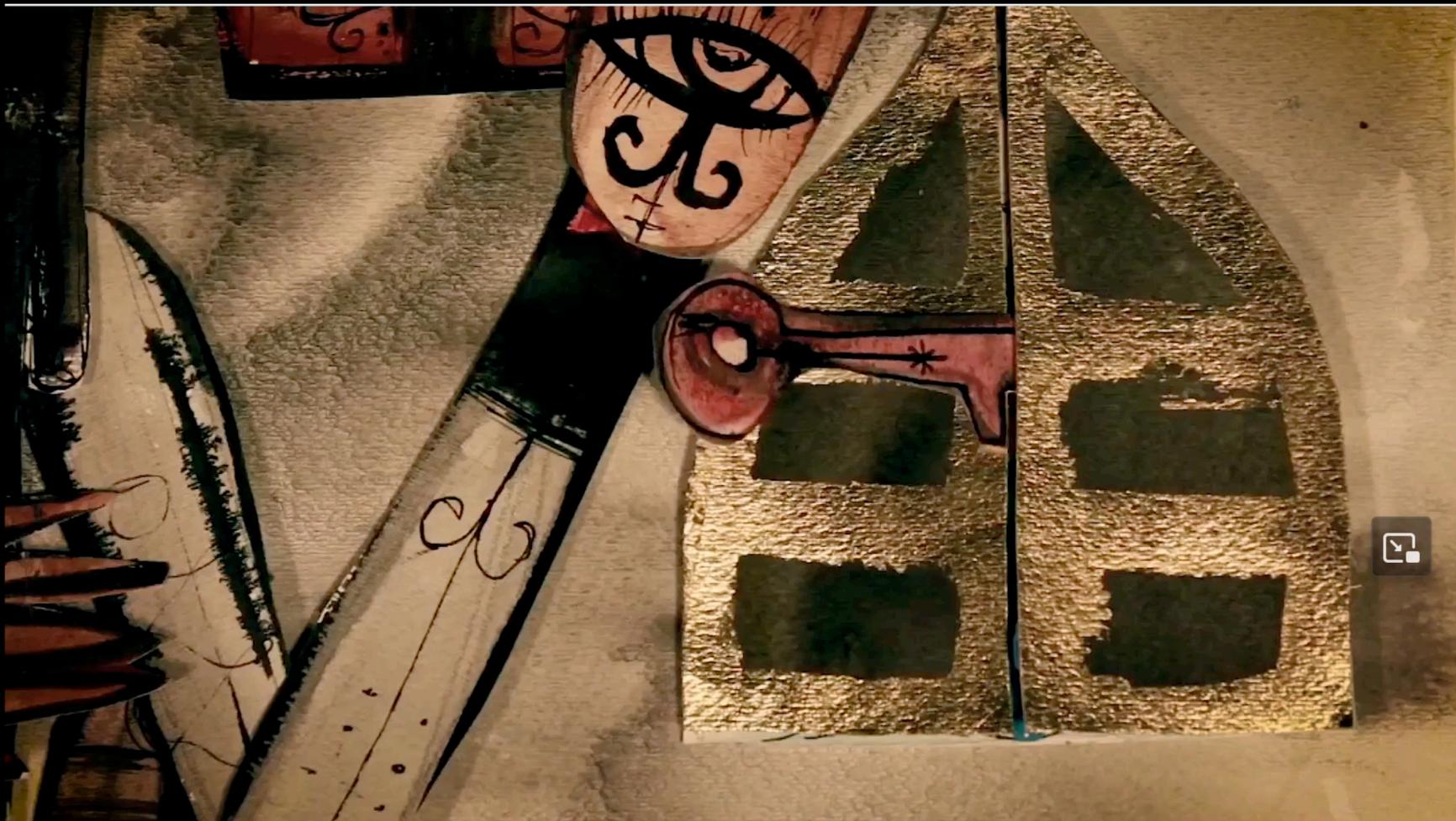
- ASHLEY: In “The Water Will Carry Us Home” Gabrielle Tesfaye re-gifts life to women who were left for dead in the Middle Passage. She re-gifts them life when she transforms them into mermaids, but she also re-gifts them life by telling their stories. ...Tesfaye not only reclaims history but she reclaims mermaids. |

From your blogs— bookends

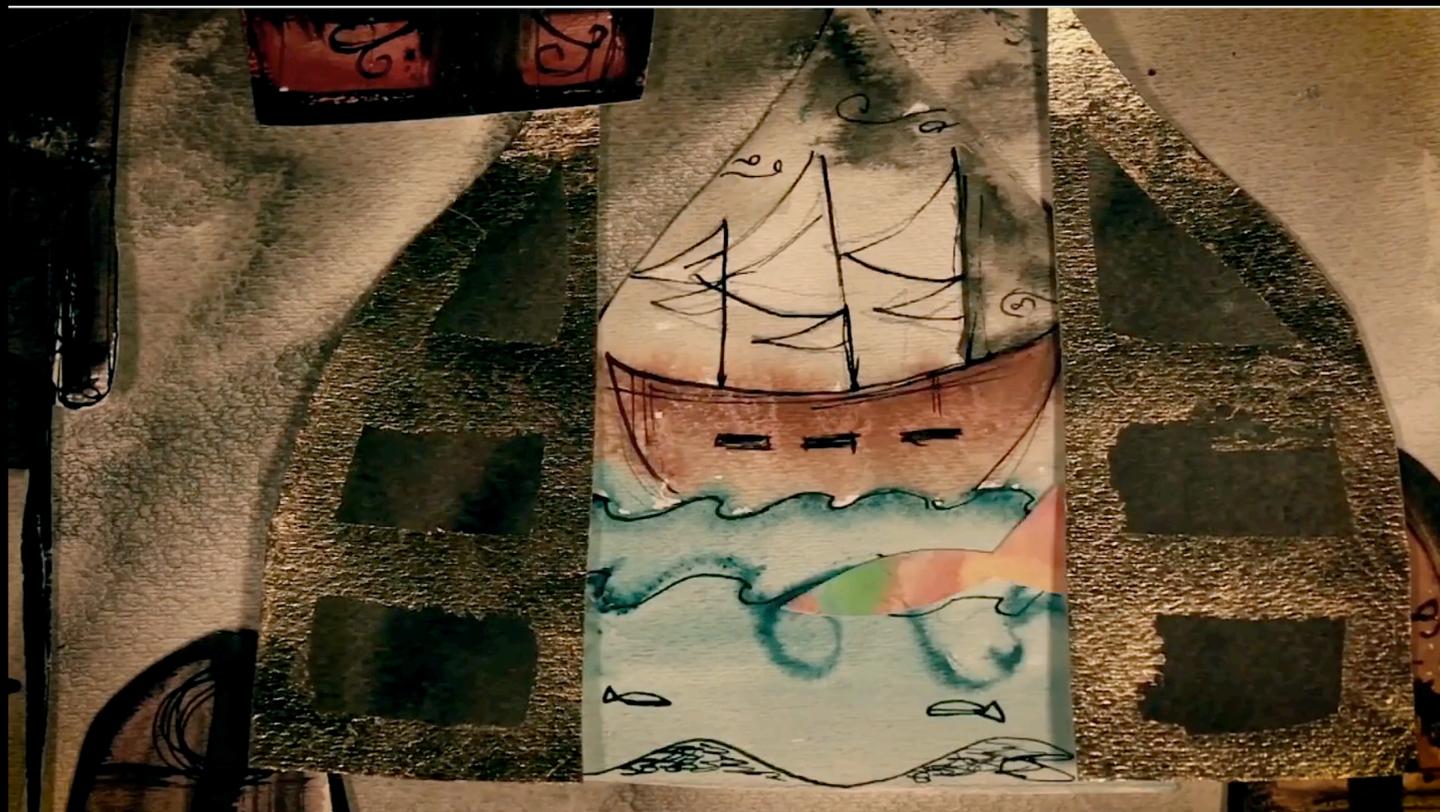
- MELISSA: Tesfaye bookends this vision depicted in paintings and stop-motion with filming herself in spiritual practice, adding not only that there is a terrestrial remembrance but shifting the images away from the imagined images and grounding it in a reality that this happened to real people.

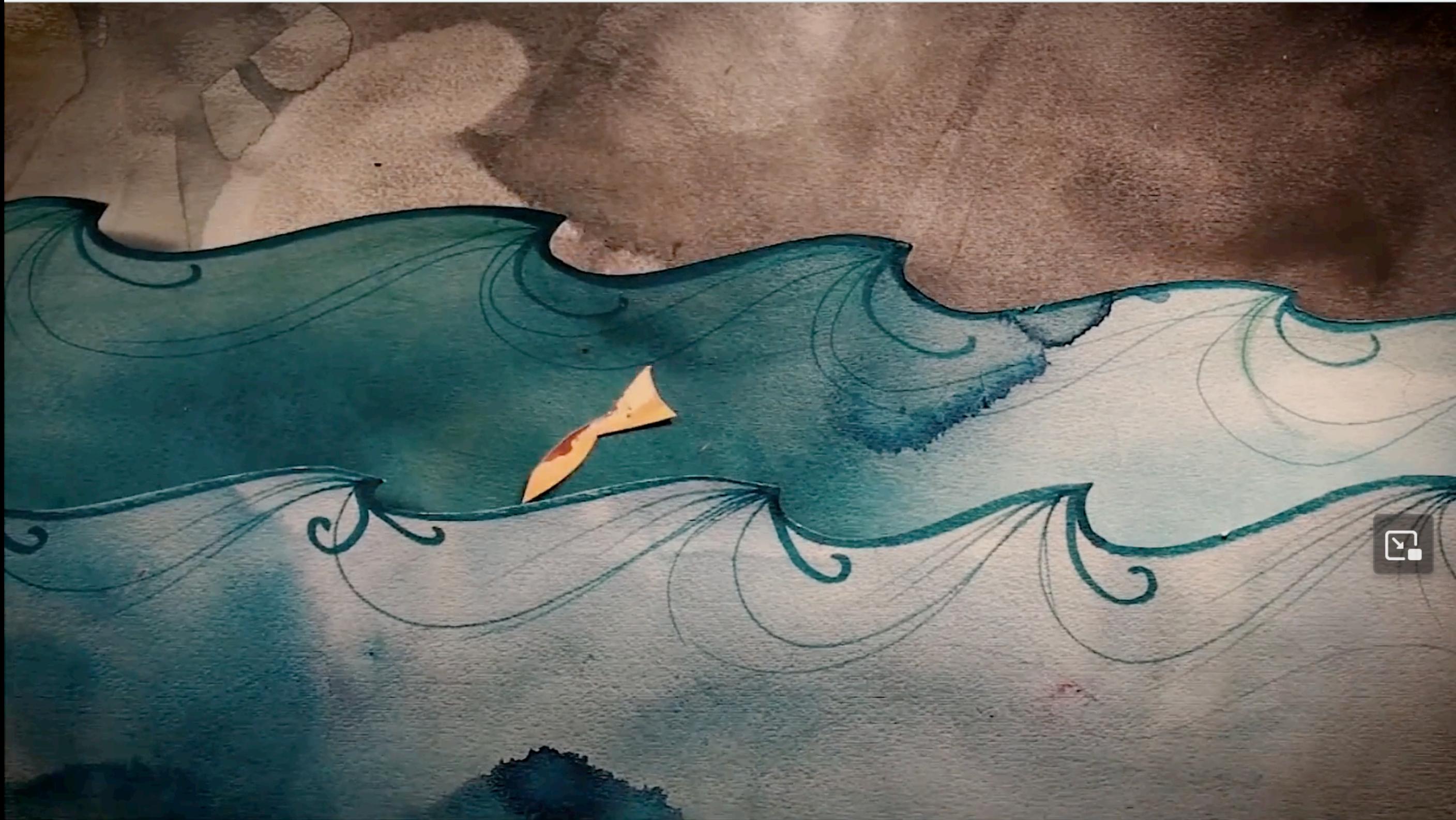
...The Water Spirit Omambala
brought us here . The Water
Spirit Omambala will carry us
home."

1:23

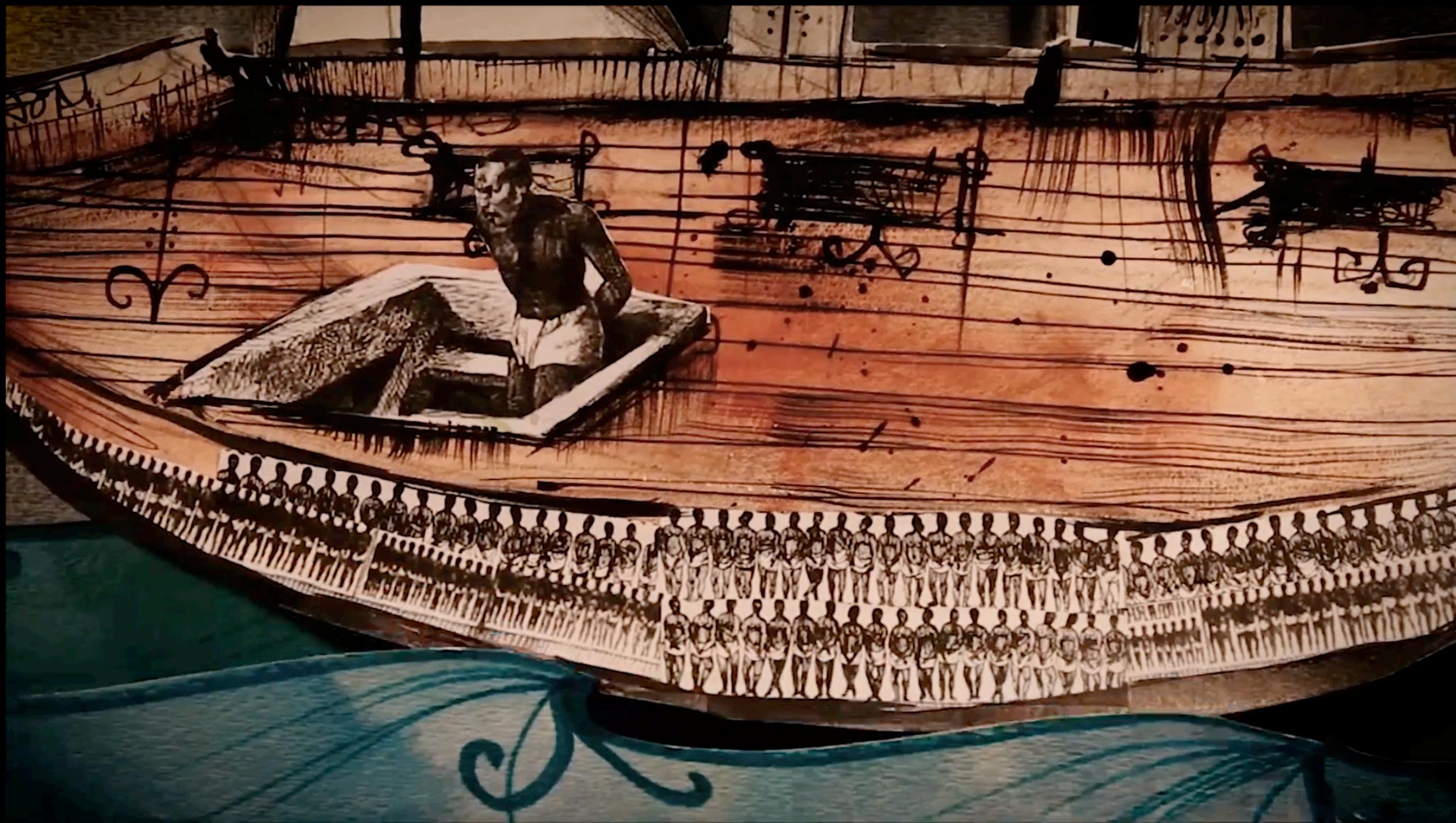


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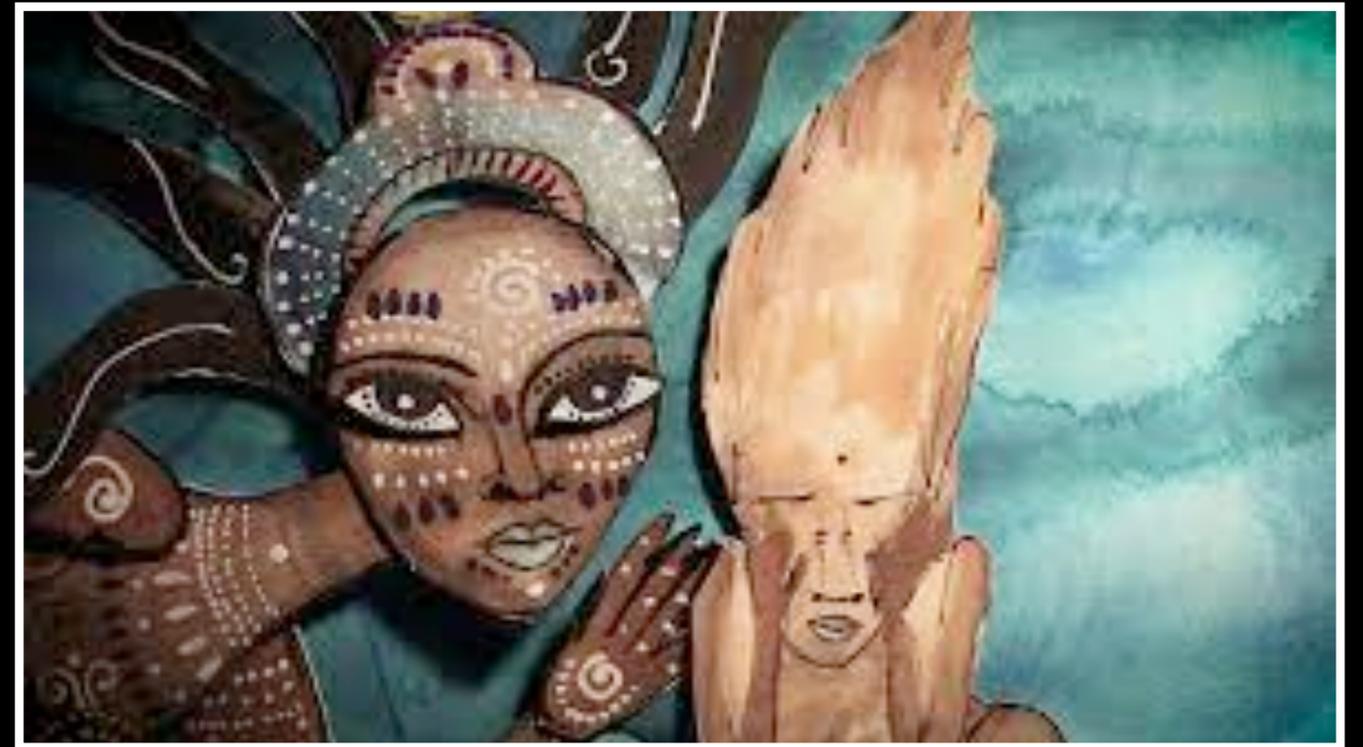




• 2:28



Q: Why the medium and aesthetics?



Drexylia myth. Clipping



• 4:29



• 5:17



• 5:49

Discussion

- What does this film add to our learning, discussion, process?