**Acknowledgements**

Martin Howse

The porous rock towers of Tenerife exposed the first spinal landscape ... clinker-like rock towers suspended above the silent swamp.

In the mirror of this swamp there are no reflections. Time makes no concessions.

William S. Burroughs, *preface to J.G. Ballard’s The Atrocity Exhibition* (1970).

Becoming Geological functions as a manual for a new relation of the human with the earth and with the cosmos, invoking becoming metal, becoming earth and becoming cosmic as potential and multiple ways of being and as active philosophies of the earth; a guide for how to live and die within new planetary and cosmic techno-cycles.

This divinatory guide has its roots and veins in the lustrous earths and waters of the Tiny Mining community, a mineral exploration collective committed to the open source exploitation of the interior of the human body for rare earth resources. Primary pharmaceutical research in the early, vaporous phases was offered up by Ioana Vreme Moser, alongside essential inspiration and conversation as part of the Shift Register project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, and based at the Critical Media Lab, Basel.

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In November 2020, a small group of community users took part in the first remote sweatshop dedicated to the foundation of experimental and meditative protocols, improvement of extractive yields, facilitation of testing procedures and the construction of alternative belief systems towards the adoption of Tiny Mining as a widespread cultural practice. A singular metal or element was assigned to each sweatshop participant for reflection and extraction. The equally indispensible community members taking part in this internal retreat were: Theun Karelse, Dennis de Bel, Kat Austen, Martin Howse, Aniara Rodado and Alfonso Borragan. An EPUB, also produced by V2\_ with thanks to Joke Brouwer, was unveiled in 2022, offering up theoretical reflections and documentation arising from this foundational sweatshop. Some of this material is presented in a new format here, and I would like to thank Alice Cannava and all the authors involved.

In her inspirational text, reflecting on this metallic retreat, and printed in this work, *Tiny Mining: Theory of the earth from a sweatshop – on practising becoming cosmic*, Agneiska Anna Wołodźko first cast open the confines of infra-mining, to embrace the multiple becomings of the geological: becoming as metal, becoming cosmic, becoming (of the) earth, becoming contaminated, becoming (with) filth and dirt, becoming mineral and, finally, the becoming body of the geological itself with which we all begin.

Becoming Geological thus marks, traces and unfolds these multiple routings and cycles of becoming, both in these pages and within the framework of a major exhibition at V2\_, Rotterdam in 2022 featuring new and foundational artistic projects which interrogate and reflect on the close connections between planetary, cosmic and earthy bodies and imaginations. I am indebted to the multiple becoming-strata of all artists, writers and theorists involved in this publication, for their extended shiny veins of dendritic and mineral exploration, and to the many inspirations and conversations arising from these workings; conversations and becomings which future readers, those other strata and multiply connected articulations, are invited to continue in less sedimentary veins, to acknowledge the little mines which we are all, and towards all these becomings.

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