

# SOIL Matris{x}

#SoilMatrix

#FeministSonicTechnologies

>> ang lupa ay matris the soil is a matrix malaki ang ginagampanan ng mga kababaihan sa pagtanggol ng lupa laban sa pasismo ng estado at sa pagbawi nito mula sa mga mapang-aping panginoong maylupa women play a huge role in defending land from state fascism and reclaiming it from oppressive land-owning elite ginagawa nila ito sa pamamagitan ng bungkalan they do this through bungkalan or militant occupation and cultivation of agricultural idle lands to meet their needs for the sake of food security and sovereignty ang mga kababaihang magsasaka ay pwersa ng produksyon women farmers are a force of production ang lupa ay matris the soil is a matrix the soil is a womb the soil is a matrix <<

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**LUPANG RAMOS** (“Ramos Land”) is a 372-hectare piece of agricultural land in Cavite province, Philippines. During the Spanish colonial period, it was converted into friar land held by the church, before Americans seized it during the time of their colony thereafter, when it became known as “*Lupang Kano*” or “American Land.”

In 1965, the land was bought by tycoon Emerito Ramos, who opened it to sugarcane contractors in order to skirt around the government’s land reform program at the time. Despite the persistent land-grabbing in the area, farmer communities who have lived there since time immemorial have fought against oppressive forces for their right to till and enrich the land. Theirs is a struggle for food security and sovereignty.

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“Today, because of bogus agrarian reforms, farmers of Lupang Ramos continue to face threats of displacement from the lands they till, particularly from the notorious joint ventures of landgrabber Ayala Land. Their struggle is one of the countless similar stories that landless peasants experience because the country remains a neocolony.”

(Garcia, 2021)

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soil matrix statement (WIP)
The soil is the first womb. When mothers touch the soil with their bare hands,
from a dry seed,,nourished by her kindred spirits, the essential nurturer sources--solar,
hydro, wind-- softening softening,,,,, life emerges

When an external violent force intervenes this intimate and mutual network of biodynamics
<<mother-land>>, the soil is poisoned.

Whole generations starve.

The solution is already happening. Mothers risk life and limb for offspring . . . in turn,
naturally defend the space where they raise all offspring -- single- to multi-cellular
alike. By defending, they take back control.

OCCUPY OCCUPY OCCUPY OCCUPY OCCUPY
<<Sovereignty before Sustainability>>

"LAND is LIFE" ; land is home to mutual cooperative ecosystems and entire Social networks.

[crimes against land are crimes against sexuality ;; humanity]

Soil contains our data. <<blood/sweat>> Earth knows our historical truths.

RESTORE          RESTORE          RESTORE
Memory(culture) by LISTENING to stories of the soil

STRUGGLE STRUGGLE STRUGGLE TAKE BACK STRUGGLE STRUGGLE STRUGGLE STRUGGLE
;;;: we are OF the soil
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sOIL MAtRis{x} : [Lupang Ramos] : This sonic piece contains the voice of Miriam Villanueva, a woman leader of KASAMA-LR (translation: *Association of Legitimate Farmers and Citizens of Lupang Ramos*) narrating from her heart the ancestral land's rich history of struggle.





>> **Artist's statement [Alyana Cabral, 2021]**

I consider this track an exercise in memory-keeping since it was borne out of a desire to document and archive the ongoing land struggle in the country, through voices of women. The Philippines remains a semi-colonial and semi-feudal state, which means that land-related oppression is still very rampant, especially in the countryside. Listening to stories of women farmers and learning from them is a crucial avenue in strengthening our connection as a people and in working together to overcome food insecurity and reclaim our control of the land from state violence and oppression.

Throughout immersions in farming communities, I've developed a practice of keeping field recordings. I record interviews with women leaders and community organizers, amid an audio backdrop of trees, wind, animals, and other natural elements in fields of crops and rice, as well as sounds of harvesting, cutting grass, skinning beans, and other processes involved in production.

Women play an important role not only in production in the field, but also in defending their communities from military or police forces who are in cahoots with landgrabbers and "developers." I wanted to capture their essence and their militancy through their stories and their voices.

This track "Lupang Ramos" is only the first of an ongoing series of sonic collages of voices of fighting women. Their struggle is ours.

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References:

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Photos: Geela Garcia

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