

Tinashe Mushakavanhu

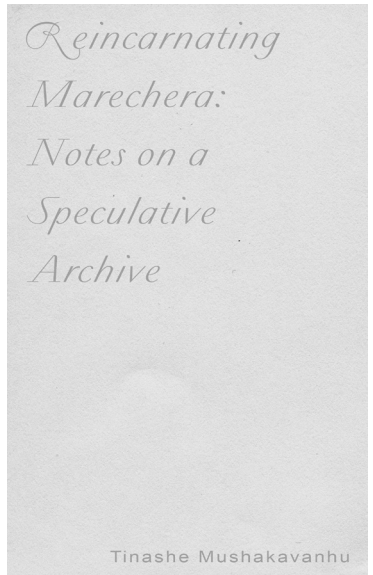
Reincarnating Marechera: Notes on a Speculative Archive

Dambudzo Marechera's death on August 18, 1987 is an event that remains unremarked. In *Reincarnating Marechera: Notes on a Speculative Archive*, Mushakavanhu interprets this event as a moment of radical praxis in the Zimbabwean imaginary, mining three overlapping archives—Marechera's own writings, his historical and theoretical legacy, and an imaginative archive that responds creatively to gaps in the first two. Here, Mushakavanhu also explores the affective relationship between a critic and his object of study, grappling with the transit between the historical archive and the critical present. In doing so, through text and image, the book is a revelation of countless ruptures and of the inexhaustibility of documenting a mercurial subject like Marechera.

Dambudzo's province is that of the imagination and I have allowed my own to make a parallel journey, the result being that Reincarnating Marechera moves back and forth across the hazy frontier between fact and fiction, between a writer's life and his art. This book is my own scratching. The fragmentary style is a result of it having been cobbled together from a variety of sources. It's a rearranging of furniture. A re-reading of a writer's archive.



Tinashe Mushakavanhu is a Zimbabwean writer, scholar, and founding partner of Black Chalk & Co., a fugitive creative agency that operates between Harare and Richmond, VA. His most recent publication is *Some Writers Can Give You Two Heartbeats* (Black Chalk & Co.). He has also co-edited *Visa Stories: Experiences Between Law and Migration* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing) and *State of the Nation: Contemporary Zimbabwean Poetry* (The Conversation Paperpress). He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER) at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.



Saddle-stitched pamphlet
Essay, Criticism | \$12
5" x 8" | 64 pp.
ISBN: 978-1-946433-60-2
2020 Pamphlet Series

Distribution:
Small Press Distribution

Release Date: July 15, 2020

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