

Revered
EARTH



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Catalogue Design:
Katherine Dougherty Norskog
and Julius Friedman

Printing: Starline, Albuquerque,
New Mexico

ISBN 0-929762-02-9

This catalogue has been printed on recycled paper with the exception of the pages for the color plates.

Published by
Center for Contemporary Arts
of Santa Fe
291 East Barcelona Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505/982-1338

HELEN MAYER HARRISON
& NEWTON HARRISON

The world of soil is bizarre.
Communication is chemical and physical.
Worms are its giants.
Movement is slow.
Fungi move through it at rates measured in
centimeters per month.
Bacteria move through it at rates
measured in centimeters per year.

The world of soil is ancient and magical,
contradictory and complex.
Mostly solid and opaque to light, still it acts
as a sea to thousands of species that travel
through it horizontally and vertically.
It is the biological filter that detoxifies a
large proportion of the poisons that are
applied to the environment.

One gram of ordinary farmyard soil can
contain over one billion individual bacteria.
One gram of ordinary farmyard soil
can contain over 100 million individual
actinomyctes.
One gram of ordinary farmyard
soil can contain over one kilometer
of fungal hyphae.
One gram of ordinary farmyard soil can
contain plants like algae
And animals like collembolids,
nematodes and worms.

To sustain modern economies
Agricultural soils need to attain high levels
of organic matter and nutrients
But agricultural soils bring subtle changes
to the native soil ecosystems
And as the levels of both nutrients
and disturbance increase
The number of native species decrease.

Consider the dynamism of healthy soil
Consider that soil covers most of the land
surface of the planet
Consider that soil plays a fundamental role
in stabilizing the biosphere
Consider that new soil formation has been
arrested in many places.

Healthy soil is a living system
Healthy soil needs to interact with
the air and water
Healthy soil needs access to the products
of the plants and of other surface organisms

Therefore; tape this piece of paper on every
bulldozer you encounter.

**Much of the material in this particular statement is a
distillation and transformation
of work done in Australia by our friend the Sri Lankan
ecologist Ranil Senanayake.*

PLEASE

TAKE THIS EARTH
TO A PLACE WHERE
THE SOIL IS POOR

HOW WILL YOU KNOW
THE SOIL IS POOR

YOU WATER IT AND
NOT MUCH HAPPENS

YOU LEAVE IT ALONE
AND NOT MUCH
HAPPENS

FEED THIS EARTH TO
THIS PLACE WHERE YOU
FIND THAT THE SOIL IS
POOR

THANK YOU



7. Making Earth Again