

The artists would like to thank Michigan Tech's Copper Country Collections (from which the cover image of the strike of 1913 hails), Tom Wright and the Quincy Mine & Hoist Association of Hancock, Michigan, who permitted them to scan the Quincy hoist house, shaft house, and a section of mine shaft, in addition to other acts of generosity. Gratitude goes out as well to the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry and Mellon Collaborative Fellowship for Arts Practice and Scholarship, which enabled initial fieldwork in the Keweenaw Peninsula. And Jennifer Scappettone thanks the translators who lent their skills in traduction and voices to the seventh movement of this piece—the Pennies from Nether chorus: Demosthenes Agrafiotis and Eleni Stecopoulos, Alexis Almeida, Varda Avnisan, Simon Balderascreek, Berenika Boberska, Daniel Borzutsky, Ariel Brice, Brandon Brown, Brita Butler-Wall, Don Mee Choi, Francesca Chubb-Confer, Theo Clinkard, Dubravka Djuric, Rachel Galvin, Edgar Garcia, Marco Giovenale, Silvia Guslandi, May Huang, Aamer Nazih Ibraheem, Mark Jeffery, Chenxin Jiang, Matthew Johnson, Karri Kokko, Ersela Kripa, Román Luján, Iulia Militaru, Elina Minn, Feliz Lucia Molina and Frank Molina, Nathanaël, Maya Nguen, Sawako Nakayasu, Julia Pello, Jocelyn Saidenberg, Claudio Sansone, Marina Santos, Haun Saussy, Richard and Theresa Scappettone, Rossen Ventzislavov, and Lynn Xu.

LAMENT; *OR,* THE MINE HAS BEEN OPENED UP WELL



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COUNTERPATH GALLERY + PERFORMANCE SPACE
April 5, 2019–April 30, 2019

LAMENT; Or, The mine has been opened up well (2016-present)

Abraham Avnisan, Judd Morrissey, Jennifer Scappettone

Interactive augmented and virtual reality installation comprising poetry, documentary video and sound

With soundscape by Mark Booth

Running time 28:47

ACT I. NIGHT LETTER (4:05)

ACT II. THE HOIST (2:27)

ACT III. 3PENNY PROPERATES (2:33)

ACT IV. 1-M@N DR1LL (5:25)

ACT V. OVERBURDEN (2:29)

ACT VI. STEP DOWN, GODDESS OF LIBERTY; WORKERS RISE (4:23)

ACT VII. PENNIES FROM NETHER (6:34)

CODA (RUBBLE) (:51)

LAMENT; Or, The mine has been opened up well is an outtake of *SMOKEPENNY LYRICHORD HEAVENBRED*, a mixed-reality performance and installation work that excavates sites, histories, and languages of mining in a poetics of generative telegraphy, geophysical extraction, and the multilingual hauntings of forgotten laborers. *LAMENT* proposes a critical archaeology of contemporary network culture in response to the extraordinary material, political, and environmental legacies that make cloud computing possible. Hoisting virtual landscapes and augmented-reality textscapes datamined from boom, strike, and bust in the Upper Midwest's Copper Country and the Copper Belt of the American West, the piece explores the extraction, processing, and harnessing of copper as a conductor for sprawling networks of exploitation and control as well as illumination.

The libretto capitalizes on language from Moreing & Neal's *New General & Mining Telegraph Code* (1905 New York edition), and draws from global archives documenting the history of copper mining as a basis of modern telecommunications. Telegrams housed in Michigan Tech's Copper Country Historical Collections clarify the various ways in which the telegraph—whose copper cables provided the eventual foundation for the internet—was used to bridle the laborers who constituted the corporal infrastructure of that technology. Baroque code compounds store the brute links between bodies, metal, and the market, sometimes sanitizing, at other times proving grossly expressive. The riotous core of these texts is the great strike of 1913 at the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula, a bloody conflict provoked by the introduction of a hazardous economizing tool into the mines: the one-man compressed air drill.

Visitors are invited to explore this datascape by way of the iPad: swiveling and shaking the device will advance select movements of the libretto.

For a free electronic edition of the 3PENNY PROPERATES and 1-M@N DR1LL acts, please navigate to *SMOKEPENNY LYRICHORD HEAVENBRED: 2 ACTS* (Vancouver: The Elephants, 2018), at <https://theelephants.net/ephemera/smokepenny-lyrichord-heavenbred-two-acts>.