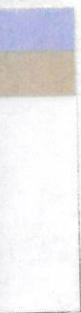
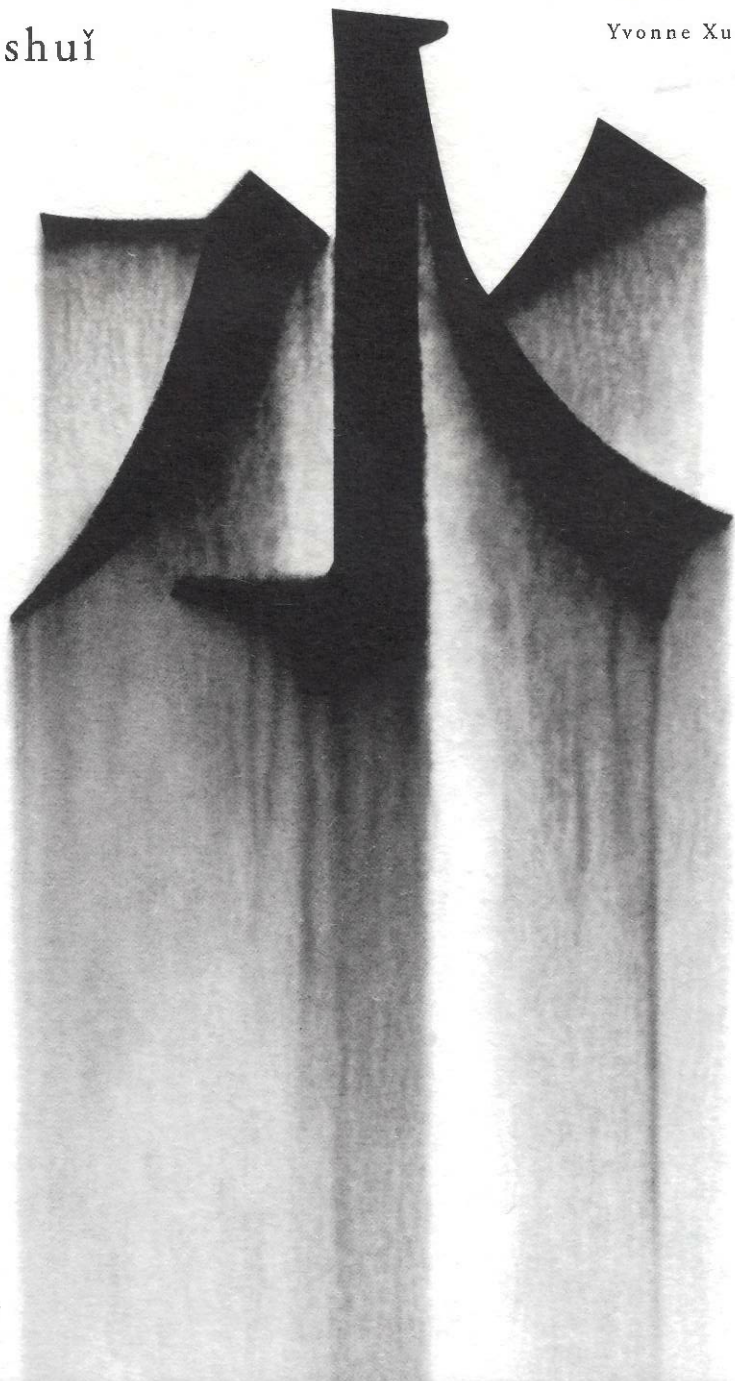


shuǐ

Yvonne Xu



shuǐ

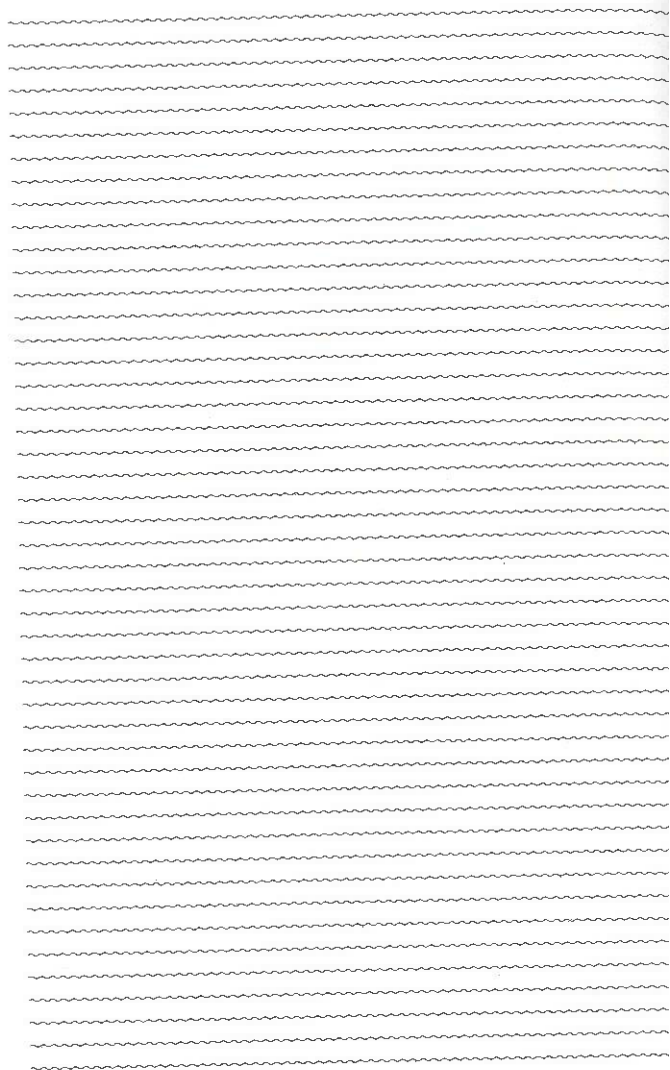
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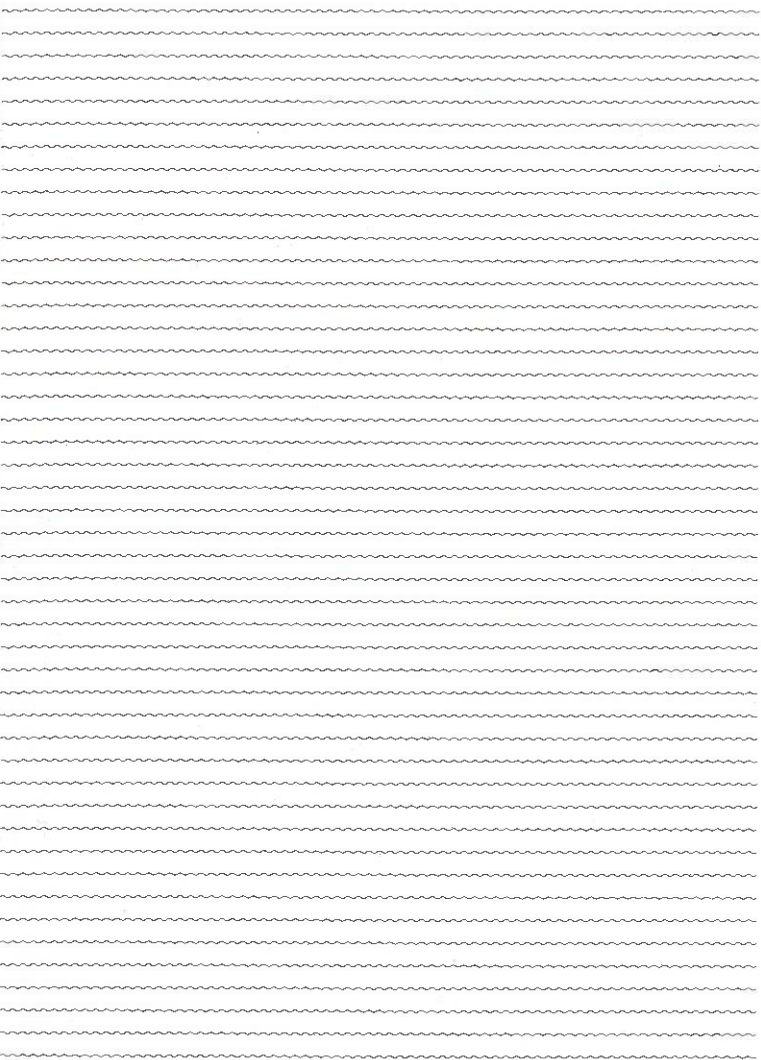


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| Foreword

Water is a verb. A noun.

We need it to survive.

It is

e v e r y w h e r e

and is as important as air.

It is formless and ageless. And practically

colourless,

tasteless, and

o d o u r l e s s .

Water gives life but

can also be a cause of death.

It can be *gentle*,

and **violent**.

It can *heal* and *rejuvenate*,

and **wear out** and **damage**.

It is ubiquitous and indispensable.

It is both the simplest and most complex thing on earth.

A substance that makes all life on earth possible.

Yet, most people don't think about water. It is something that we only think about when it is absent.

The most obvious things are often the hardest to see.

Water is exactly that.

Hidden in plain sight.

It is easy to know the things that we know,
and difficult to know the things we don't know
that we don't know.

In June 2022, an idea dawned on me: what if there was a space
to imagine the hidden possibilities of water and to

make the unknown known to more people?

A place to experience this visible but unseen substance
through all our senses:

touch,

taste,

smell,

sound and

sight.

As I thought more about the space, it became clear that we
first needed to start with a deep dive into water as a medium
and material. To examine the many ways that it has influenced
art, design, food, and culture.

It is with this deceptively simple yet complex task, that I turned to my friend and long-time collaborator, Yvonne Xu, to be the author of this book.

For over a decade, through the work that we do at Anonymous and A Design Film Festival, Yvonne has been an irreplaceable collaborator as a writer, researcher and thinker.

*She has an uncanny ability to make
the complex simple and to articulate ideas
in a way that is easily understood
and inspires action.*

In many ways, Yvonne is like water.

Adaptable.

Calm.

Clear.

Quiet.

Reflective.

Transparent.

Understated.

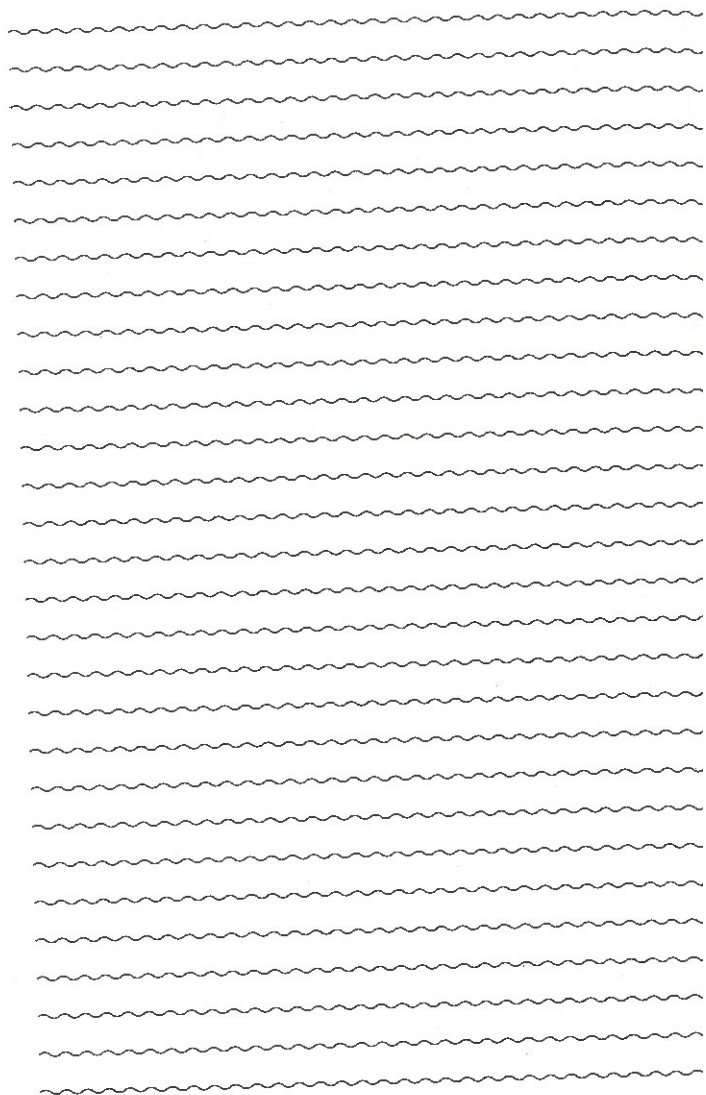
I am grateful to her for saying yes to writing this book (and also for not ignoring my calls and emails even after years of being agonized by my odd ideas).

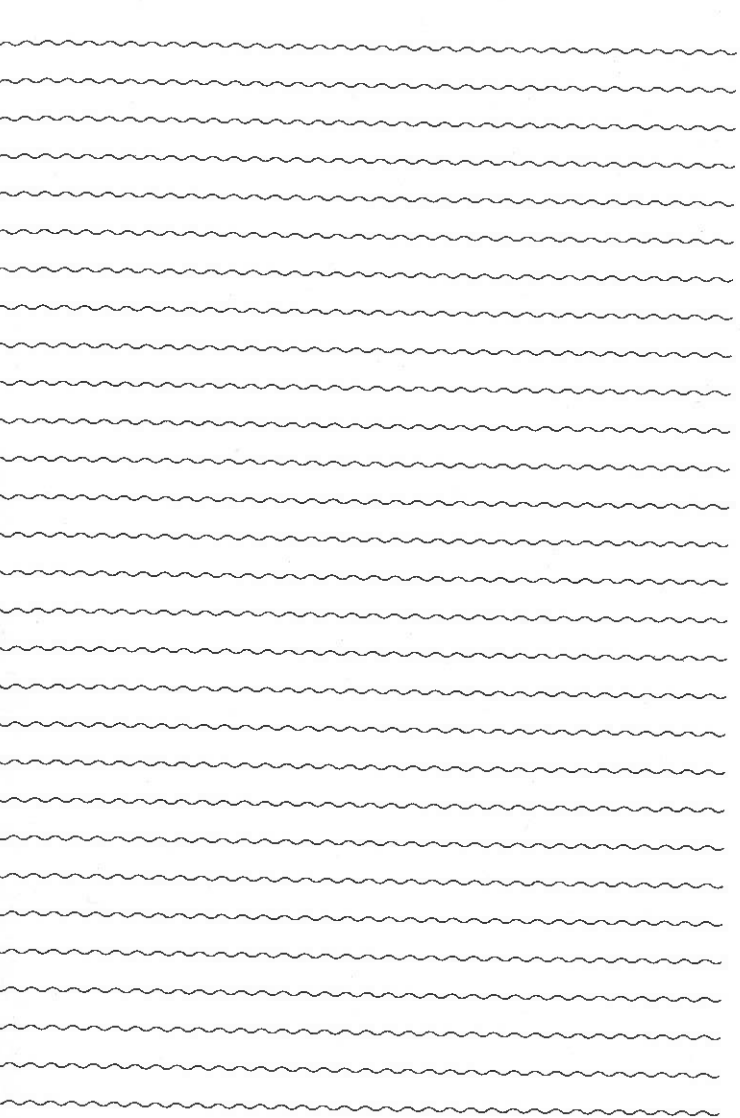
This isn't just a book about water.

It is about seeing beyond the obvious and ^{increasing} our awareness of how _{little} we know about the world.

My hope is that this book will offer you a new perspective of water. From something we don't think much about to a material and medium with new ~~hidden~~ possibilities.

Felix Ng (Anonymous)





波

Hearing is the first of the senses a foetus develops in the womb.

Around 12 days after conception,

amniotic fluid
starts to form
around the growing
foetus.

The fluid is simply called water.

Through it we hear the

lub-dub

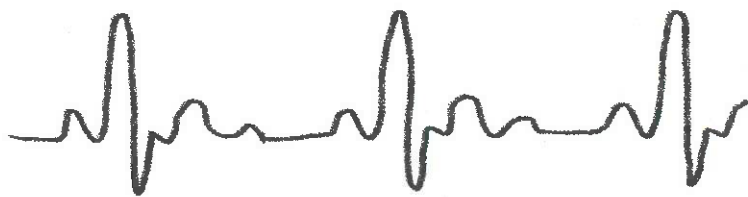
lub-dub

of our mother's heart,
and as our hearing further develops, we pick up sounds from
outside her body.

Our first perceptions of the world are

~~heard through water.~~

波





When asked

what is the
most important ingredient
in the kitchen,

I say

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~ water. ~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

— Heston Blumenthal

冻  
干

For four months each year, chef Andoni Luis Aduriz and his team close their restaurant Mugaritz

to

look for

challenges.

new

The focus of their experiments one year was water.

The team looked to see

what it can do as a

.....

.....

... ..culinary ingredient ... ..

.....

and

*technique.*

A freeze-dried crab was presented as  
one of that season's creations.

Aduriz explains:

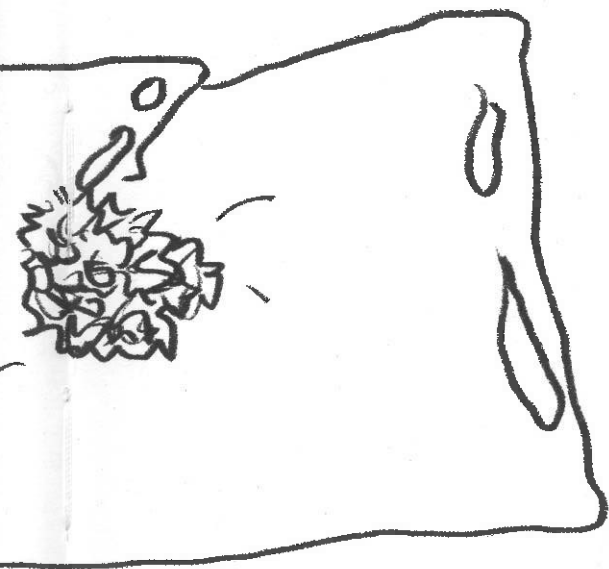
it is not water

but ~~absent water~~ that is the

ingredient of the dish.

冻  
干





饮  
水  
思  
源

yǐn shuǐ sī yuán



When you drink water,

remember the spring.

— Chinese proverb