



Surface Collection

Archaeological Travels in Southeast Asia

By Denis Byrne

"Exquisite and erudite, here Denis Byrne opens a new chapter in archaeological studies. Traces of the past are invested not just with their objective being, but a whole archaeology of feelings electrifies the relationships between the narrator, writing with Proustian sensitivity, the things of the world, which now have the dignity of major historical players, and you the reader, enchanted by a new way of thinking." —**Stephen Muecke, University of Technology, Sydney**

"In this spellbinding set of essays Byrne has successfully charted a new direction in writing archaeology and heritage. Surface Collection interweaves indigenous religion, politics and heritage ethics in innovative and provocative ways, bringing the unique materialities of Southeast Asia within the large framing of contemporary social archaeology. It is quite simply a tour de force." —**Lynn Meskell, Stanford University**

"In part travel book, in part heritage theory, in part a series of fascinating excursions into southeast Asian history, Surface Collection is a wonderful read, but also an important and thought-provoking contribution to the increasingly vital debates around public memory, political violence, and conflicted histories." —**Nicholas Thomas, University of Cambridge**

Written as a travelogue, *Surface Collection: Archaeological Travels in Southeast Asia* tackles the most pressing issues of cultural-heritage management in an engaging and accessible way. In each chapter the author makes the past relevant to the present through his encounters with archaeological sites. While the book's anecdotes are associated primarily with Thailand and Indonesia--from a decaying National Museum in Manila, to the search for traces of the thousands of Communists who were killed after an attempted coup in Bali, to the discovery of a bottle of perfume found among the personal effects of Indonesian ex-president Sukarno--they have broad international interest because of the issues they raise. These archaeological stories, again and again, remind us what history both remembers and conceals.

Contents: Prologue / Intramuros / Rice growing & Heritage / Traveling in Karangasem / Traces of 1965-66 / Shalimar & Sukarno / Spectral coastline / Vung Tau / The divine underground

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