

AN OCEAN APART

A project by Vivian Walman-Randall

“But she hadn’t realized that she would be, suddenly and irreversibly, at the will of primeval forces of nature, aboard a tiny boat in a huge, endless ocean.”

Introduction

My novel in progress, *An Ocean Apart*, is a story developed between two women across time. Through the temporally distant but thematically intersecting narratives of a pirate and a journalist, my novel explores the varieties in the female mind and the ever-changing perspectives about the sea and humanity’s relationship to it.

Influential Texts

***Prodigal Summer*, Barbara Kingsolver**

This novel has been influential in providing me with a model for how I want to intersect themes of femininity with nature, and also how to formulate a multi-part novel.

***Grasmere Journals*, Dorothy Wordsworth**

Dorothy Wordsworth is one of my favorite literary women, and her person has inspired my contemporary character. Her particular way of writing about nature has also been extremely formative for me.

Methodology

Historical/Stylistic Research

Study of a variety of texts to create a two-part annotated bibliography of my research.

Word-Count Goals

I have used tools like NanoWrimo to set daily word count goals which I strive to meet. At our weekly meetings, my mentor Alison reviews the pages I have written and discusses them with me

Plotting and Developing Narrative Structure

Using tools like Post-It notes, Scrivener and K.M. Weiland’s writing guides, I have worked to develop a structure for my novel.

Research Blog

Writing a research blog on my website helps me to organize my thoughts and explore new ideas. It also allows me to keep a record of my process.

Conclusion:

Up to this point I have written over 30,000 words of my manuscript, have an active website, and have completed an historical research paper on female pirates that will be published in the URCA Journal. I’ve also been able to isolate important texts that influence and inspire my work, and create a working annotated bibliography.

Future Implications:

The intention of this research project is to develop a novel alongside a collection of other scholarly and creative work in the form of essays, bibliographies, and blog posts, that will merge themes of feminism with environmental connection. The temporal element of this project attempts to break open our understanding of these topics from the present day to something more timeless and universal.