2015

Things Like Whale Noises

Stephanie Oesch
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/fishladder

Recommended Citation
Oesch, Stephanie (2015) "Things Like Whale Noises," Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing: Vol. 13 : Iss. 1 , Article 9. Available at: https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/fishladder/vol13/iss1/9

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.
Stephanie Oesch

Things Like Whale Noises

I’VE BEEN DEALING WITH THIS FAR LONGER THAN I CAN POSSIBLY TAKE.

Hi, it’s us.

We’ve been leaving messages on your answering machine since 4:17AM this morning.

One of them wasn’t actually us, don’t try and guess which.

THAT’S THE FEELING RIGHT THERE. THEY SAY THE OCEANS ARE GETTING LOUDER BUT I’VE BEEN DROWNING MYSELF THAT WAY FOR YEARS.

These are what we’ve titled the messages:
Answer your phone.
Answer your phone.
Please tell us that what they’re saying is wrong.
Answer your phone.

WHALES DROWN THINGS ALL THE TIME. NO ONE SAYS A DAMN THING.

“Answer your phone” originally appeared on We Just Talked To You Yesterday but in a markedly different version.
“Please tell us that what they’re saying is wrong”
takes place clutching the edge of the kitchen counter,
as your voice asks us to leave a message at the beep.

ONE TIME I HEARD THAT  
WHALES ARE THE SMARTEST  
OF ALL THE ANIMALS.

Hi.

ONE TIME I HEARD THAT  
WHEN ONE WHALE DIES  
THE OTHERS CALL  
OUT TO ITS BODY FOR HOURS.

It's us.