

## **spinifex scriptures**

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### **Abstract**

“spinifex scriptures” and “desert analysis” deconstruct through poetry and photography the post-colonial presence of Christian armour, and environmental desert rust – recycled through the economical chambers of abandonment.

**Keywords:** Poetry, Photography, Central Australia, Desert, Indigenous

## spinifex scriptures



Figure 1. Old Mt Allen Pastoral Lease

old testament

*desert\_story*

*desert\_sacred*

*desert\_our\_home*

*desert\_strong*

*desert\_food*

*desert\_plenty*

*desert\_songlines*

*desert\_survival*

new testament  
*motor\_car\_come*  
*motor\_car\_leak*  
*motor\_car\_stop*  
*motor\_car\_prickles<sup>1</sup>*  
*motor\_car\_burn*  
*motor\_car\_sleep*  
*motor\_car\_rust*  
*motor\_car\_steel*



Figure 2. Tanami Highway



Figure 3. Yuelamu 2



Figure 4. Titjikala 2



Figure 5. Yuelamu 3

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<sup>1</sup> Shattering of splintered glass



*Figure 6. Tanami Highway 2*



*Figure 7. Santa Teresa 3*



*Figure 8. Tanami Highway 3*



*Figure 9. Yuelamu 7*



## desert analysis

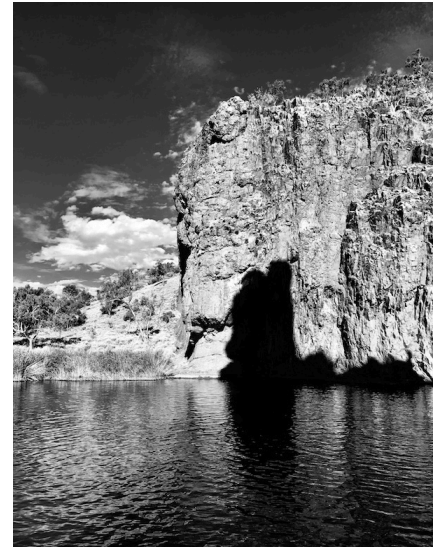


i  
moon paralysis  
empty skies  
departing sleep  
woman echoes  
combing moths  
one ocean at a time



ii

over there  
but not too distant  
swimming mountains  
speechless waters  
curlew climbs  
softly drowning  
high above  
ceramic clouds



iii

analogue tongues  
borrow at midnight  
moon awakens  
dust forsaken  
moonlight swells  
rivers recede



iv

woman escapes  
desert simmers  
beneath her stains  
inhaling salt  
twisting like seashells  
upon a boneless floor






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Brisbane-born **Yvette Henry Holt** heralds from the Bidjara, Yiman and Wakaman Nations of Queensland. A multi-award winning poet, academic, editor, and photographer of erotic desert votive imagery and landscape, she lives in the Central Deserts of remote Australia. Her debut poetry collection, *Anonymous Premonition* (UQP 2008), won the Queensland Premier David Unaipon Award 2005, Scanlon Prize for Poetry NSW 2008, Victorian Premier's Prize for Indigenous Writing 2008 and the RAKA Kate Challis Award 2010. In 2018 Yvette's poem, *mother's native tongue*, an ode to all who have a parent living with dementia, was Highly Commended for the Queensland Poetry Oodgeroo Noonuccal Prize. Yvette's expansive literary works have appeared nationally and internationally online and in print. She is the chairperson of the First Nations Australia Writers Network FNAWN.