

# Meditation on Pedagogy: (Un)Translating Jasper Ridge 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma

*AJ Naddaff*  
*Le 30 Mai, 2024*














**María Gloria Robalino Ceped** is architect and scholar working at the intersections of environmental literature, visual culture and gender studies (Department of Comparative Literature, Stanford),



“I have a longstanding interest in reservoirs, so I was struck the most to learn that the lake we saw at Jasper Ridge was a reservoir. The word “Reservoir” has an island-quality, as it feels heavily anachronic and disconnected from contemporary ecological discourse. The same is true for the word “Preserve,” with which it holds a strong semantic resonance, and is a word that is part of Jasper Ridge’s official name “The Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve.” The idea that we must “preserve” a site intact re-introduces the dangerous assumption that this landscape must always remain pristine and intact, even when seasons of fire and change are vital for the healthy development of its Redwood trees, as our guide AJ pointed out.” (*Tour on May 20, 2024*)



## María Gloria Robalino Ceped, continued

“Reservoir” also brings to mind the word “Reservation” and the vexed relationship of Jasper Ridge with the indigenous groups that used to own the land. The label “Indian Reserve” stirs the same feeling of uneasiness in me that the word “Preserve” does. It implies the idea that a culture is being “reserved” or “preserved.” In other words, that it is being forcefully calcified into a governmental definition rather than allowed to develop on its own terms like other cultures that don’t face the same pressures to prove themselves “authentic” in order to gain land rights.”





## **Dr. Emily Kim, tour on May 23**

Hi AJ, I am typically in motion most of the time, busy with minuscule to large tasks. I am not the type to reflect, meditate, or soak things in. Even at the fairy ring, one of my favorite places at the ridge, I am busy looking at plants, trying to identify bird song or feathers,, or if I'm giving a tour, talking about the redwoods and giving historical and scientific information. So stopping for a moment of silence at one of my favorite places "Gave me permission" to stop, empty my mind, and enjoy the beauty surrounding. It is therapy!





# **“Savage Sonnet”: A Poem**

## **by Zeina Hashem Beck**

*This didn't begin with our people, no. Ask any natives & they will tell you the lands remember, even when tongues don't.*



## Slide 10

Thank you! Now onto the art of Rebecca Wakim ...

<https://rebeccawakim.com>

Questions?