SELF-PORTRAIT AS ARTICLE 1[1]. [TREATY WITH THE NEZ PERCÉS, 1855]: CESSION OF LANDS TO THE UNITED STATES

In the year of their lord, this eleventh day of June, I enter the boundaries of my body:

The said [centuries here dissolve & I re-ink nimipuu] hereby cede, relinquish & convey—here,

I want to convey how my physical testament is written & at a particular point, then erased into the land—

to the United States all their right, title, & interest in & to the country occupied or claimed by them,

bounded & described as follows, to wit:

in the year of their lord, in the boundaries of my body, they intend to clarify the divisions & say to wit:

& so I enter every name of the dead into each source of water, each river mouth, every flattened field:

& I cross out the cross of the divide & lie down on the crest of [every mountain has its name,

a place of, a place where the animals & humans met, a place where the story began,

a place where the blood was washed, a place at the heart named for our monster(s) & tim’neepe,

a place where the gray coldness looms like biqí’exqexcanki, where America names over the land [biqí’exqexcanki], a place where the blue haze of warmth looms like bi’lap’ápxp’apúxqæxki, where the bodies lie unburied]. I, a silhouette, a bereunto, am between the articles of the & a(n): indefinite, definite:

& it is here in the boundaries I have no choice but: to set [my] hands, on this eleventh day of June,
on behalf of the above-named, at the place, on the day & year hereinbefore written, to seal the body

shut:

[ x ] [ an empty cross, fallen ]

Sealed & signed in the presence of us—