

TALES OF SUSTENANCE AND VISION

Donna Torres

Oil-on-canvas: 18 X 12 IN. [45.7 X 30.5 CM—DETAIL ON COVER]

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The door opens to a lush Colombian landscape. The Kogi-GIRL, *Guanguala/Hayu*, is mythical progenitress of *HAYU/COCA*: SEEDS and FRUITS of COCA rained from her lush hair (almost the same *Myth* exists among the unrelated Witoto, at the opposite end of Colombia, for whom this «Mistress of *JIBIE*» [COCA], is named *Búinaiño*). Already we see COCA-PLANTS sprouting, from the fallen FRUITS. / FRUITS of COCA, and *Anadenanthera*-SEEDS (a *NOPO*-SNUFF-plant), adorn the WALLPAPER. The CHAIR is upholstered with TOBACCO, OPIÜM-POPPIES and *Brugmansia*-FLOWERS. / The hung PICTURES depict: [top] the desperate flight, in their 6-m-skiff, *James Caird*, of Ernest Shackleton, and part of his crew, from Elephant Island, in Antarctica, on 24 April 1916: after their ship, the *Endurance*, was crushed in the ice (over two gruesome years, Shackleton and all of his crew survived; enduring an 880-km-trip to Elephant Island, and a 1,300-km-crossing, of the most treacherous Ocean in the World—braving hurricanes—in an open skiff—finally reaching a remote whaling-station, at South Georgia Island, on 20 May)! The survival of the bulk of his crew, left marooned on desolate Elephant Island, owed to Shackleton having left them most of their (meagre) rations. Meanwhile, the navigators subsisted on seabirds, what they scrounged from the sea, and *Forced March*™-COCAINE-TABLETS!; [beneath] PLATE of *Erythroxylon coca*, from William Martindale’s BOOK, *Coca and Cocaine: Their History and Medicinal and Economic Uses, and Medical Preparations* [H.K. Lewis, Oxford, 1892] (in a sense, still in-print, as: *Martindale: The Extra Pharmacopœia*); [right] PHOTO of offerings of COCA & WINE to *Pacha Mama* in the Andes: an everyday, or a solemn, ritual. / BOTTLES, on upper-shelf, from: [left] *Vin Mariani*,™ and [right] *Coca-Cola*™ circa 1899 (first bottled, that very year); THOSE, on the lower-shelf, are from: [left] WELLCOME AND CO. *Forced March*™-COCAINE-TABLETS and [right] AMERICAN DRUGGISTS SYNDICATE *Fluid Extract of Coca*,™ circa 1910. / On the TABLE we find [left to right]: my ILLUSTRATION of COCA; FIVE, Colombian 20-Peso-COINS, adorned with *POPOROS* (gourds for COCA-sucking-lime); a traditional *CHUSPA* (or BAG), to this day used to carry dried COCA-LEAVES; and Angelo Mariani’s classic BOOK, *Coca Erythroxylon*. (*Vin Mariani*.) *Its Uses in the Treatment of Disease* [Mariani & Company, Paris (here, the fourth Edition, of 1886)].